
15 November 2012 to 24 February 2013

Based on a true story spans almost 40 years, surveying the work of Melbourne-born artist Geoff Lowe, along with his collaborative practice with Jacqueline Riva as A Constructed World.

The Potter exhibition brings together for the first time paintings and drawings produced by Lowe from the 1970s to the late 1990s, along with work in a variety of media including video, paintings, works on paper, installations and editioned prints, magazines and books by A Constructed World.

Lowe and Riva make art together and in collaboration with artist-peers as well as amateurs.

Based on a true story presents familiar art media but extends into performance, documentation, the written word, workshops, social situations and contextual works made entirely by others.

Having lived and worked in New York, Turin and now Paris, Lowe and Riva represent a new kind of Australian artist, internationally connected and responsive to the fluid dialogue between local experiences and global mobility.

‘Lowe and Riva make the artist one of the players rather than the director’, says Potter director, Dr Chris McAuliffe, ‘Their welcoming of collaboration, improvisation and amateurism suggests an approach to art that is both sceptical and idealistic.’

Lowe held his first solo exhibition in 1975 at the age of twenty-three, at Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne. Based on a true story includes more than 20 major works from the period between 1972 and 1990.

A Constructed World is the artistic collaboration of Jacqueline Riva and Geoff Lowe. Riva and Lowe have been working together since 1993 in a multi-model practice, producing paintings, video works, performances and publications. Their publications include 10 issues of the magazine Artfan (1993–2002), posters, prints and books. They have had solo exhibitions in museums and art centres including Basekamp, Philadelphia, PA (2002); Artists Space, New York (2003); Careof, Milan (2003); CAPC Musée d’Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, France (2008); and CNEAI, Chatou, France (2008). There have been two major surveys of the work of A Constructed World, the first at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, in 1997, and the second at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, in 2007.
This exhibition of over 100 works, curated by Bala Starr, represents the second in the series of Vizard Foundation Contemporary Art Projects, a creative initiative of the Vizard Foundation designed to encourage senior artists to take risks and explore new directions in their practice.

Geoff Lowe and A Constructed World follow Jenny Watson, who was the first recipient of the three Vizard Foundation Contemporary Artists in the series. A commissioning grant of $30,000 has enabled A Constructed World to pursue new ideas and create a new work for this exhibition. This project is also supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

ENDS

Artists’ talk: Thursday 15 November 1pm
PERFORMANCE: Thursday 22 November 7pm
The Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne, Swanston Street, Parkville
RSVP essential: 03 8344 0327 or potter-events@unimelb.edu.au

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Images available upon request

The Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne, Swanston Street (betwn Elgin & Faraday sts), Parkville, T: 03 8344 5148 W: http://www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au/exhibitions/future-exhibitions/

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am–5pm; Saturday and Sunday 12–5pm

Image top left:
Geoff Lowe
i see 4 (The hole in the ozone layer) 1989
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
100 x 200 cm
© Courtesy Geoff Lowe

Image top right:
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