



Arlo Mountford

Galaxy Express

OPENING

Saturday October 11th, 4 – 6pm

EXHIBITION DATES

October 11 – November 8, 2014

Sutton Gallery is pleased to present Arlo Mountford's *Galaxy Express*, an exhibition featuring a new film work which re-animates Yoshinori Kanada's closing sequence to the 1979 Japanese Anime 'Galaxy Express 999' accompanied by a series of sculptural works.

Infused with humour and irony, Mountford's digitally animated films and kinetic sculptures, reinvigorate the history of art while questioning the contemporary presentation of "art history." His research based practice is enticing, as recognisable forms float in and out of the frames with impeccable comedic timing, leaving his audience to enjoy the numerous witty juxtapositions, reinterpretations and at times hilariously gory and slanderous alterations

Mountford's sculptures take aim at existing circular works by contemporary heavyweights including Damien Hirst and Atsuko Tanaka. Redrawn onto spinning discs Mountford obfuscates the image, frustrating the viewer who inevitably attempts to decipher the work.

For his film, *Galaxy Express NMWA*, Mountford takes a new approach, this time negotiating the canon of western contemporary art from the perspective of the Japanese avant-garde and engaging contemporary artists such as Ay-O and again Tanaka, amongst others. Staged in Le Corbusier's 'National Museum of Western Art', Tokyo, Mountford sets up the Modernist building as a symbol of misguided progress and the world of Anime as the hero with the intention to blur the lines between Art history, Japanese history, narrative and popular Anime culture, creating a melting pot of comparisons, juxtapositions and ideas.

Once again Mountford's digital collage of art history's, truths and follies combine with an array of pop culture references and contemporary art heavyweights with delightful hilarity, this time culminating with Duchamp's urinal as the weapon of choice, swung like a wrecking ball and breaking down the fabric of the museum.

Arlo Mountford completed a Bachelor of Fine Art at the Victoria College of the Arts in 2002 and currently lives and works in Melbourne. Recent solo exhibitions include: *The Copse*, Sutton Project Space, Melbourne, 2013; *The Vanishing Point of History*, LUMA | La Trobe University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2011; *Animated Video Art*, Shepparton Regional Gallery, Victoria, 2010; *The Hacienda must be Built*, The Art Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, 2009; *The Folly*, Centre of Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, 2009; *The Flux of the Matter*, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne, 2007; and *Universal Language – alternate reality*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, 2005. Mountford has also been included in numerous group exhibitions, including: *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, 2013; *Forever Young: 30 Years of the Heide Collection*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2012; *Unguided Tours: Anne Landa Award for video and new media arts*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2011; *21st Century: Art in the First Decade*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 2011; *NEW010*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, 2010; and *21st Century Modern: 2006 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art*. Mountford undertook a studio residency at Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, between 2003 and 2004. He has also undertaken residencies in Tokyo and the Frank Mohr Institute, Groningen, Netherlands. In 2007 he was awarded the ABN AMRO Emerging Artist Award.

Mountford is currently completing a major work for the 2013 Australian War Memorial Commission, reanimating two dioramas for the redeveloped First World War galleries at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

sutton
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