
Primavera 2013: Young Australian Artists

12 September–17 November 2013

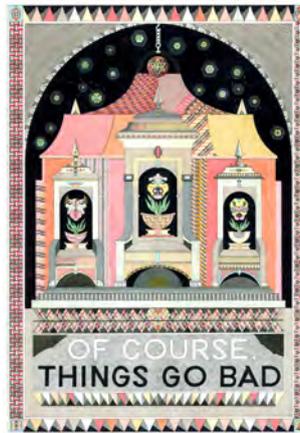


Kusum Normoyle, *S.I.T.E.: A Scream for Ljubljana 2011*, performance still, *The Event: 29th Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, 2011*, image courtesy and © the artist, photograph: Jaka Babnik

The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) reveals the eight artists selected for the 22nd edition of Primavera, the annual exhibition for Australian artists aged 35 years and under.

Primavera 2013 is curated by Robert Cook, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Photography and Design at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. The exhibition features works by Jacqueline Ball (WA), Jackson Eaton (WA/VIC), Heath Franco (NSW), Brendan Huntley (VIC), Thomas Jeppe (WA/VIC), Jess Johnson (VIC), Juz Kitson (NSW) and Kusum Normoyle (NSW).

Themes include a moving investigation of romantic and family relationships, the creation of portals into fictional realms, a look at the role of language in the shaping of (and the breaking down of) the self and the ways sound shapes our physical and emotional worlds. These ideas are presented across a range of media including painting, wall painting, sculpture, photography, installation, ceramics, digital media, sound and performance.



Thomas Jeppe, installation view, *Asiatische Adlernase*, Galerie Conradi, Hamburg, Germany, 2012, image courtesy and © the artist; Jess Johnson, *Of course, things go bad* 2013, pen, copic markers, collage, metallic paint on paper, image courtesy the artist, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney; and Utopian Slumps, Melbourne © the artist; Juz Kitson, *The desired desires the desire of the Other* (detail) 2011–12, Jingdezhen porcelain, Southern ice porcelain, Taiwanese porcelain slip, paraffin wax, horse hair, flocking, alpaca wool, sheep wool, plaster, polyurethane, nail polish, indian ink, lace and natural material. Lustre, oxidised and reduction fired, image courtesy and © the artist, photograph: Brett East

Central to *Primavera 2013* is a series of direct responses to the exhibition space, the MCA's Level 1 North Gallery.

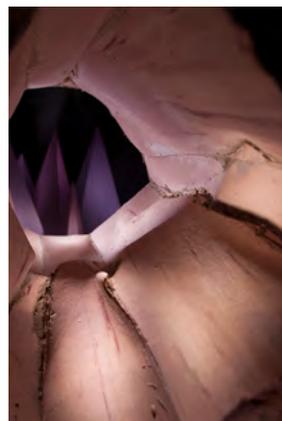
Thomas Jeppe's *Vista Verticals* (2013) is a series of paintings that replicate the dimensions of the Level 2 lookout above the gallery's entrance. His huge wall installation, *Tudor Minimal* (2013) transforms one of the walls into a 17-metre architectural facade.

In a corner of the gallery, a domestic interior painting by Jess Johnson frames detailed pen drawings. A geometric carpet finishes off the work, transforming it into a compellingly strange, high-key cavity to another world.

Juz Kitson transforms another corner into a huge ceramic installation. Her exquisite porcelain objects are a gathering of mutant life forms which emerge from the wall and the ceiling of the gallery.

Eight photographs by Jacqueline Ball appear to be tunnels between different realities. Their scale, based on amplifications of domestic doorways, engages with the floor and the wall of the gallery, and invites viewers into the artist's alter-realities while physically overwhelming them.

A series of video works by Kusum Normoyle creatively document the artist screaming in public spaces. Interspersed through the gallery between the works of other artists, the viewer is pulled into a relationship with the wall and into intensely powerful sound- and building-scapes.



Kusum Normoyle, *Accord with Air Tjentiste* (still) 2012, single-channel digital video, colour, sound, image courtesy and © the artist; Jacqueline Ball, *Fluctuate #1* (left) and *Fluctuate #5* (right) 2013, photographic print on 305gsm Hahnemühle archival photo rag, image courtesy and © the artist



Brendan Huntley, *Untitled* 2012–13, oil on linen, image courtesy the artist and Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne © the artist; **Brendan Huntley**, *Untitled* 2012–13, terracotta, stoneware, glaze, slip and enamelled wooden bats, image courtesy the artist and Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne © the artist; **Jackson Eaton**, *Untitled (couple, t-shirts)* from the series *Better Half* 2012, 2007, type C prints, image courtesy and © the artist

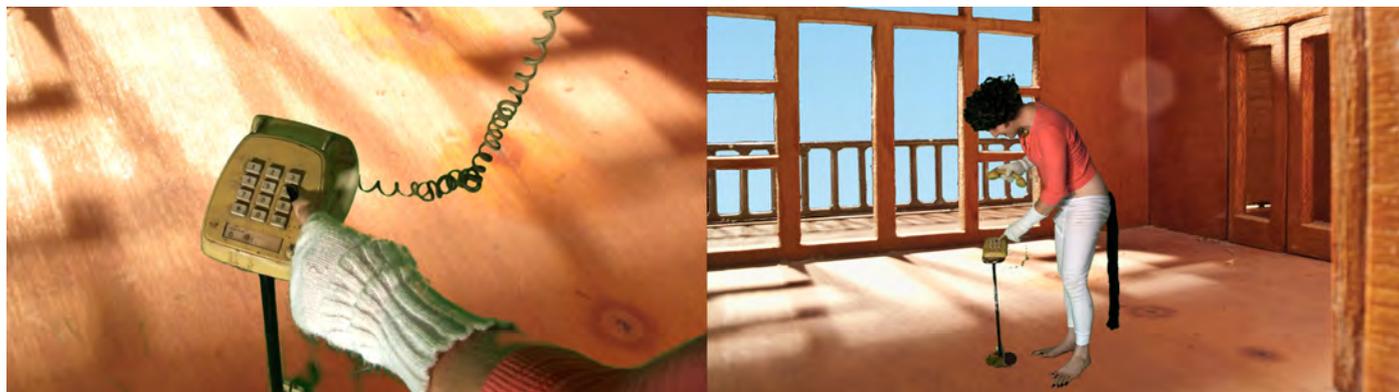
In addition to these ‘purpose built’ gallery interventions are a further three equally arresting bodies of work.

Brendan Huntley stages a face-off between 15 quirky sculptural heads presented on tables and 15 head paintings hung on the wall. The works re-stage aspects of last century’s modernism in relation to the role of the mask in the creation of self-hood.

Jackson Eaton’s *Better Half* (2007–13) is a romantic series of photos documenting a relationship the artist had with a young Korean woman. This is paired with a re-staging of the photographs with his father playing the role of Jackson and his Korean step-mum playing the role of Jackson’s now-ex girlfriend.

Heath Franco presents three video works, *TELEVISIONS* (2013), *YOUR DOOR* (2011) and *DREAM HOME* (2012). Each one features a performance by Franco in a variety of costumes and backed by an array of bizarre special effects. Though dense with meaning, at their most basic these videos are about the construction and the unravelling of the self through language.

Primavera Curator Robert Cook said: ‘It’s an incredible honour to be asked to do a Primavera exhibition. To work with some of the most inspiring artists in the country, each on the cusp of becoming majorly recognised, is a dream. The sheer intensity of their material and conceptual practices takes my breath away. As a curator, it’s been a thrill ride. I reckon MCA visitors will be as impressed as me by the ambition and scale of the works.’



Heath Franco, *DREAM HOME* (still) 2012, 2 channel digital video, colour, sound, image courtesy the artist and Galerie pompom, Sydney © the artist



Heath Franco, *YOUR DOOR* (still) 2011, single-channel digital video, colour, sound, image courtesy the artist and Galerie pompom, Sydney © the artist

ABOUT PRIMAVERA

Primavera is an annual exhibition for Australian artists aged 35 years and under. It was initiated in 1992 by Dr Edward Jackson AM and Mrs Cynthia Jackson AM and their family in memory of their daughter and sister Belinda, a talented jeweller who died at the age of 29. The exhibition commemorates Belinda Jackson by celebrating the creative achievements of talented young artists who are in the early stages of their careers.

ARTIST LIST

Jacqueline Ball, born 1986 Sydney, NSW. Lives and works in Perth.
Jackson Eaton, born 1980 Denmark, WA. Lives and works in Melbourne.
Heath Franco, born 1984 Cooma, NSW. Lives and works in Sydney.
Brendan Huntley, born 1982 Frankston, VIC. Lives and works in Melbourne.
Thomas Jeppe, born 1984 Perth, WA. Lives and works in Melbourne, Hamburg, and Guadalajara.
Jess Johnson, born 1979, Tauranga, New Zealand. Lives and works in Melbourne.
Juz Kitson, born 1987 Sydney, NSW. Lives and works in Central Coast and Jingdezhen.
Kusum Normoyle, born 1984 Sydney, NSW. Lives and works in Sydney.

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