



THE SIEVERS PROJECT

Jane Brown, Cameron Clarke, Zoe Croggon, Therese Keogh, Phuong Ngo, Meredith Turnbull and Wolfgang Sievers

6 June—24 August 2014

Centre for Contemporary Photography presents a unique commissioning project in June 2014.

Six early career artists will exhibit new work in response to renowned Australian photographer Wolfgang Sievers (1913 – 2007). These critically engaged artists have responded in diverse and experimental ways to the medium of photography, and to the life and oeuvre of this icon of 20th century Australian photography.

CCP will exhibit Sievers' photography alongside innovative and challenging bodies of work from the commissioned artists, who have immersed themselves in his work and ideology, exploring the past through the present.

Photographers Jane Brown and Cameron Clarke have followed Sievers' footsteps to sites he photographed, capturing modern moments in this historical context.

Through her intrepid, research-based practice, Therese Keogh has developed a materially rich project with the starting point of a single Sievers photograph taken at the Forum in Rome.

Meredith Turnbull will draw on Sievers' connections with Melbourne's design community in the 1950s and 60s.

In Sievers' photographs of industrial sewing machines and their machinists, Phuong Ngo finds shared stories of young Vietnamese refugees.

Zoe Croggon fragments Sievers' iconic architectural photographs with reference to the human body in movement.

Sievers' commercial practice exemplifies mid-century positivism and modernity, and the myth-making role of photography. As a German Jewish immigrant, Sievers had a strong interest in refugees and human rights issues as well as an expressed commitment to representing the dignity of labour.

The Sievers Project is an ambitious new commissioning exhibition developed by Centre for Contemporary Photography. Through a new generation of artists, the work considers the role of the image in the Australian identity, casting light on the past and inspiring the present.

Curated by Naomi Cass, Director, and Kyla McFarlane, Associate Curator, Centre for Contemporary Photography.

ccp.

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Image: Jane Brown *DETAIL, Former Amcor and APM site, Fairfield 2014*, toned, gelatin silver print



Centre for Contemporary Photography is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its principal arts funding and advisory body. Centre for Contemporary Photography is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments. CCP is a member of CAOs Contemporary Arts Organisations of Australia.



Image: Zoe Croggon Comalco
*Aluminium Used in the Construction of
the National Gallery of Victoria (after
Sievers)* 2014, photo collage

Featured Artists

Jane Brown is a Melbourne-based artist, specialising in monochromatic photography. Brown has exhibited in several solo exhibitions, including *Australian Gothic*, Edmund Pearce, Melbourne 2012, and *Island of the Colourblind*, BREENSPACE, Sydney 2013. Recent group exhibitions include *CCP Declares: On the Nature of Things*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne 2012 and *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2013-14. Brown has recently been awarded the ARTAND Australia/ Credit Suisse Private Banking Contemporary Art Award, 2014.

Cameron Clarke is a Melbourne-based documentary photographer with an interest in large format landscape and portrait photography. Clarke has staged several solo shows including *45 Miles to Chesapeake Bay*, C3 Contemporary, Melbourne 2013 and featured in group exhibitions including *William and Winifred Bowness Prize* (awarded 'People's Choice' award), Monash Gallery of Art Melbourne 2013 and *Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award* (finalist), Gold Coast 2014.

Phuong Ngo's practice explores the individual and collected identity of the Vietnamese Diaspora through the exploration of history, politics and culture. His solo exhibitions include, *My Dad the People Smuggler*, Counihan Gallery, Brunswick, 2013, and *Article 14.1*, Next Wave Festival, Melbourne 2014. Recent group exhibitions include *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne 2013-14 and *Vietnam/Australia: Voicing the Unspoken*, Yarra Gallery, Human Rights Arts and Film Festival, Melbourne 2014.

Therese Keogh is a Melbourne-based artist who employs research methods to examine the structures that produce, and transform, space through an engagement with site, landscape design and vernacular architecture. Solo exhibitions include *Platform Archive Project*, Platform Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne 2012, and *The Equatorial Arrangement (part one)*, Tarp Space, Ouyen 2013. Keogh's recent collaborative and group projects include *Transforming Landscape*, Wallflower Photomedia Gallery, Mildura 2014 and *Obscured*, Bus Projects, Melbourne 2014.

Zoe Croggon is a Melbourne-based artist working with sculpture, video, drawing and primarily collage. Solo exhibitions include *Pool*, West Space, Melbourne 2013, *Deuce*, Diane Singer, Melbourne 2013 and *Apex*, Transit Gallery, The Substation, Melbourne 2014. She has also exhibited in numerous group exhibitions, more recently these include *Liquid Archive*, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne 2012, *Future Now*, The Substation, Melbourne 2012, and *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2013. Croggon has also recently been shortlisted for the Basil Sellers Art Prize, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne 2014.

Meredith Turnbull's practice is multifaceted, including photography, jewellery, sculpture, video and installation. Turnbull has exhibited in several solo exhibitions including *The Edible Woman*, West Space, Melbourne 2012 and *Compositions*, Bus Projects, Collingwood 2014. Turnbull has also participated in an assortment of group exhibitions including *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne 2013-14.

Wolfgang Sievers was born in 1913 in Berlin, Germany to parents interested in the arts, both historical and contemporary. Sievers studied photography intermittently from 1933 to 1936 where he was influenced by Bauhaus ideals of simplicity and uniting the ideals of art and industry. Fleeing Germany and immigrating to Melbourne, Sievers opened a studio in Collins Street in 1939. Despite interruptions to his practice due to the war, Sievers quickly became a leader in the fields of architectural and industrial photography during the 1950s and 1960s working for many important Australian and multi-national companies. His extensive archive of images depicts an array of subjects, spanning industrial, architectural, fashion and broadly cultural themes. In the following years Sievers devoted his time to anti-war and human rights issues. He died in 2007 at the age of 93. The bulk of his photographic collection is archived at the National Library of Australia and his legacy lives on through the continued exhibition of his iconic photographs in galleries today.

Image: Therese Keogh *In the Forum Romanum (after Sievers)* 2013, graphite on paper



Catalogue

The exhibition will be accompanied by a full-colour catalogue, featuring texts by:

- Julian Burnside QC, human rights advocate and Sievers' collector
- Helen Ennis, photographic historian Australian National University, Canberra
- Curators Naomi Cass and Kyla McFarlane

The catalogue is made possible by support from the Besen Family Foundation.

Government Partner



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

Philanthropic Partner



Exhibition Dates

6 June—24 August 2014
Centre for Contemporary Photography

EXHIBITION OPENING
Thursday 5 June 2014, 6—8pm

ALSO EXHIBITING AT THIS TIME
Paul Knight, Cerebus (Karl Hyde, Toro
Yoshikawa and John Warwicker)

Contact

For further information, interviews or high resolution images please contact:
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