

MEDIA RELEASE

A Week in the Life of the World: Locust Jones

25 July – 6 September 2015

A Blue Mountains Cultural Centre exhibition

This exhibition presents an extensive exploration of Locust Jones' reaction to society's constant saturation with media headlines and short lived news images.

A Week in the Life of the World, is a tag-line of *The Guardian* newspaper, which is a constant source for Jones' work. Headlines, images and quotes from articles in *The Guardian* are used in his works, which draw similarities with the German Expressionist movement and attempt to make sense of the chaos, death, famines, wars and political upheaval in today's world.



His works, which are collages of 'cut up' phrases and images, applied in hectic and staccato like manner, reflect the fast paced stream of information which washes over us every day.

The works in this exhibition are derived from global events of the past 12 months: The German Wings airplane crash in the French Alps, the ongoing tragedies and rising death tolls of the Syrian War, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 which disappeared on the 8 April 2014 and the increasing surveillance of the public and private space. By reflecting upon these events in his works Jones tries to make sense of the bigger picture and questions society's receptiveness in today's world of information overload.



Locust Jones was born in Christchurch, New Zealand and currently resides in The Blue Mountains in New South Wales, Australia. His work is represented in public collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of South Australia and the Shepparton Art Museum. He has completed residencies in Seoul, Beirut and New York and in 2009, he was the winner of the Hazelhurst Works on Paper Award, and the Drawing section of the Fisher's Ghost Art Award. In

1

This exhibition was supported by the Australia Council for the Arts

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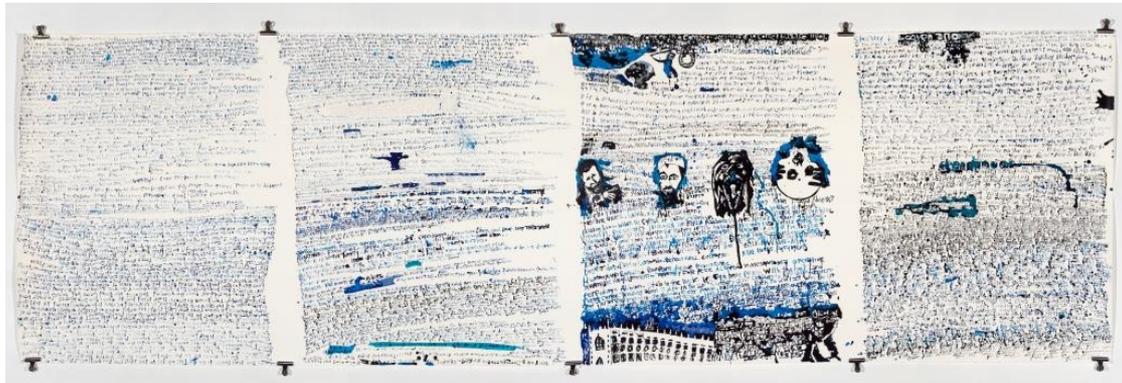
2010 he won the Waikato Museum's Bold Horizon National Contemporary Art Award. Locust Jones is represented by Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney and Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne.

Locust Jones Artist Statement

The first thing I do when I wake up in the morning is turn on the radio, then the internet - Al Jazeera followed by other world mass media internet sites. I listen to stock market quotes, financial information, reports on who has died, what plane has crashed, what politician has been assassinated, what climate change disaster is coming, endangered species and nuclear accidents...

I stand next to a wall scribbling down all the facts and figures on cupboard doors in the kitchen while I wait for my coffee to brew. All this information is channeled into my drawings and paintings. I then go out and buy the current newspapers and books and magazines from op shops. I have the radio on or live web stream from Al Jazeera while I work. I am permanently plugged into the chaos of the day.

Through all this information I try to make sense of the big picture. For example on a current work, for this exhibition, I drew red mountain shapes. A solitary airplane has clipped a mountain and is going down. This is an interpretation of the recent *Germanwings* accident in the French Alps.



Other example are the ceramic towers, which I have been drawing since 9/11. Skyscrapers, towers and CBD districts have a sense of capital exchange and power that I'm interested in depicting in my work. The ceramic towers in this instance are a sculptural extension of my drawings. I find clay to be an immediate malleable material that can be squeezed, molded and scribbled into. Using clay I can translate my drawings successfully into a 3D form. The Towers were made in collaboration with ceramic artist Simon Reece in Blackheath, Blue Mountains for my exhibition *A Week in the Life of the World* at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

Above the ceramic towers hovers a gigantic drone, made out of papier – machê. It is a recent form of predatory technology and is an extension of surveillance that has been incorporated into the everyday of many cultures. This drone is meant to feel like an unknown predator in the Blue Mountains City Art Gallery. The scale is similar to the actual size of a military drone used in remote areas of the world. The featureless shadow-like form hovers above the towers in a menacing way. Sent by an unseen hand, Drones hold an ambiguous and unknown context within the cultures they reside in.

Images in order shown:

LOCUST JONES: *A week in the life of the world* 2014, ink and collage on paper, 86.8 x 165.8 cm. Collection of NGV

LOCUST JONES *Several Months in the Life of the World* 2015, ink and water colour on Hanemuehle paper, 150 x 1,000 cm

LOCUST JONES *Elevating a disastrous situation into a catastrophe* 2010, ink on arches 134 x 400cm

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Hours: 10am – 5pm Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm Saturday – Sunday
10am – 2pm Public Holidays (closed Good Friday, Christmas Day)
Admission: \$5 adults / \$3 concession. Members & under 16 free

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