

MEDIA RELEASE



OCTOPUS 16: ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

EXHIBITION DATES: 8 JULY–27 AUGUST 2016

EXHIBITION OPENING: FRIDAY 8 JULY 2016, 6–8PM

CURATED BY: MARK FEARY

ARTISTS: JUSTIN BALMAIN (SYDNEY), PETRA CORTRIGHT (LOS ANGELES), SIMON DENNY (BERLIN), HEATH FRANCO (SYDNEY), GREATEST HITS (GAVIN BELL, JARRAH DE KUIJER & SIMON MCGLINN/MELBOURNE), YING MIAO (BEIJING), MICHAEL STANIAK (MELBOURNE), AMALIA ULMAN (LOS ANGELES/LONDON/GIJÓN)

The *Octopus* series is one of Gertrude Contemporary's flagship annual exhibitions, initiated in 2001. The 16th edition, titled *Antiques Roadshow*, assembles a selection of Australian and international artists whose works focus upon the phenomena, the integration, and the ramifications of developing technologies, ranging from their use as a pervasive tool for surveillance, their potential in creating and expanding social networks, as well as noting a nostalgia for recent obsolescent technologies.

This exhibition adopts its title from the long-running BBC television series of the same name as a means to consider how value and historical importance might be considered within the present moment, but also references the popular term used within the 1990s to refer to early digital communications, the Information Superhighway.

Rather than operating as a critique of the advancing digitisation of our lives, this project looks at strategies being adopted by a selection of artists as to how these advances might be co-opted and integrated within their creative practices. The assembled works do not approach the internet as a new phenomenon, a new media, or indeed as something necessarily distinct from real life.

The selection of artists draws from a generation who have grown up with these technologies, and are increasingly dependent upon them. Rather than rendering itself instantly redundant, *Antiques Roadshow* acknowledges and anticipates its own obsolescence, being of and in this time, in full acknowledgement of the acceleration of change. It incorporates nostalgia with a sense of certainty as well as elements of humour, rather than longing to capture this moment as it passes and is superseded. What more can contemporary art do but to understand the continuum of something more contemporary to come after it?

The *Octopus* exhibition series is generously supported by Proclaim.

The exhibition opening will be generously supported by Temple Brewing.

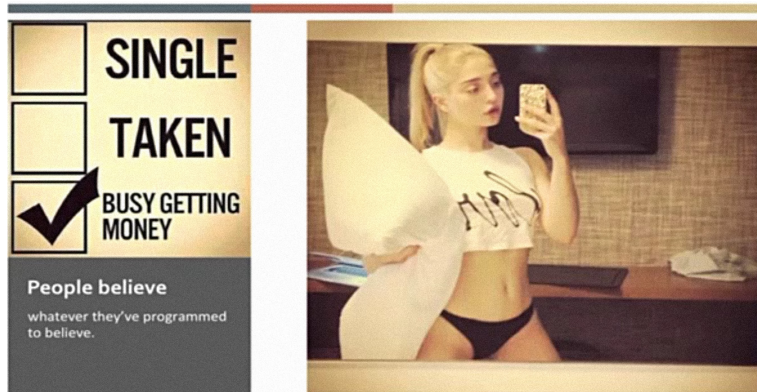
Octopus 16: Antiques Roadshow will be open until 8pm on Friday 15 July and Friday 22 July during the Gertrude Street Projection Festival, which runs from 15 July–24 July.

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
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See indicative images of the works in *Antiques Roadshow* below.

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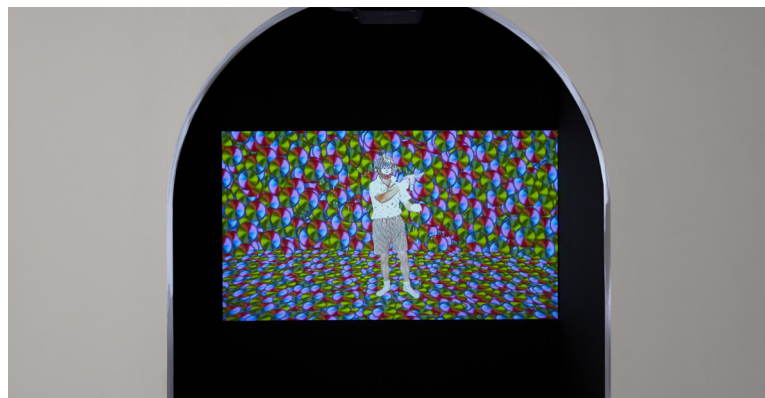
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Amalia Ulman, *Excellences & Perfections*, 2014
Courtesy of the artist and Arcadia Missa, London



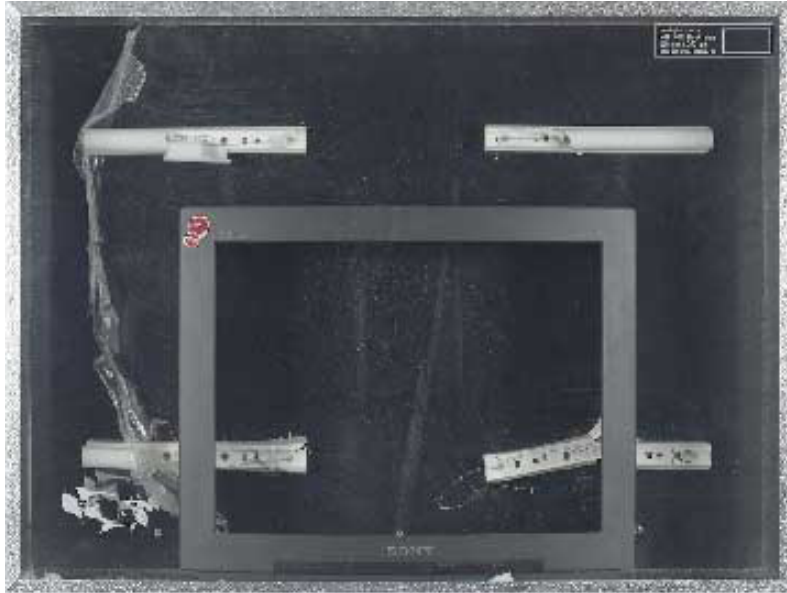
Greatest Hits, *Untitled (Cloverfield motion stabilised)*, 2013
Courtesy of the artists



Heath Franco, *THE RAINBOW LANDS*, 2015
Courtesy of the artist and Galerie pompom, Sydney

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Simon Denny, *Empty Vessel*, 2010
Courtesy of the Hayman Collection, Melbourne



Petra Cortright, *VVEBCAM*, 2007
Courtesy of the artist and Foxy Production, New York