

# EMPIRE S|T|A|T|E

ANDREW BOTFIELD  
JOEL WYNN REES  
RHIANNON TULLY  
HORST KORNBERGER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andrew Botfield and Virginia Linto  
*Prisk Reserve Water Tower, western viewpoint* (2011)  
Courtesy the artists

## P|S|A|S

### EMPIRE STATE

22–23 September 2012

Opening Saturday 22 September, 6.30 pm

PS Art Space (PSAS) Ground Floor

22 Pakenham St, Fremantle

[psas.com.au](http://psas.com.au)

Emerging artists Andrew Botfield, Joel Wynn Rees and Rhiannon Tully confront and engage the audience with a series of projections, large format photographic prints and interactive floor installation dealing with Perth's urban mythology.

Join us for this spatially confronting series of works on the ground floor at PSAS. Special guest Horst Kornberger will illustrate and guide us through this body of arresting and insightful works.

Perth city and suburbia has had a long battle between its Modernist development and the need to preserve an Arcadian harmony between civic development and the idyllic, aesthetic and spiritual value of nature.

However an instrumentalist approach to social and urban planning around the motor vehicle over the last fifty years in particular has led to some brutal severances between past, present and the natural physical attributes that surround our built environment. Key examples include: the infilling of the Swan River and demolition of the city's port to construct Riverside Drive and the Narrows Bridge in the late 1950s and the demolition of the Old Barracks in 1966 to make way for the construction of the Mitchell Freeway.<sup>1</sup>

Now Perth is building a 21st century city. Grand modernist icons upon flat sandy plains with no bounds but the sky. The Mirvac 'Peninsula' development. The new Perth Arena. The soon to be built Elizabeth Quay. The Bring the ego! Bring the cash!

'The self is really an empty place where many selves come to mingle and depart'.<sup>2</sup> The identity of a great city is in the imagination of all its occupants. The mythology of Perth cannot be planned or designed.

The real monuments are often accidental, private and quietly comical places in Perth's city and suburbia.

<sup>1</sup> Witcomb and Gregory, K. 2010. From the Barracks to the Burrup. The National Trust in Western Australia. Published by University of NSW. Sydney Australia.

<sup>2</sup> Hassan, Ihab. 1977. Prometheus as Performer: Toward a Posthumanist Culture. Georgia Review 31, pp.830-50.



Andrew Botfield  
*Aurora residential complex, north-western viewpoint* (2011)  
Courtesy the artist

## ANDREW BOTFIELD *PUZZLED TO ETERNITY* (2010-12)

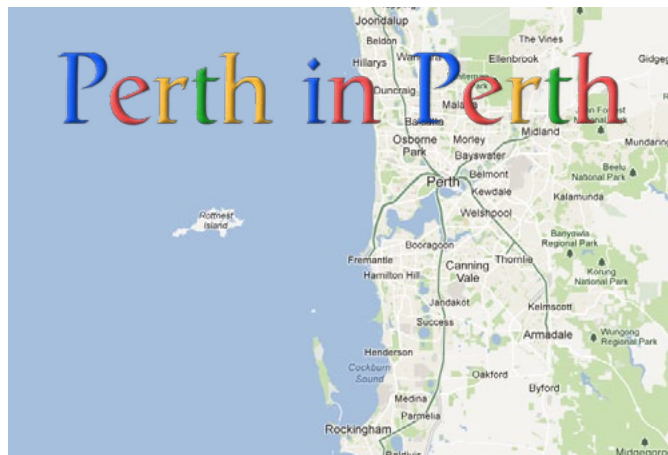
*Puzzled to Eternity* presents a series of portraits, not only of some of the new and old infamous development spaces of Perth's city and suburbia, but also of the sometimes abstracted relationships that we may have in our experience of these spaces, sometimes connected, but more often than not, a puzzle to us all!

The 'Eternity Puzzle' is one of the core design themes of the new Perth Arena, according to its designer, architect Howard Raggatt<sup>1</sup>. The Eternity Puzzle is a tiling puzzle that was created by Lord Christopher Monckton in June 1999<sup>2</sup>. Lord Monckton is also an infamous opponent of climate change and at a recent National Press Club luncheon in Canberra was quoted as saying, "The greening of the planet in the 30 years since satellites have been watching, as a result of what is known as CO2 fertilisation is absolutely wonderful".<sup>3</sup>

The photographic portraits of the people within this show are intended to provide a comic counter to the highly sexual, yet serene aesthetic that currently dominates commercial outdoor portrait photography in Perth and beyond. Picture this in your mind's LED wide screen eye: man holds beautiful, but of course sexy and still youthful wife and baby in the foreground and a beach sunset in the background - the searing visual delight!

The show has been a collaboration of the following photographers and outdoor portrait performers: Carla Arevalo, Pilar Arevalo, Andrew Botfield, Amy Bracks, Brittany Emmerson, Virginia Linto, David Madden, David Mitchell and Tanaya Tien

Andrew Botfield was born in Bankstown, Sydney in 1971. He is a comedic-realist photographer and writer, whose thematic interests lie in the contradictory narrative between desire, identity, place and circumstance. His photographic practice thus far has spanned vox populi and mock scene street portraiture (*Crazy Bargains*, 2001, First Draft Gallery, Sydney) to comedic macro facial portraiture (*The Mouth of Oliver Watts*, Virginia Wilson Art Gallery, Sydney, 2004). As a writer he was recently involved in the writing of 'The Governor', a short audio drama that was set in Heathcote Mental Asylum in the 1920's and centred around the deluded ramblings of a mental patient who thought that he was the first governor of the colony of Western Australia (Collaborative Artist, *Capital City* by Tom Müller, Heathcote Museum and Gallery, City of Melville, 2011).



Joel Wynn Rees  
*Perth in Perth* (2012)  
Courtesy the artist

## JOEL WYNN REES *PERTH IN PERTH* (2012-)

Rees will be launching a new photographic mapping initiative: *Perth in Perth* an exploration of the incredibly diverse and rich landscape within Perth's metropolitan area. He offers the viewer a rich and insightful overview of sites and places often overlooked by the masses. By collecting a vast bank of iconic imagery, Rees not only presents an intriguing snapshot of the relationship between subjects and their immediate environment, but equally provides us with an historical and cultural record of specific areas within Perth's suburban worlds. [perthinperth.com](http://perthinperth.com)

Joel Wynn Rees was raised in Broome Western Australia. The majority of his exhibited work has been inspired by his childhood in the Kimberley. From hitch hiking to still life photographs of boabs, boondies and pigmelons his work deeply resonates his past. Addicted to human connection and identities he often finds himself wandering the streets armed with his camera looking for a person, or a moment which encapsulates Australian identity. *Australia's Greatest Hits* (2011), Venn Gallery, Perth was his first major solo exhibition. Documenting a personal journey through the archaic landscapes of the north west of Australia allowed him to connect the monumental natural worlds to contemporary popular Australian culture.

### NOTES FOR PUZZLED TO ETERNITY

<sup>1</sup> A&D. 2010. Ashton Raggatt turn to colour for Perth Arena (Article on 21 April 2010). <http://www.architectureanddesign.com.au/article/Ashton-Raggatt-McDougall-turn-to-colour-for-Perth-Arena/515833.aspx> (Accessed 12 November 2011). Architecture and Design Magazine. Reed Business Publishers, Chatswood, NSW.

<sup>2</sup> BBC. 2000. News archive: £1M Eternity Jackpot Scooped. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/992393.stm> (Accessed 28 January 2012). BBC News Service. London. UK.

<sup>3</sup> News Limited. 2011. Lord Christopher Monckton and Dr Richard Denniss address National Press Club. By Malcolm Farr, National Political Editor, July 19, 2011. <http://www.news.com.au/national/lord-christopher-monckton-and-dr-richard-denniss-address-national-press-club/storye6frfkvr-1226097675186> (Accessed 2 March 2012).



Rhiannon Tully  
*Galaxy Drive-in under the Screen* from the series *Echo Chambers* (2012)  
 Courtesy the artist

**RHIANNON TULLY**  
**ECHO CHAMBERS** (2012)

Tully's *Echo Chambers* are a series of arresting contemporary landscape photographs examining urban spaces left in waiting. These spaces are ready made tableaux's, which evoke a sense of history that is both comical and moving. These images are not the face of the city, they are the undercurrent: back streets, suburbs and outskirts. The imagery presents a mash up of man, the landscape, and the impenetrable movement of time. These environments seem somehow left behind, ambition has been abandoned and the space is left to exist in a form of stasis.

Rhiannon Tully is a graduate of Edith Cowan University; BA Communication Film/Photography. Currently she is enrolled in Post Graduate studies in Secondary Education. *Empire State* is her first exhibition. *Echo Chambers* was photographed in the summer of 2012 in Perth and Melbourne, and is an on-going project. In her photographic works, she is striving for a simplistic aesthetic, and a striking honesty in the meaning conveyed. At the age of eleven Rhiannon immigrated to Perth from inner city Edinburgh; these are diametrically opposed worlds. Subsequently a central theme of her work is a desire to understand her place in the landscape.

Rhiannon's current work in progress is *Frontier people/ Frontier land*. She describes her initial experience of Australia as a 'Wild West celluloid dream.' *Frontier people/Frontier land* is a pictorial examination of this personal mythology.

Rhiannon's ambition is to continue to exhibit her photographs, and to work collaboratively with other artists.

For more information please contact:

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Horst Kornberger at Point Heathcote (2011)  
 Photo: Tom Müller

**HORST KORNBERGER**  
**EMPIRE STATE** (2012)

Kornberger will present, connect and interpret the works of *Empire State* for the opening night. Providing the essential insight into the mythology behind Perth, a city full of aspirations, polarity and hope. Kornberger offers the audience another dimension to enter the works on show.

Horst Kornberger is a poet, writer, interdisciplinary artist, lecturer and researcher into the field of imagination and creativity. Born in Austria in 1959 he began his career as a visual artist. He studied Speech and Drama in England, Goethean Studies in the United States and Waldorf Education in Australia. Horst is a director of Creativity Consultants Worldwide and the author of 'Global Hive - bee crisis and compassionate ecology', 'The Writer's Passage' and 'The Power of Stories'. He lectures nationwide on themes of education, creativity, ecology and the use of the imagination as a healing and community building tool.

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