



EUAN MACLEOD – RODNEY POPLE

Shadows: Hong Kong 2020

The exhibition of over 30 new paintings is based on the artists' impressions of the city gained during a 2019 research trip to Hong Kong. In each artist's own characteristic approach, Macleod and Pople depict contemporary Hong Kong as a metaphor for a world in which environmental and political landscapes are in a state of flux.

Timed to coincide with Art Basel HK, the visually compelling images in **Shadows: Hong Kong 2020** reveal through largely figurative and narrative works themes of alienation, tenacity, defiance and impudence. Macleod and Pople's paintings have a cinematic resonance, invoking the uncanny and sometimes disturbing quality of screen-based dramas inspired by the place and context in which they are set – Hong Kong in 2020.

Euan Macleod is best known for his haunting depictions of isolated human figures in the landscape or city spaces. His work is underpinned by a fascination with the psyche of individuals as they attempt to navigate a path through the philosophical and external challenges of our times. Macleod's paintings are symbolic rather than literal, encapsulating the spirit of place, Hong Kong in the case of this series of paintings, and, more broadly, shared aspects of the human condition.

Rodney Pople combines empiric observation with imagined propositions, offering alternative perspectives of the world that might confront or polemicise the status quo. His Hong Kong 2020 series of paintings incorporates features of Hong Kong that have become familiar, both historically and recently, such as the endangered but ubiquitous yellow-crested cockatoo – that for Pople represents freedom – and the black umbrellas that have come to represent the democracy protests.

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Artist biographies

Euan Macleod is a leading artist living in Sydney, Australia. Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, he has forged a high-profile career in Australia and New Zealand over more than three decades. He has staged over 100 solo and curated exhibitions, including regional and university art galleries in Australia and New Zealand. His many awards include the Archibald Prize and Sulman Prize (Art Gallery of NSW), Blake Prize for Spiritual Art, and the Gallipoli Art Prize. Macleod's work is represented in leading collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Gallery collections of both Australia and New Zealand, state, regional and university art collections, and numerous corporate collections across the world including Saatchi & Saatchi and Macquarie Group.

Rodney Pople studied photography at the University of Tasmania and postgraduate sculpture at the Slade School of Art, London and New York Studio School. He has been awarded international residencies in Paris and Beijing, where he was Australia's first Asialink artist-in-residence at the Beijing Art Academy. In 2014 Pople's work was the focus of a solo exhibition at the Australian Centre for Photography. He has been a finalist several times in the Doug Moran and Archibald portrait prizes, and in recent years has won the Glover Art Prize, Sulman Prize, NSW Parliament Art Prize, Paddington and Mosman art prizes. Pople's work is in the collection of the National Gallery of Australia and many state, university and private collections including those of Russell Crowe and Spike Jonze.

Accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by **Professor Felicity Fenner** (University of New South Wales, Australia), **Shadows: Hong Kong 2020** draws on these artists' perceptions of Hong Kong to inform and engage audiences at a critical moment of global transformation.

Artists **Euan Macleod** and **Rodney Pople** are available for interview prior to the exhibition and will be in Hong Kong for the exhibition opening and first week.

Opening: 6pm Monday 16 March 2020

Exhibition dates: 17 March – 14 April 2020

Artist talks: 11am Tuesday 17 March 2020 with Euan Macleod and Rodney Pople.

Media Contacts:

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Euan Macleod '*Orange Sky*', 2020. Oil on canvas, 100 x 120 cm



Rodney Pople '*Hong Kong Cocky*', 2020. Oil enamel on canvas, 62 x 82 cm