

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Mona announces two new summer exhibitions

26 September 2018

Mona today announces two new exhibitions to open on 4 November. The new exhibitions will see British artist Toby Ziegler presenting a solo show, titled *Your shadow rising*, in Australia for the first time, and French artists Fabien Giraud and Raphaël Siboni returning to Mona with the second part of their epic project *The Unmanned*.

Olivier Varenne, Co-Director of Exhibitions and Collections, Mona, said: “We are thrilled to be exhibiting Toby, Fabien and Raphaël at Mona at the same time. Mona has always been committed to supporting artists in creating new works while exploring and pushing the ambition of their ideas. Both these exhibitions are a direct result of this commitment. Toby has been able to create the largest sculpture of his career; and it will be premiered at Mona. We have also produced all elements for Part two of Fabien and Raphaël’s exhibition, which includes dozens of newly created sculptures and two films—one of which will be shot at Mona in mid-October.

“There is of course risk in this type of commissioning, where the outcomes are not always known. But what we learn and what unfolds in the process is always valuable and exciting. With these two exhibitions Mona is incredibly proud of what the artists have created.”

*Your shadow rising* includes paintings, sculptures and a video work that focus on themes of fire and transformation. A key feature is a large sculpture of a hand titled *The human engine*, suspended from the ceiling. Toby Ziegler says: “The starting point for this sculpture was a drawing by Hendrick Goltzius, a Dutch Baroque printmaker, draftsman, and painter. He drew his own hand after it was injured by molten metal—an accident that he felt was more of a blessing than a curse because it transformed the way he drew. He used sweeping arches from his shoulder rather than his wrist, and he claimed that this process made his drawing far superior to his earlier efforts. The hand is a reference to the physical processes of transformation in my own work.”

Part one of *The Unmanned* opened at Mona in February and informs the premise for Giraud and Siboni’s return to Berriedale this November. Comprising seven short films, Part one depicts pivotal moments in the history of technological development, told in reverse.

And now to Part two of *The Unmanned*. Mona will host a twenty-four-hour performance, which will be filmed and become the genesis of the project’s second part, a history of capital in reverse. It takes place in the year 7231 and introduces us to a community of immortals living on a ‘Dyson sphere’—a mega structure that harnesses the power of the sun as it approaches extinction.

Following this gruelling performance, a series of sculptures—crafted from rope and wax, resin and clay, fungus and strips of vinyl, geological core samples and sandstone—will be shown, alongside the twenty-four-hour film of the performance. Artefacts from Mona’s collection will be recast and turned inside out, and filled with the slow creep of salt crystals. These will be exhibited alongside sculptures based on the collection of Augustus Pitt Rivers (a British archaeologist), made using purpose-built AI technology that predicts the past life of pre-historical blades. This strange landscape of objects seems to grow from a colossal plinth running the length of the gallery and slicing through a sandstone boulder.

- *Your shadow rising* runs from 4 November 2018 to 25 March 2019
- *The Unmanned: Part two* runs from 4 November 2018 to 4 February 2019

With six exhibitions on display over summer, Tasmania’s peak tourist season, this will be the most Mona has shown at any one time during the museum’s seven-year history.

Mark Wilsdon, Co-CEO, Mona said: “We are looking forward to another busy tourist season. Our museum curators have put in a huge effort to ensure every gallery space is open over the holiday period. There will be plenty for our visitors—both first-time and those returning to Mona—to experience.”

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