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# Mathieu Briand to Expand Pirate's Utopia at MONA Tasmania

BY NICHOLAS FORREST | AUGUST 07, 2015





Et In Libertalia Ego, Vol. II A project by Mathieu Briand at Mona, Museum of Old and New Art. Curated by Mona senior curators Nicole Durling and Olivier Varenne. (Image courtesy of the artist, and Mona, Museum of Old and New Art.)

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Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) has announced that it will present the latest iteration of Australian-based French artist (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803) (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803) Mathieu Briand (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803)'s "Et In Libertalia Ego," an evolving seven-year art project based on the Art-Hobart idea of the pirate's utopia of "Libertalia" as described in Captain Charles Johnson's "A General History of the (http://au.blouinartinfo.com/node/755456) Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates (1724)"

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Mathieu Briand Briand began his ambitious quest to recreate "Libertalia" in 2008 on a small island off the coast of Madagascar (http://au.blouinartinfo.com/artist/360479/overview) where he set up a temporary studio and invited a number of artists to create works in situ or send instructions for others to do so, in the process initiating an exploration of the island as a creative laboratory of history and

## culture.

Curated by Nicole Durling and Olivier Varenne, "Et In Libertalia Ego Vol. II" expands upon the project's original manifestation by introducing into the fold the legendary Pitcairn Island, a small volcanic island situated in the South Pacific Ocean. The exhibition will feature videos, paintings, objects and sculptures, a dugout canoe, a sacred tree, and remnants of island life.

According to (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803) (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803)Mathieu Briand (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803), "the project is not... defined in advance but seeks to respect certain principles: process, research and experiment will be priorities; the work will unfold in time and in space. It is process that interests me rather than any endpoint. Utopia consists of making a work whose realisation is not the objective. A work that escapes classical constraints in order to confront new ones."

Mona Senior Curators Nicole Durling and Olivier Varenne said, "Et In Libertalia Ego, Vol. II reflects Mona's commitment to artists who work outside traditional studio practices and pursue experimental ideas. It also reflects Mona's interest in exploring the nature of creativity, and with Briand this is more an activity than a product - where ultimately, the products are experience and thought."

MONA also revealed that Briand will return to the island off Madagascar in September 2015 for a three-day event that will include the showing of a work that will then journey back to Mona to be included in the exhibition.

"Et In Libertalia Ego, Vol. II"

2 September 2015 – 11 July 2016

Museum of Old and New Art

655 Main Rd Berriedale, Tasmania, Australia

A project by (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803) (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803)Mathieu Briand (/artists/mathieu-briand-4803). Curated by Nicole Durling and Olivier Varenne.

www.mona.net.au

www.mathieubriand.com

This project has been supported by La Maison Rouge, Paris

www.lamaisonrouge.org

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