



AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

DERBY STREET

## GRAEME DRENDEL

*Surrender*

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 2 – 21 September 2014  
35 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066  
Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

Set against an endless backdrop of open skies and the barren plains of Mallee, where he spent his childhood, Graeme Drendel's characters play out an alternate future narrative around the hulking Art Deco monolith of the former Mildura Base Hospital. The site was mooted by the government as a potential location to be used as a supply depot in the 1940's as paranoia of a Japanese invasion increased. Drendel's paintings allude to the possible repercussions of this in 'what if' scenarios combined with delirious recollections of his own dealings with the hospital as a patient in his youth. Uniformed men and naked women mingle with characters in Oriental dress and a waistcoated hare in this new and unexplored civilization.

Drendel's paintings are highly descriptive, employing his own personal symbolism to convey a moment in the unfolding social interactions which form this pseudo-society. The stark rural background allows the viewer to focus on the relationships between the grouped figures, their clothing, expressions and body language the only clues to the mystery of their lives.

*Surrender* is current until 21 September 2014

For more details or images contact:  
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