



AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES
MELBOURNE

ALEXANDER BOYNES | DAVID LEECE | MANDY MARTIN

ARNHEMBRAND *Light - Stone - Fire*

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 10 - 27 August 2017
28 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066
Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

The Arnhembrand project aims to raise national and global awareness of the work by Indigenous communities living in west Arnhem Land to preserve their unique culture and ecology. *ARNHEMBRAND - Light, Stone, Fire* showcases works by three distinct Australian artists, Alexander Boynes, David Leece and Mandy Martin, who each explore these environmental and cultural concerns with a unique creative voice and across a vibrant and diverse range of media. The Arnhembrand Bininj collection of paintings, including individual works by Alexander Boynes, David Leece and Mandy Martin were dispatched directly after exhibition at Space Gallery, Macquarie Group, Sydney in July 2017 to the archive collection of the Center for Art +Environment, Nevada Museum of Art. There they join the archive collection of the previous art and science project that these 3 artists also exhibited in together here at Australian Galleries, *Desert Lake, Art, Science and Stories* in 2013.

Alexander Boynes - *Light*

Alexander Boynes uses digital and depth mapping technologies to record traditional Indigenous song and dance. As Daniel Bonson, a sea country person, sings his Flying Fish Dreaming, Alexander digitally manipulates the fish to skim the water and through his very body, Daniel simultaneously transcends. Alexander has also created his own artworks that evolve from this collaboration as 2D acrylic and ACM aluminium panels in vibrant colours. The digital performances are exhibited projected onto a silk scrim with a large mat (commissioned by Arnhembrand) in the foreground, symbolising a 'meeting place'.

David Leece - *Stone*

David Leece's current series of oil paintings explore the landscape of water in the Arnhem Land plateau. The plateau is the home of secret places – unlike the freshwater floodplains, the plateau is all caves and rock gorges. Water and vegetation create microclimates that promote a diverse range of landscapes, from dense tropical rainforests to dry savannah grasslands and open woodland and the paperbark forests that crowd the waterways. In this landscape rock art is the predominant expression. On shelters, cliffs, under deep sandstone overhangs gouged by some ancient sea, it seems that every surface is covered with art. Works that are painted over, pigment absorbed by the rock, stories told and retold, these works are witness to an extraordinary culture of great vitality and longevity, the ultimate witness to time.

Mandy Martin - *Fire*

Mandy Martin is one of Australia's foremost environmental artists whose works depict the diversity of the Australian landscape with a profound awareness of conservation issues. Martin lives in the Central West of New South Wales, Australia, and is currently an Adjunct Professor Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University. From 1995-2017 her creative practice has focused in large part on 10 collaborative art and environment projects with Indigenous people in remote and regional Australia. Martin's current Savannah Burning series of paintings, focuses on the importance of Bininj cool burning for Australia's emissions targets and climate change. Martin's knowledge of the area and the traditions and benefits of controlled burning as a form of land management are manifest in these powerful and evocative works. Dense with raw ground pigment, these provocative works are environmentally and politically pertinent whilst being masterfully rendered.

Art movements come and go but cultural shifts are much more profound. The *Arnhembrand* project has used a contemporary format to help move the challenges and triumphs of these isolated communities into a national and world spotlight.

ARNHEMBRAND - Light, Stone, Fire is current until 27 August 2017

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