

YOUR INVITATION TO
ATTEND THE
EXHIBITION OPENING
OF SHOUFAY DERZ
ON 30 OCTOBER 2013
FROM 6-8PM

SHOUFAY DERZ
30 OCTOBER – 13 NOVEMBER 2013
ARTEREAL GALLERY



Image: *Black Lake_2012*
pigment print on cotton paper
edition of 5 + 2 AP
107 x 100cm
\$3,000 unframed / \$3,650 framed

Shoufay Derz is a Sydney based artist of German and Taiwanese heritage who sets out to conjure the ineffable. To portray that experience, emotion or phenomenon that is understood but not necessarily present; that state, that enigma, which resides at just beneath the threshold of perception or beyond vision.

Working principally in photo-media and sculptural installation, Shoufay Derz creates works that explore how the mystique of absence can be articulated through marks and traces of presence. She seeks to make 'visible' the invisible. By selecting aspects of a visual language of the known to depict the 'unknown and unknowable', her works negotiate a haunting strategy of ambivalence, hovering between an articulation of presence and a palpable absence.

The fragility of life as both transient and beautiful is integral to her practice: to the images, the depicted sites at which they are set or enacted and the materials, gold, natural pigments, marble and the alchemical processes she chooses.

The artist acknowledges that death is the only certainty and yet it is the ultimate unknown. It is a current that pervades Shoufay's oeuvre, her works being at once a form of universal *memento mori*, a reminder of the inevitability of death, and a personal exploration and homage to her late father. But in the finality of death - the eternal absence, is implicit the awe and transformative wonder of life.

The colour indigo, a plant product and a traditional silk dye which in a lengthy process transitions from its natural green to blue with urine as mordant, suffuses the *Depart without Return* series of works; at once alluding to the separation between the known and the unknown, a kind of 'blue yonder, and symbolises the infinite void.

The significance of the colour blue, the silk moth and other life cycle imagery throughout the series is articulated by the artist in an interview with Owen Leong for *Peril* magazine www.peril.com.au :

In 'Depart without Return', I lie in a small canoe shrouded in indigo silk with live blind moths covering my face. Moths are typically attracted to light, but my dark painted face points to an absence of light, reminiscent of the Godheads of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism which are depicted blue-skinned as a symbol of the infinite.

An interesting fact is that the 'Bombyx Mori'(the silk moth) has become blind and unable to eat or fly. The pupa's sole function is to produce the fine filament of

thread and it repeatedly moves its head in a figure of eight to weave its cocoon, this symbol of eternity is enacted in a transformation that can produce thread up to eight kilometres long.

Her 'Negatives' series of photographs exploits the expressive potential of remote 'negative', empty sites of desert landscapes with their ever-shifting sands, vast and eternally changing terrain that epitomise the unknown and impermanence. The sense of 'far away' and estrangement is amplified by the choice to make the print in the heightened hot saffron colour for land, lake and sky. This new work was developed from Shoufay Derz's solitary journey travelling through the remote areas of the Taklamakan Desert, in south west China, the world's second largest shifting sand desert - a place given many local names but which in the Ughur language means "place of no return".

The artist's most recent work, the time-based installation, *'Without'*, further develops the abstract concept of absence and presence. Blue ink will drip at intervals during the exhibition from a sleek, gold-plated pipe suspended above a stack of paper set on a block of Wombeyan marble selected as embedded with the depth of geological time. The process will create a series of enigmatic 'phantom' paintings in blue ink. The permanent traces visible on paper, but made entirely in the absence of the artist ...

Following this exhibition Shoufay Derz is undertaking a residency at a Taipei Artist Village, Taiwan, during which she will be developing new works on traditional funeral and mourning customs of contemporary Taiwanese society. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including two Australia Council grants and the Trinity Grammar artist residency. At the age of 24, Shoufay Derz was winner of the prestigious 52nd Blake Prize for Religious Art, awarded for her mysterious and abstract photographic series *Linking back*. Her work has been included in major group exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art (Shanghai), and OCTA Museum of Contemporary Art (Shenzhen) and in 2013 in *Pigeon Auction: looking at suburban subcultures* at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and *Phantom Limb* at Sydney University of Technology in Sydney. A work from her *Negatives* series was a finalist in the significant Bowness Photography Prize this year. Shoufay Derz holds a Masters of Fine Arts by research (Media Arts), a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) (Photo Media) and a Diploma of Fine Arts (Photography). She is currently undertaking a PhD at Sydney College of the Arts.

Barbara Dowse - Curator



Image: *Negative 1_2012*
pigment print on cotton paper
edition of 5 + 2 AP
185 x 150cm
\$6,300 unframed / \$7,750 framed



Image: *not this, not that (neti, neti)_2011*

pigment print on cotton paper, custom-made cedar wood frame, stained natural indigo
edition of 5 + 2 AP

145 x 81cm

\$4,400 unframed / \$5,450 framed



Image: *I am death, destroyer of words_2011*
pigment print on cotton paper, custom-made cedar wood frame, stained natural indigo
edition of 5 + 2 AP
92 x 99cm
\$3,900 unframed / \$4,850 framed



Image: *dawn and negative blue_2011*
pigment print on cotton paper, custom-made cedar wood frame, stained natural indigo
edition of 5 + 2 AP
104 x 111cm
\$3,900 unframed / \$4,850 framed



Image: *in widening circles (after Rilke) 1_2011*
c-type print, custom-made cedar wood frame, stained natural indigo
edition of 5 + 2 AP
30 x 45cm
\$1,400 unframed / \$1,700 framed each
\$3,600 unframed / \$4,500 framed for entire suite of three works



Image: *in widening circles (after Rilke) 2_2011*
c-type print, custom-made cedar wood frame, stained natural indigo
edition of 5 + 2 AP
30 x 45cm
\$1,400 unframed / \$1,700 framed each
\$3,600 unframed / \$4,500 framed for entire suite of three works



Image: *in widening circles (after Rilke) 3_2011*
c-type print, custom-made cedar wood frame, stained natural indigo
edition of 5 + 2 AP
30 x 45cm
\$1,400 unframed / \$1,700 framed each
\$3,600 unframed / \$4,500 framed for entire suite of three works



Image: *Golden Boat (after tagore)_2013*
pigment print on cotton paper, custom-made cedar wood frame, stained natural indigo
edition of 5 + 2 AP
92 x 99cm
\$3,900 unframed / \$4,850 framed



Image: *Without_2013*
wombeyan marble and paper, gold plated copper, blue fountain pen ink
60cm cube, 192cm tube
N.F.S.

SHOUFAY DERZ CV

EDUCATION

- 2013 PhD Candidate, University of Sydney
2011 Master of Fine Arts by Research (Media Arts). University of New South Wales
2003 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours). University of New South Wales
1998 Diploma of Fine Arts with Distinction (Photography/Printmaking), Northern Sydney TAFE, Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Shoufay Derz*, Artereal Gallery, Sydney
2012 *Negatives*, Queensland Centre for photography, Dec 2012
2011 *Depart Without Return*, Cofa space, Sydney
2007 *Shoufay Derz*, Delmar Gallery, Sydney
Transportation Love Song: Inseparable, Art and disability, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, Esplanade Concourse, Singapore
Radii Heart, AWE space II, UNSW, Sydney
2006 *Break-up* (Curators: David Teh and Jasper Night). Commissioned for Half Dozen festival, Chinatown Public Art Project, Asia-Australia Arts Centre, Gallery 4a, Sydney
2004 *Radii Heart*, Sherman Artbox, Sherman Galleries, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Phantom Limb*, curated by Speculum projects, UTS Gallery
Pigeon Auction, curated by Toni Baily, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
Blake Prize Tour, Australian Jewish Museum, Melbourne
2012 *Light Sensitive*, works from the Verghis collection, touring to Moree Plains Gallery, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery, The Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Grafton Regional Gallery, Shoalhaven City Arts Centre
Shelf Life, curator: Catherine Benz, Delmar Gallery, Sydney
2011 *Shelf Life*, curator: Catherine Benz, Delmar Gallery, Sydney
Annual members show, Asia-Australia Arts centre, Gallery 4a, Sydney
2010 *An Insight*, Trinity Grammar School Art Collection, curated by Catherine Benz, Delmar Gallery
Shelf Life, Delmar Gallery, Sydney
Annual members show, Asia-Australia Arts centre, Gallery 4a, Sydney
2009 *The Spirit Within: Australian Contemporary Art*, curated by Rosemary Crumlin, Isobel Crombie, Helen Light, Parliament of World Religions, Melbourne
Light Sensitive, works from the Verghis collection, curated by Richard Perran, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst
The Liverpool City Art Prize, Casula Power Arts House, Casula
Life of Staff, See Street Gallery, Meadowbank
2008 *Annual members show*, Asia-Australia Arts centre, Gallery 4a, Sydney
Asian Traffic (selected works on tour), Today Art Museum, Beijing; Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai; OCTA Museum of Contemporary Art, Shenzhen
2004 *One of, Festivus 04*, Sherman galleries, Sydney (with Jackie Redgate, Shaun Gladwell, Mel O'Callaghan, Deborah Paauwe, Lynne Roberts-Goodwin, Todd Robinson, and John Young)
Asian Traffic: Phase 6, curated by Binghui Huangfu, Asia-Australia Arts Centre, Sydney (Official Parallel Event of the Biennale of Sydney)
2003 *53rd Blake Prize for Religious Art: Touring Blake Exhibition 04* (selected works), Grafton Regional Gallery, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Australian Catholic University (ACU) National, Strathfield, NSW and Melbourne VIC
Uterior, with Sam Smith & David Westerman, Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney
2002 *52nd Blake Prize for Religious Art: The Touring Blake Exhibition 03* (selected works), Tamworth Regional Gallery, Devonport Regional Gallery, Coffs Harbor Regional Gallery, ACU National, Strathfield NSW and Melbourne VIC
Under the Sun, EPS Gallery, University of New South Wales, Sydney

COLLABORATIONS

Entanglement (special project collaboration with Owen Leong), Westspace, Melbourne

GRANTS / AWARDS / PRIZES

- 2013 *AIR Taipei International Artist Residence Fellowship*
Australian Postgraduate Award to undertake Phd, University of Sydney
Finalist, *William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize*
Recipient, *Arts NSW Travel Grant*
Finalist, *Hazelhurst Art on Paper Art Award*
Finalist, *Fisher's Ghost Award*, Campbelltown Arts Centre
- 2012 *61st Blake Prize for Religious Art*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney (Highly Commended)
37th Alice Prize, Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs (Highly Commended)
NAVA NSW Artists' Grant
50th Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Campbelltown Arts Centre (Finalist)
- 2011 Australia Council ArtStart Grant
Fisher's Ghost Art Award 2011, Campbelltown Arts Centre (Finalist)
The Substation Contemporary Art Prize, The Substation, Melbourne (Finalist)
- 2008 *The Viktoria Marinov Award in Art* (Postgraduate Scholarship)
Churchie National Emerging Art Award (Winner: Judges Special Mention Prize)
- 2007 Janet Holmes à Court Artists Grant and Visual and Craft Artists' Grant
Australia Council New Work Grant
Lomograpix07, Blender Gallery, Sydney (Finalist)
- 2006 *34th Alice Prize*. Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs (Finalist)
- 2003 *52nd Blake Prize for Religious Art* (Winner)
Helen Lemprière Traveling Art Scholarship, Artspace

RESIDENCIES

- 2013 AIR Taipei International Artist Residence
- 2012 Self-initiated residency, Taklamakan desert, China
- 2011 Self-initiated residency, Ambrym, Vanuatu
- 2007 Artist in Residence, Trinity Grammar School, Sydney

COLLECTIONS

Alice Spring Art Foundation Art Collection
Society of the Arts, Trinity Grammar School Art Collection, Delmar Gallery
University of Sydney Union Art Collection, Sydney, Australia
Northern Institute of TAFE, Sydney, Australia
Rachel Vergis Collection
Private Collections in Australia and internationally

SELECTED PRESS

Dr Lindy Lee, *Speculum Projects*, "Phantom Limb", catalogue essay, 2013
Speculum Projects, "Phantom Limb", catalogue essay, 2013
Adrian Phoon, "Phantom limbs, family ties", 2013
Shona Kervinen, "Ties that bind", *Brink - Sydney Morning Herald*, (19 September 2013): 2
Professor James Arvanitakis, "Pigeon Auction" Catalogue essay, 2013
Nadia de Ceglie & Rod Patterden, *Blake education Kit*, (Dec 2012)
Owen Leong, 'Spirit worlds', issue 14, *Peril magazine* (September 2012)
Rosemary Crumlin, 'Time and silence for meaning', *Gesher*, Vol. 4 No.2, pp. 27-29
Rosemary Crumlin, *The Blake Book*, 162-163, 2011
Rosemary Crumlin. *The Spirit within Australian contemporary Art*, catalogue essay, 2009
Twenty, *Sherman galleries 1986–2006* (2006): 84
David Teh. "Half Dozen presents...Year of the Dog: Chinatown Public Art Project, Shoufay Derz", (January, 2006): 3
Barbara Messer. "Student profile", *International Research Student Prospectus – COFA, UNSW* (2006):24

'Artist case study: Shoufay Derz', Using Learning Technologies in learning and teaching Visual Arts. CD ROM, Australian Independent schools, Sydney (2005)

Peter Sheelan AO. "The Touring Blake Exhibition", catalogue essay, ACU National Gallery (2004): 2

Peter Hill. "Join the red dots", Spectrum - Sydney Morning Herald (September 25, 2004): 18

Joyce Morgan. "Watch this face, Shoufay Derz", The (Sydney) Magazine - Sydney Morning Herald, Issue 11 (March 2004): 30

"Art of Questioning, Artist Shoufay Derz", Time Out Arts - Mainly Daily (December 05, 2003): 39

Peter Sheelan AO. "Blake 2003 essay", catalogue essay, ACU National Gallery (2003): 2

Dominique Angeloro. "Traveling circus", Metro - Sydney Morning Herald (August 15-21, 2003): 22

Lenny Ann Low. "Blake Winner's Dark Reflection", Sydney Morning Herald (November 13, 2003): 4

Cathy Pryor. "Poetry of the rib takes out the Blake", The Australian (November 13, 2003): 4

Chris Kearney. "COFA artist takes out Blake Prize", Uniken, Issue 10 (December 2003): 7

Peter Hill. "An Art of God", Spectrum - Sydney Morning Herald (December 6-7, 2003): 10

Jo Bosben. "Student runs away with Prize", Blitz Magazine (Winter issue, 2002): 9

Louise Maral. "Black and Blake in partnership", The University of Sydney News – UniArts (Nov. 28, 2003): 7.

C Kidd. Artnotes NSW - Blake Winner, Art Monthly, Issue 166 (Dec 2003)

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www.artereal.com.au T: 02 9818 7473
747 Darling Street Rozelle NSW 2039 E: info@artereal.com.au

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