



## DEEP REVOLT ARLO MOUNTFORD

**EXHIBITION:** 27 November 2020 – 5 February 2021

**OPENING:** 6.30pm (for 7pm), Friday 27 November

For immediate release: The Walkway Gallery is pleased to present a survey of significant works by Melbourne-based artist Arlo Mountford. Spanning 15 years of the artist's practice, from 2003 to 2018, Arlo Mountford's large scale video installations, kinetic sculptures and animations take a wry look at the artistic canon, throwing light on visual art's ongoing meaning and relevance in contemporary society.

Amusing, strange and laden with references from art history and pop culture, Mountford's animated films are hand drawn with a mouse directly into a computer. He reimagines both real and created spaces from the art world, digitally reconstructing the interiors of iconic museums or retracing the brushstrokes of European masterpieces, well known and loved for centuries.

Mountford uses the simple figure in his work, a graphic often used to identify bathrooms or elevators on way finding signage. His figures 'walk' through carefully selected and painstakingly redrawn works from the National Gallery of Victoria's collection in *Walking the Line* (2013) or lose their battle with 'death' represented by skeletons wreaking havoc against the living in *The Triumph* (2010), an animated recreation of iconic moral painting *The Triumph of Death*, by Pieter Bruegel (1562).

*'The exhibition and the works themselves operate on multiple levels through a combination of technical execution, humour, history and self-reflexive response. I feel the 'relatability' present in the works acts as a gateway to engage with the more challenging conversations about what art is and how it might operate.'*

- Arlo Mountford

This survey exhibition reveals the expanse of Mountford's practice from video, sculpture and drawing. Featured in the exhibition is his recent work *100 years* (2016), an animated chronology of 100 appropriated artworks charting the evolution of abstract art since the 'zero point' of Malevich's *Black Square* in 1915, as well as a new suite of drawings exploring the viral phenomenon of 'unboxing'.

Mountford's experiments with sculptural elements add yet another layer, with ramps and apparatus structuring the viewer's experience and creating a physical manifestation of ideas touched upon in his practice and the exhibition, which promises to offer an amusing and thought provoking journey through the annals of art history.

## About Arlo Mountford

Arlo Mountford has a Bachelor of Fine Art (Sculpture) from Victorian College of the Arts and a Diploma of Fine Art (Design and Multimedia) from Western Australian College of Art.

His work has been represented in exhibitions at the National Gallery of Victoria, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Heide Museum of Modern Art and exhibited at galleries across Australia including Gertrude Contemporary, Sutton Gallery, Western Plains Cultural Centre and Centre for Contemporary Photography.

In 2015, he completed a major commission at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, animating two backdrops for the First World War galleries. The dioramas encapsulate Mountford's enduring process and practice, with the artist spending no less than eighteen months studying every image in the Memorial's archives of his two intended locations; Mont St Quentin and Sinai Desert. The resulting animations are an extraordinary eight hours long, offering the Memorial a work that runs for the length of their opening hours.

Arlo Mountford was the recipient of the Australia Council Mid-Career/New Work Grant in 2013 and the Australia Council Tokyo Residency in 2010.

His work is held by National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne; Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne Western Plains Cultural Centre/Dubbo Regional Gallery and The Michael Buxton Contemporary Australian Art Collection.

## About the Tour

Curated by Gina Mobayed, Director of Goulburn Regional Art Gallery and touring nationally in partnership with Museums & Galleries of NSW, Arlo Mountford *Deep Revolt* will tour from 2019 to 2020 visiting regional centres including Shepparton, Geraldton, Dubbo and Maitland.

## Media Information

Arlo Mountford and Naomi Fallon (Walkway Gallery) are available for interview.

To arrange a time, request images for republication or any other media inquiries, contact:

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*A Goulburn Regional Art Gallery exhibition toured by Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.*