

space two

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(with a view of some trees and the wind over water)

Penelope Cain

Opening Tuesday 24 July 2018, 5-8pm

25 July - 11 August 2018

Money Honey Picnic Saturday 11 August, 2-4pm

Dump is an object-initiated enquiry taking as a starting point the first official Australian colonial currency: Lachlan Macquarie's holey dollar and dump of 1812. *Dump* traces at a molecular level the silver of the holey dollar, through a linked series of anthropogenic landscapes, from Spanish colonial silver mines to Broken Hill and on to the Antarctic.

In the face of insufficient British currency in the colony, in 1812 Lachlan Macquarie ordered a consignment of Spanish silver dollars, the globally traded currency at the time. The silver in the coins was mined from Spanish colonial mines, the largest being the Potosi mine in Bolivia. Lead released from mining silver at Potosi from the 17th century has been detected in ice core samples from the Quelccaya ice cap, the largest tropical ice-mass in the world.

Macquarie had a convict forger punch holes in the centre of the coins, creating the outer holey dollar and the inner dump, doubling the number of available coins. This singularly innovative act of mutilation and economic magical thinking was subsequently recognised by the Macquarie Bank, who adopted the holey dollar as its logo.

Significant silver deposits existed in Australia and one of the earliest mines was at Broken Hill, originally discovered by Charles Rasp. A large lead-silver-zinc mineral lode, it has been continuously mined since discovery and gave birth to the international mining giant, BHP (Broken Hill Proprietary Company).

Charles Rasp subsequently purchased a large decorative silver epergne, which adorned his dining table. This ornate colonial table decoration depicts a tall silver tree, with figures of indigenous Australians, native animals and a drover on horseback encircling the rocky hill. It was made from over 8 kg of silver, and the mineral origin of this silver is thought to have been Mexico and Peru.

Mining activities at Broken Hill released lead dust that spread wind-born, contaminating the ground around the town at the base of the hill and mine and bioaccumulating in animals, saltbush, children and even bees. Lead dust containing the unique Broken Hill isotopic fingerprint from the earliest silver mining activities has been found as far away as ice core samples in the Antarctic. Snow containing Broken Hill lead dust fell on the south pole 20 years before Amundsen and Scott battled across that previously untrodden landscape.

Penelope Cain is a Sydney-based interdisciplinary artist with a science background. Landscape, in its widest terms, is central to her practice. She completed a MFA from SCA (2016). She has been awarded a Power Institute Residency, Cite des Artes, Paris, and was a finalist in the Sulman Prize and the Glenfiddich Contemporary Art Prize. She has exhibited in Australia, Seoul, Shanghai and London.

This installation is accompanied by a catalogue essay by Anneke Jaspers, Curator Contemporary art, Art Gallery of New South Wales.

www.penelopecain.com

KUDOS GALLERY

6 Napier St Paddington NSW 2021
11am-6pm Wed to Fri, 11am-4pm Sat

kudos_gallery : Instagram P: 9326 0034

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1. Money Tree, 2018

Digital print on linen, acrylic, dyed rooster and pheasant feathers, fabric, beads, trimmings, timber. 2.10x 2.30 m

2. Silver Tree, 2018

Dye sublimation print, fabric, timber, trimmings. 1.5 x 2.3m

3. The Pale Colour of Shadows on the Mid-Summer Snow, 2018

Dye sublimation print, fabric, metal stands, fans. Dimensions variable

4. Dust for the Antarctic, 2018

Digital video, 3:10 with sound

5. Supply Side Magical Thinking, 2018

Digital video, looped

6. The New Sound of Water, 2018

Materials, Size. Sequins, PVC toy snakes, acrylic, fabric, tape. Dimensions variable

Special Thanks:

To the Albert Kersten Mining and Minerals Museum, Broken Hill, for providing access to photograph the Silver Tree. Acknowledgement is made to the Kurna lands in which the Silver Tree was made and the Wiljakali lands in which the Silver Tree is now located.

To MAAS for providing access to the holey dollars and dumps held in its vast collection. To the National Library, for access to the image from 'The Successful Explorers at the South Pole, 14th December 1911 [picture]/ Olav Bjaaland'.

With many thanks to Dave and Carol Apiarists, Wiljakali and Barkindji people and lands for their knowledge and access to film.

Many thanks to the dedicated team at the Broken Hill Artist Exchange. To the family; Roger, Sam, Oliver and Evie, for assistance, support and no rest even in school holidays.

Carbon offset for fans: Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund www.cncf.com.au

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