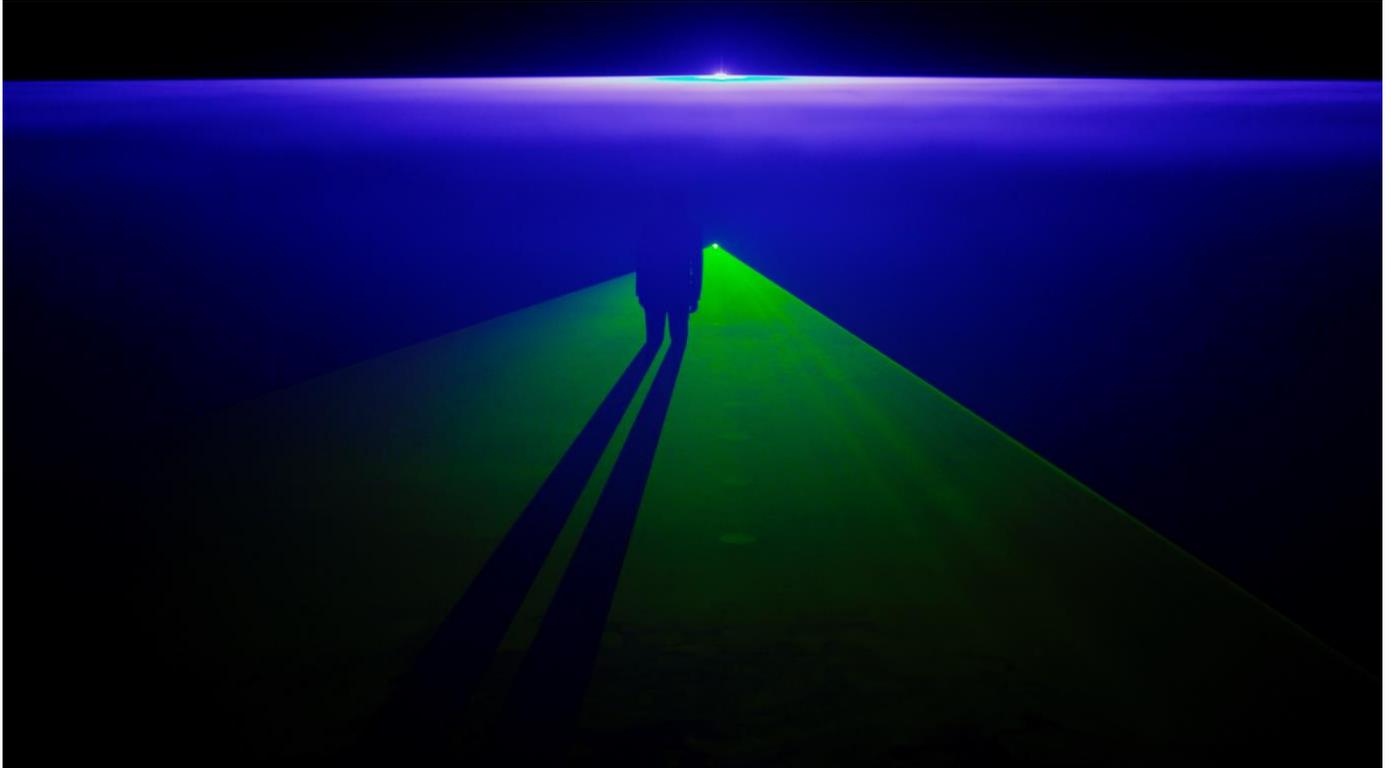


A Drone Opera Matthew Sleeth



Matthew Sleeth, *A Drone Opera*. Image by David McKinnar

Lyon Housemuseum Galleries

SATURDAY 14 March – SUNDAY 29 March 2020

Melbourne, Australia: Lyon Housemuseum Galleries in Kew presents a cinematic installation of *A Drone Opera* by multi-disciplinary artist **Matthew Sleeth**. Two monumental 66-panel LED screens will be mounted on trusses and presented as sculptural objects in a dramatic evocation of a rock concert with four speaker stacks to amplify the sound. The multi-channel installation will occupy the entire central gallery of the Lyon Housemuseum Galleries – measuring 26m x 13m – and will be on show for a limited time, from 14 – 29 March.

'A Drone Opera was always imagined as a sensory experience – for an audience to viscerally encounter often abstracted ideas like total surveillance, military violence or our fear and fetishisation of new technologies.' Matthew Sleeth.

Exploring a narrative of desire, fear and destruction, the immersive film has been structured around the myth of Icarus as a framework to explore our complex relationship with technology. Featuring opera singers, the choreography of custom-built drones and laser set design, this uniquely seductive world becomes a poetic reflection of our anxiety surrounding surveillance. Live mapping of the space makes visible the idea that we are now all being watched - all the time - and includes excerpts from CIA FLIR footage to draw attention to the violence carried out in our names. *A Drone Opera* is produced by new-media artist **Kate Richards** with an original libretto by composer **Susan Frykberg**.

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 17 February 2020

The two week installation of *A Drone Opera* at Lyon Housemuseum Galleries will be accompanied by a diverse series of thought-provoking, multi-sensory and unique programs and events. Two panel discussions, titled: *Surveillance Cities* and *Expanded Fields of View* will explore our contemporary love affair with technology and the new reality of constant surveillance: how facial recognition, autonomous vehicles, and computer-aided design are changing our urban landscapes and the way we interact with one another.

On the final night of the exhibition, drummer/percussionist **Nat Grant**, performing on two drum kits, and noise guitarist **Dave Brown** will activate the space with a responsive performance.

The Lyon Housemuseum has a longstanding relationship with the artist Matthew Sleeth; founding patrons **Corbett Lyon** and **Yueji Lyon** have been collecting the work of Sleeth for more than a decade. This includes commissioned video art, large-scale installations and 3D printed sculptures. *A Drone Opera* also belongs to the permanent Lyon Collection, a 30-year Collection of contemporary Australian art. Among the other 55 artists represented in the Collection are **Howard Arkley**, **Patricia Piccinini**, **Kathy Temin**, **Polly Borland**, **Brook Andrew** and **Callum Morton**.

A Drone Opera is a co-presentation with Experimenta.

Ends

Media Contacts: for artist bios, images and interviews, contact Articulate Julia Barnes julia@articulatepr.com.au 0402 678 589, or Kym Elphinstone kym@articulatepr.com.au 0421 106 139.

Images

Stills from *A Drone Opera*:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gz5o9ncoqmbjypl/AABPJJaURgbwb5reozjhBGqnUa?dl=0>

Digital renders of installation view:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pq1d50fjr6iwgje/AAC040HvfKQi4Io-vPyRUKGHa?dl=0>

Exhibition details:

A Drone Opera
Matthew Sleeth
Lyon Housemuseum Galleries
SATURDAY 14 March – SUNDAY 29 March 2020

VIP OPENING

FRIDAY 13 March 2020, 6:30PM Note to media: please RSVP to attend VIP opening to julia@articulatepr.com.au

Tickets can be purchased at the Lyon Housemuseum Galleries or pre-purchased [here](#).