



SAWTOOTH

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Cataract Gorge

Stephen Hobson (QLD)

@Sawtooth Pop-up #exhibition 4-26 October 2013



Stephen Hobson's recent self-portraits (produced since 2001) depict the artist in relation to the rabbit as muse and sacrificial archetype, his emigration to Australia in 2000, and a life-long desire to find the mythical place called 'home'.

The self-portraits challenge the masculine identities projected over time onto the nature of the rabbit, through its use in making 'bush' hats, such as the iconic Akubra brand, and the rabbit's denigration in Australia as a European pest. The images suggest that these artistic representations of 'rabbit hats' offer an unseen psychic rift in

their relationship to the Australian male 'battler' and traditional notions of masculinity associated with the tough hardwearing hat and their owners.

Furthermore, the drawings and paintings seek to reframe the Australian hat, and thereby challenge its cultural position, as the ubiquitous 'male' hat becomes playfully and perversely 'feminised' through the anthropomorphic development of breasts that protrude through the hat's crown, as well as sporting pendulous ears that often loll over the hat's brim. Put bluntly, the artworks suggest that men keep their ability to nurture and to offer succour under their hats.

Stephen's residency at the Kings Bridge Cottage in Cataract Gorge (23 September – 7 October 2013) provides an opportunity to use the Gorge as an imaginative foil for working in a landscape whose natural form echoes the heads of his rabbits. In addition, the residency provides a source of natural detail for further works to be made in his studio.

All works on 352 gsm Navaho paper. Mixed media – varies: oil paint, oil stick, oil pastel, Chinese ink, graphite stick, graphite pencil, watercolour crayons. **All works for sale. Price: \$350.00 each.**

Image View (2013) oil, graphite on board

Biography

Stephen Hobson is an artist, curator and writer. His studio practice centres on emotional relationships, and notions of identity and masculinities. Stephen currently supervises Research Higher Degree students at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, and works as an art consultant whilst continuing to make artwork for exhibition and publication. Stephen's work is held in national and private collections, including the Bibliothèque Nationale Paris, and the Arts Council of England. He has a PhD from Griffith University.

www.stephenhobson.com.au