

Media Release

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Todd McMillan: Selected Works

Opening this weekend at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, one of Australia's most exciting and experimental new media artists, Todd McMillan, presents ***Selected Works***. These compelling video works, spanning the last decade, bring the themes of Romanticism to bear on the humorous and pitiful adventures of the twenty-first century.

Todd McMillan's deeply introspective images evoke the tragicomedy of life, the inevitability of failure, and sincerity in the face of hopelessness. The place of endurance and repetition in making sense of the world is afforded great significance. While these are broad themes, the work focuses on the trials of men: how their lives negotiate injury, obstacles, and the ultimate barrier of empty time.

Key works encompassing Todd McMillan's recent career include *By the Sea* (2004), a 16mm film transfer that saw the artist standing for twelve hours staring out to sea, in a homage to the German Romantic Caspar David Friedrich's *Monk by the sea* (1808-10).

In the same vein, the triptych *No more Light – After the deluge, Whiskey in the kitchen, Over Windermere* (2011), is drawn from the last words of the great German writer Goethe, who died unexpectedly, in 1832, whilst convalescing in his home. In the moments before his passing, Goethe requested that his attending servant open the shutters, and then as he spoke his final words traced the same words through the air with his finger – “more light”.

Thomas Bernhard tells a story of a man who was committed to a lunatic asylum because he claimed, at every opportunity, that Goethe's last words were in fact “mehr nicht”, not “mehr licht” – meaning “no more” rather than “more light”. In a striking configuration, *No more Light* is exhibited as a series of three modified overhead projectors transmitting video data, explores the region between illumination and absolute blackness.

Todd McMillan: Selected Works is on display in the Margaret Carnegie Gallery at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery from Saturday 27 July until Sunday 8 September, 2013. Todd McMillan is represented by Sarah Cottier Gallery Sydney

Exhibition Dates

When: Saturday 27 July – Sunday 8 September, 2013
Where: Wagga Wagga Art Gallery
Cost: Free