



PILAR MATA DUPONT

Undesirable Bodies

AUSTRALIA/ NETHERLANDS

Artist Pilar Mata Dupont examines the legacies of colonisation in her bold new series *Undesirable Bodies*.

Jirndawurrunha, an area of the Pilbara's Millstream Chichester National Park that is sacred to the Yindjibarndi people, is under threat. Through stunning photographs and video, with a major three-screen video installation as the centrepiece, a story of invasion and conservation unfolds. Weeds threaten the environment, while a tourist economy grows uneasily in this hauntingly beautiful location.

Pilar Mata Dupont is renowned internationally for using highly theatrical and cinematic methods to investigate history and humanity. In this new collection she brings to life the country of the Yindjibarndi and the issues facing them and their environment.

Undesirable Bodies marks the world premiere of Pilar Mata Dupont's new series of work.

Pilar Mata Dupont Biography

Pilar Mata Dupont is an artist based between Western Australia and the Netherlands. Using highly theatrical and cinematic methods, she investigates histories, identity, and mythologies through allegory and narrative. Through imaginings of the future, and the reimagining/reworking of histories and classical texts, she aims to create alternative readings that question the conditions of the construction of dominant narratives that shape history and its legacy in the present.

In July 2015, she was the winner of the Plymouth Contemporary Open Art Prize in the UK. The judges of this prize included Turner Prize judge, Helen Legg, and former Artistic Director of Tate St Ives, Sam Thorne. In October 2015, she won the Residency Prize for the Wexner Center for the Arts at the 19th Contemporary Art Festival Sesc_Videobrasil, in São Paulo, Brazil.

Other recent exhibition highlights include the SeMA Biennale – Mediacity Seoul, at the Seoul Museum of Art; Salon Fluchthilfe - Utopian Pulse, Flares in the Darkroom, at Secession in Vienna and Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; and The Social Contract, at Izolyastia Platform for Cultural Initiatives (former Lenin monument site), Kiev. Her solo exhibition, Kaiho, opened in the Rappu space at the Pori Art Museum, Finland in late 2014.

In 2012 she was a recipient of a Mid-career Fellowship from the Western Australian Government, allowing her to begin investigations into the history of the women in her family in Argentina. This is a long-term, ongoing project.

In collaboration with Tarryn Gill, she participated in the 17th Sydney Biennale and won the Basil Sellers Art Prize in 2010, and held a ten-year retrospective at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts in 2011. In partnership with Thea Costantino and Gill as multi-artform collective Hold Your Horses, she made work commissioned by the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, 2012, for the exhibition Wagner 2013: Künstlerpositionen.

Mata Dupont has solo and collaborative work in the collections of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Campbelltown Arts Centre, University of Western Australia, Artbank, the City of Perth, Queensland Art Gallery and Stadiums Queensland, as well as in numerous private collections.

Both the artist and commissioning organisation, FORM, respectfully acknowledge the Yindjibarndi people, on whose land this work was created, and thank the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation for its support of this project.

FORM Gallery
357 Murray Street Perth

2 February – April 2018

Website: <http://www.pilarmatadupont.com/>

For further information, interviews or images please contact:

WA MEDIA: Stephen Bevis
+61 8 6488 8618 / 0448 927 281
sbevis@perthfestival.com.au

NATIONAL MEDIA: Miranda Brown
+61 3 9419 0931 / 0411 568 781
miranda@mbpublicity.com.au

Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 65 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

-ends-