

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a theater stage. A vibrant rainbow light effect is visible at the top of the frame, casting a soft glow over the scene. The stage is mostly in shadow, with some faint outlines of what might be set pieces or lighting rigs. The overall mood is mysterious and artistic.

The Hidden Theatre

TIM GEORGESON | WILLIAM BARTON

8 February - 13 April 2025

GLASSHOUSE REGIONAL GALLERY

The Hidden Theatre

It is with great pleasure that the Glasshouse Regional Gallery presents *The Hidden Theatre*, a powerful and immersive exhibition by Australian filmmaker Tim Georgeson and composer William Barton. This exhibition represents the fruitful collaboration between two artists from different disciplines, each bringing their unique vision to explore the landscape of Bundanon and the ancient knowledge of Wodi Wodi Country in New South Wales.

This exhibition is not just a visual or auditory exploration; it is a reflection on the knowledge, histories and stories that have shaped this land over millennia. As you move through *The Hidden Theatre*, I encourage you to pause and immerse yourself in the subtle interplay of sound and image, and to consider the layers of meaning and significance embedded in the land beneath your feet.

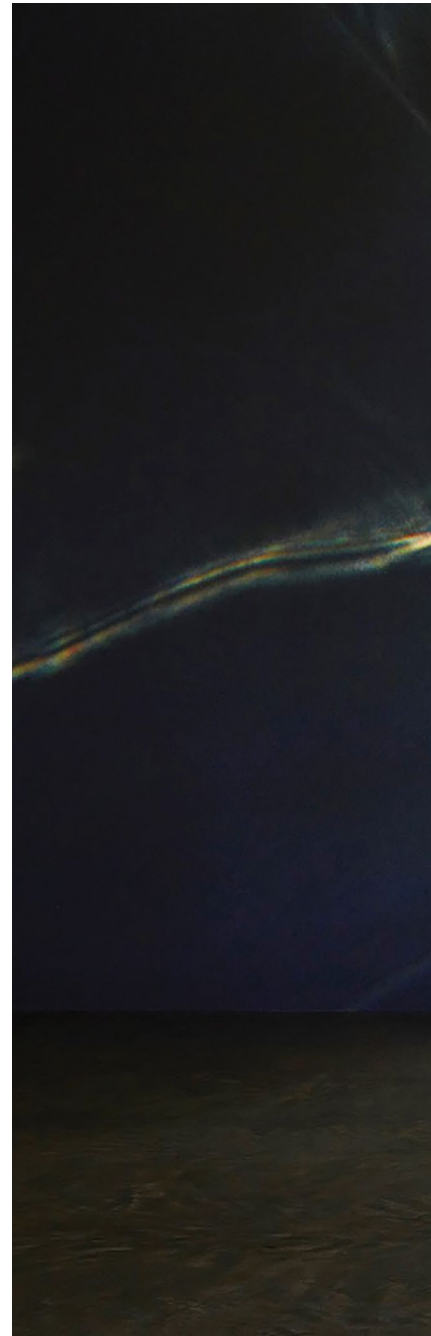
We are grateful to Tim Georgeson and William Barton for sharing their vision with us and for reminding us of the power of collaboration, listening and reflecting on the places that shape us. To the Bundanon Museum, we thank you for the opportunities you provide to artists in your residency program, as without this service exhibitions like this would never have the chance to come to life and be explored.

We hope this exhibition offers you a moment of connection - to the land, to the artists and to the stories that continue to resonate through time.

On behalf of the gallery team, we welcome you to *The Hidden Theatre* and invite you to experience its many layers for yourself.

Bridget Purtil

Glasshouse Regional Gallery Curator





Installation view, Bundanon, *Hidden Theatre*, 2022

The Hidden Theatre

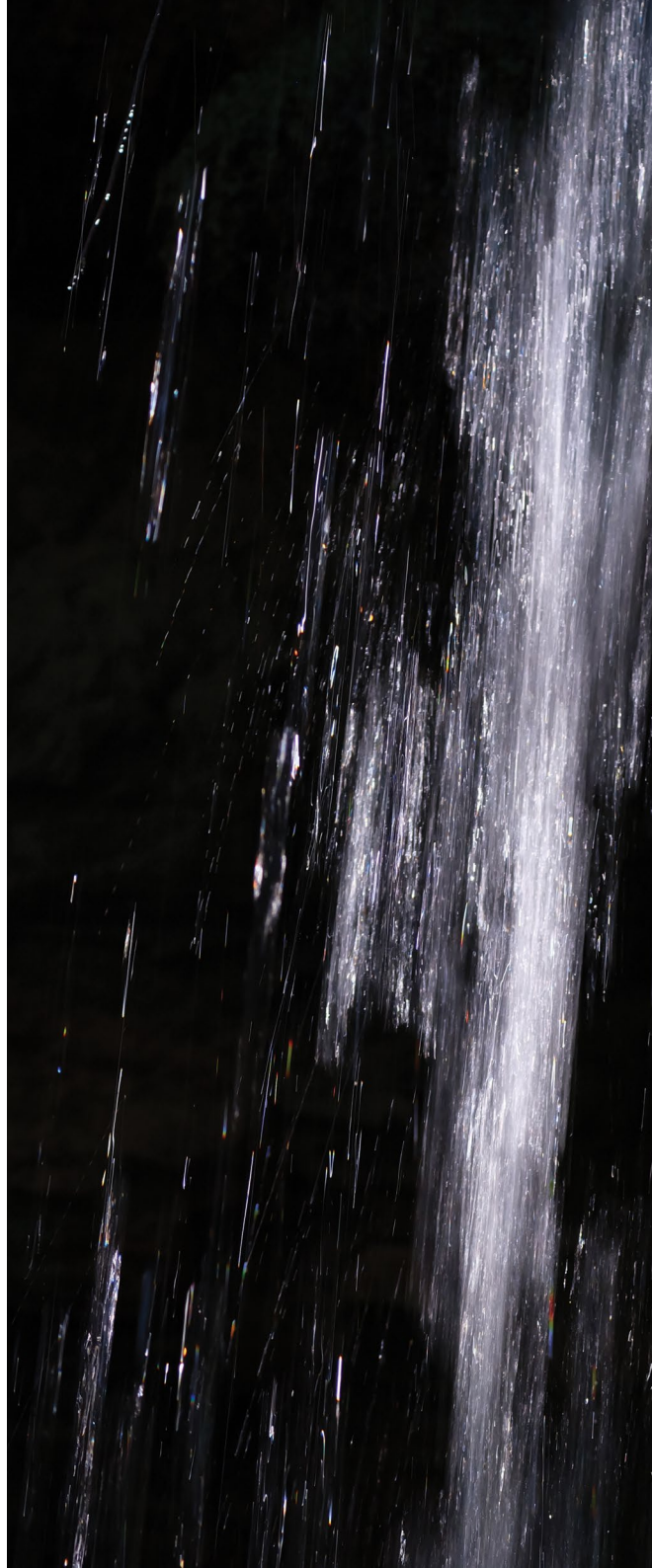
The Hidden Theatre is an immersive work of sound and vision, first conceived and created in residence at Bundanon in 2021. This exhibition continues this exploration with new adaptations filled with striking images of shadows and light. Together, sound and image form a meditation of the ancient knowledge and histories held within the earth, water and skies in response to time spent in Wodi Wodi Country.

This exhibition is a collaborative project between celebrated Australian filmmaker and artist Tim Georgeson and leading composer, performer and proud Kalkadunga man, William Barton. It offers a personal account of the Bundanon land and waterscapes through film, installation and sound.

Working together for the first time, Barton and Georgeson undertook an artistic residency together, composing, recording and experimenting in response to Wodi Wodi Country. They continued this close collaboration offsite, weaving together their responses through an ongoing exchange of material. Anchored by Barton's compositions, Georgeson's films are edited in distinct acts, revealing unseen interactions between sunlight, moonlight, fog and wind. Together, sound and image form a meditation on the ancient knowledge and histories held within the earth, water and skies of this place.

"The Hidden Theatre takes us into the present, where the bush is alive with the ancient indigenous spirits that have always lived there, as ancestors and allies."

- Tim Georgeson





Hidden Theatre

is a haunting meditation on the unvarnished power and beauty of the landscape despite this damaging history of colonisation that created the so-called Australia. That which is hidden in this immersive forestw - spiritual entities that live on Country, including ancestors, tree spirits, fog nymphs, animal voices - are heard and become visible through connection and exchange. The result is a unique collaboration between an Indigenous artist and non - Indigenous artist whose work offers creative strategies for decolonising the land and the way is has been framed by the European settler imagination.

Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham

Excerpts from 2023 catalogue of Tim Georgeson *Hidden Theatre*.

Tim Georgeson

Tim Georgeson is a multidisciplinary visual artist working in the mediums of film, photography and sound with a strong focus on environment/climate justice/culture and knowledge. He creates immersive cinematic spaces where environments and bodies are transformed through the gaze of unexpected visual-musical ecologies. His creative insight into the human condition gives his work a unique identity at the boundaries of art and documentary, where his film and photography capture complex dynamics in contemporary life and merge these moments with musical design and storytelling.

A self-titled 'settler artist', he is known for his ground-breaking collaborations, most notably with Australian Indigenous artists. In 2023 Georgeson travelled deep into the Tanami Desert with a group of Karrinyarra elders to create an extraordinary multi cinematic artwork, commissioned by Glen Isegar-Pilkington, curator at the Fremantle Arts Centre and the Indigenous Desert Alliance. This was presented as part of the *Polarity Fire and Ice* exhibition at the 2024 Perth Festival. Georgeson first collaborated with William Barton in 2021 on *The Hidden Theatre*, a major three channel film and sound installation commissioned by Sophie O'Brien and Rachel Kent for the Bundanon Art Trust Art Museum. His partnership with Barton has continued on multiple works most recently *URRITJARRA* an installation responding to Barton and Veronique Serret's composition Kalkarni and featuring performer Derik Lynch. *URRITJARRA* has been presented in multiple locations around Australia including Tweed Regional Gallery and Passage Gallery, Sydney.

Georgeson has won World Press Photo, Leica Camera, Cannes, Global Oceanic, Ciclope and National Geographic awards. He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in France, UK, Japan, Holland, Canada, the USA and Australia. His work is held in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Bundanon Trust Art Museum, The Australian Museum, corporate collections and regional galleries around Australia and private collections internationally.

Georgeson is represented by Olsen Gallery.



William Barton

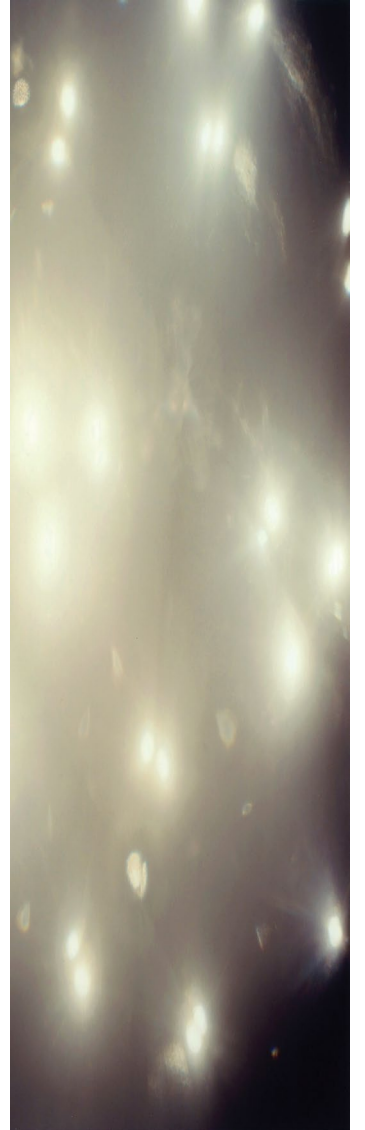
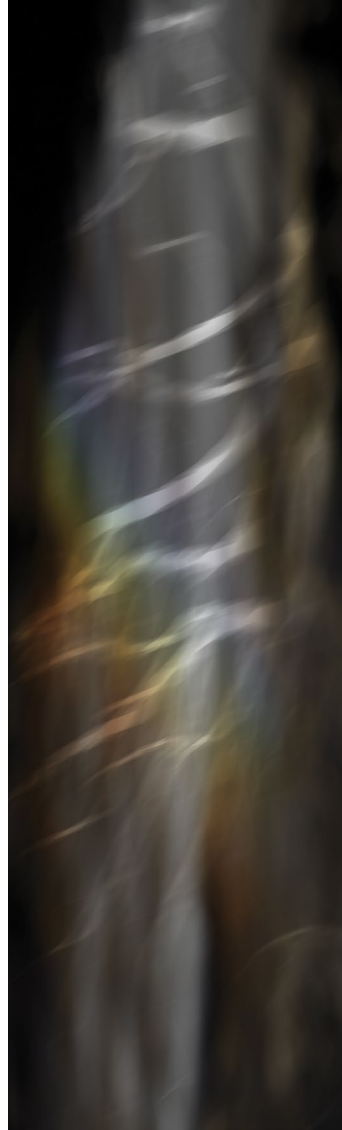
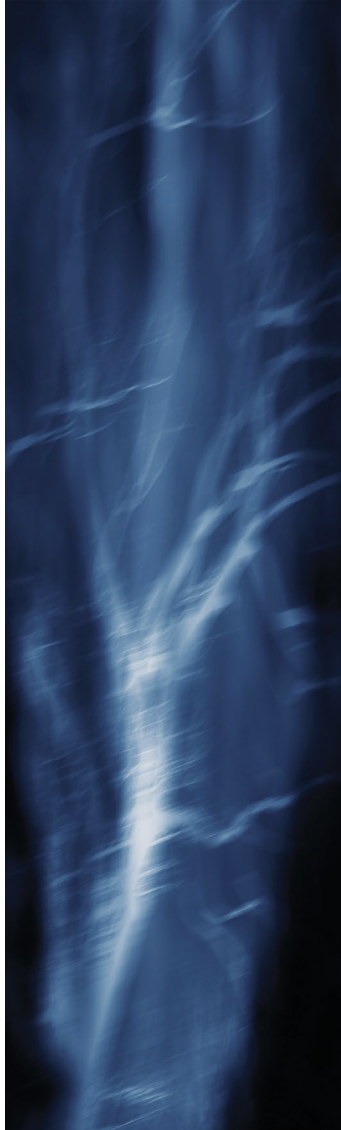
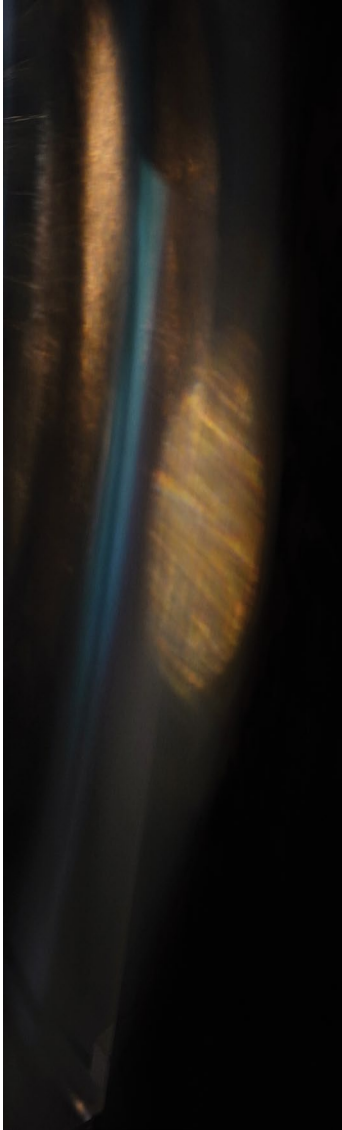


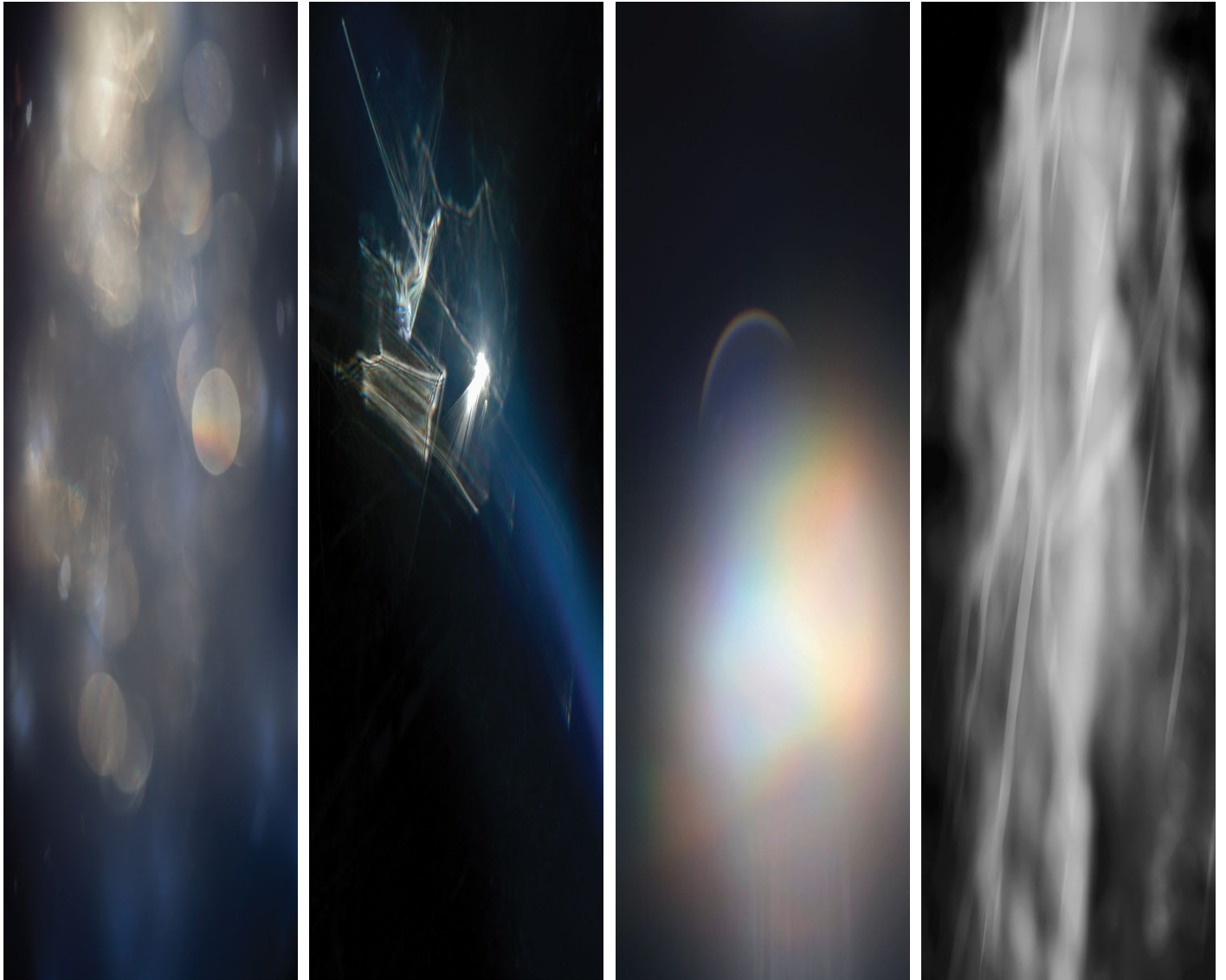
William Barton is Australia's leading didgeridoo player as well as a highly esteemed composer, instrumentalist and vocalist.

William first learnt the instrument from his uncle, Arthur Peterson, an Elder of the Wanyji, Lardil and Kalkadunga people and was working from an early age with traditional dance groups, fusion/rock/jazz bands, orchestras, string quartets and mixed ensembles.

Throughout his diverse career he has forged a path in the classical musical world from the London, Berlin and Bremer Philharmonic Orchestras to historic events at Westminster Abbey for Commonwealth Day 2019, at Anzac Cove in Gallipoli and the Beijing Olympics.

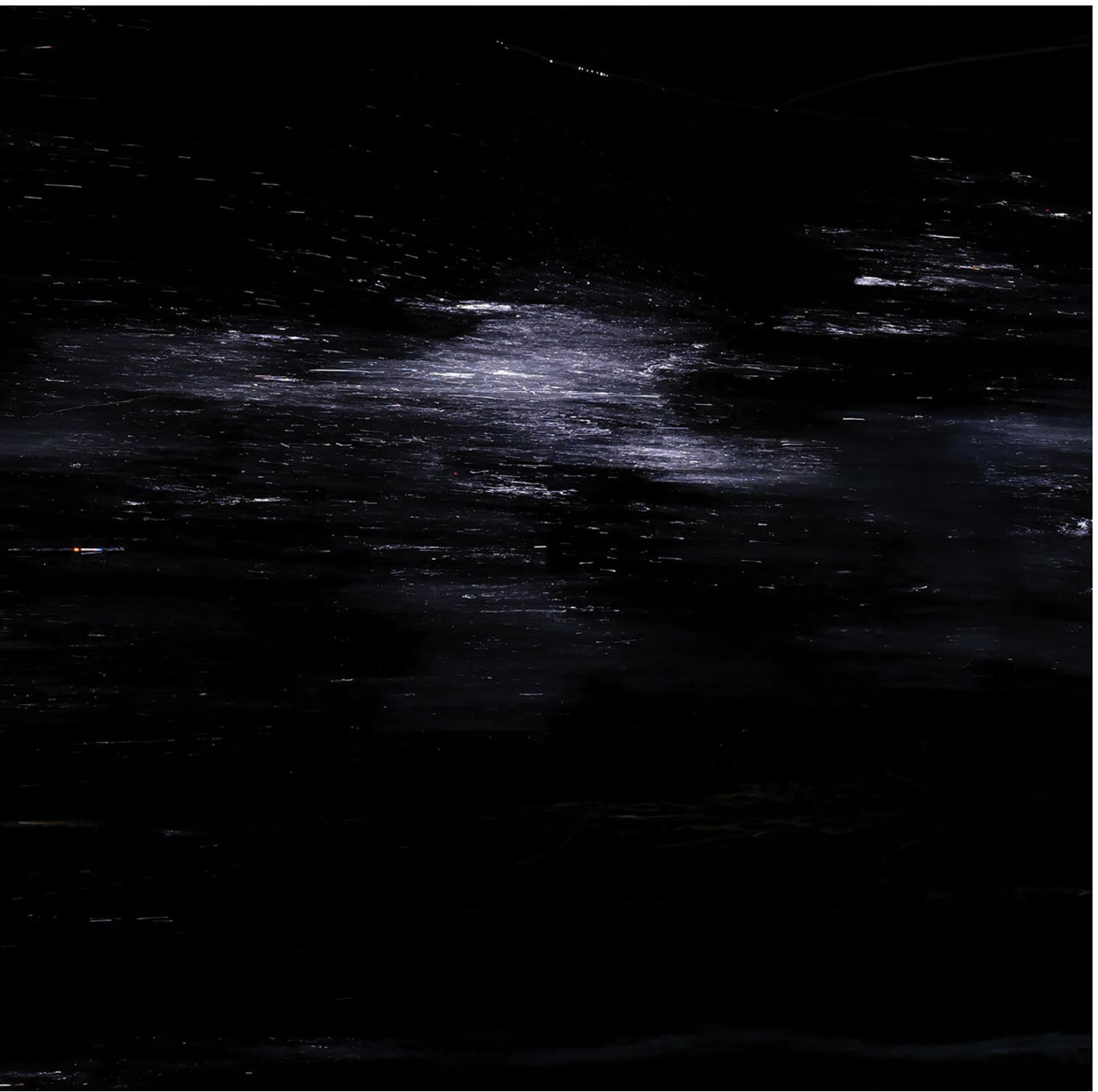
His awards include Winner of Best Original Score for a Mainstage Production at the 2018 Sydney Theatre Awards and Winner of Best Classical Album with an ARIA for *Birdsong At Dusk* in 2012. In 2021 he was the recipient of the prestigious Don Banks Music Award from the Australia Council and the Limelight Australian Artist of the Year: Critic's Choice. In 2022 he was included in *The Australian's The List: 100 Arts & Culture influencers*.



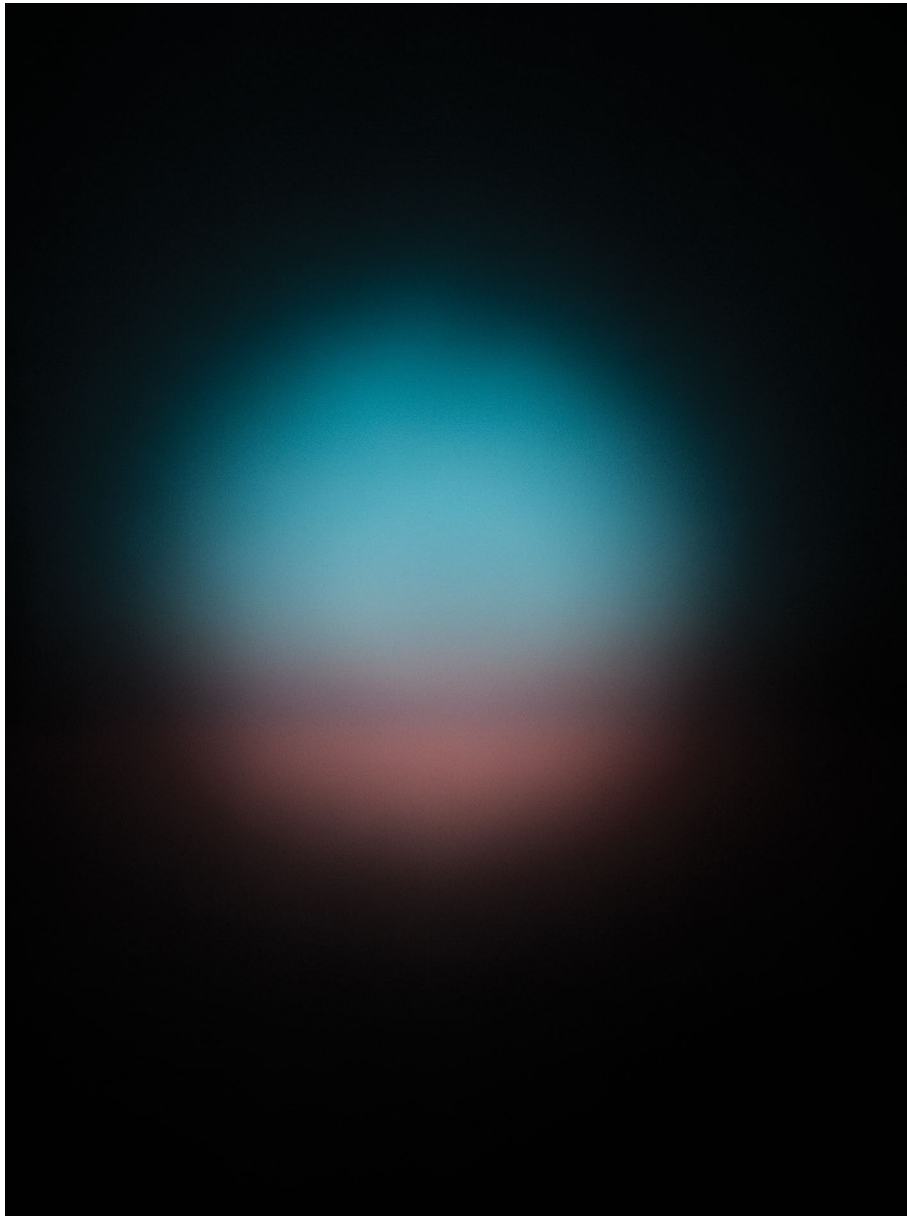


Ancient Breaths, 2024, 8 panels, dye sublimation prints on transparent voile made from recycled plastic

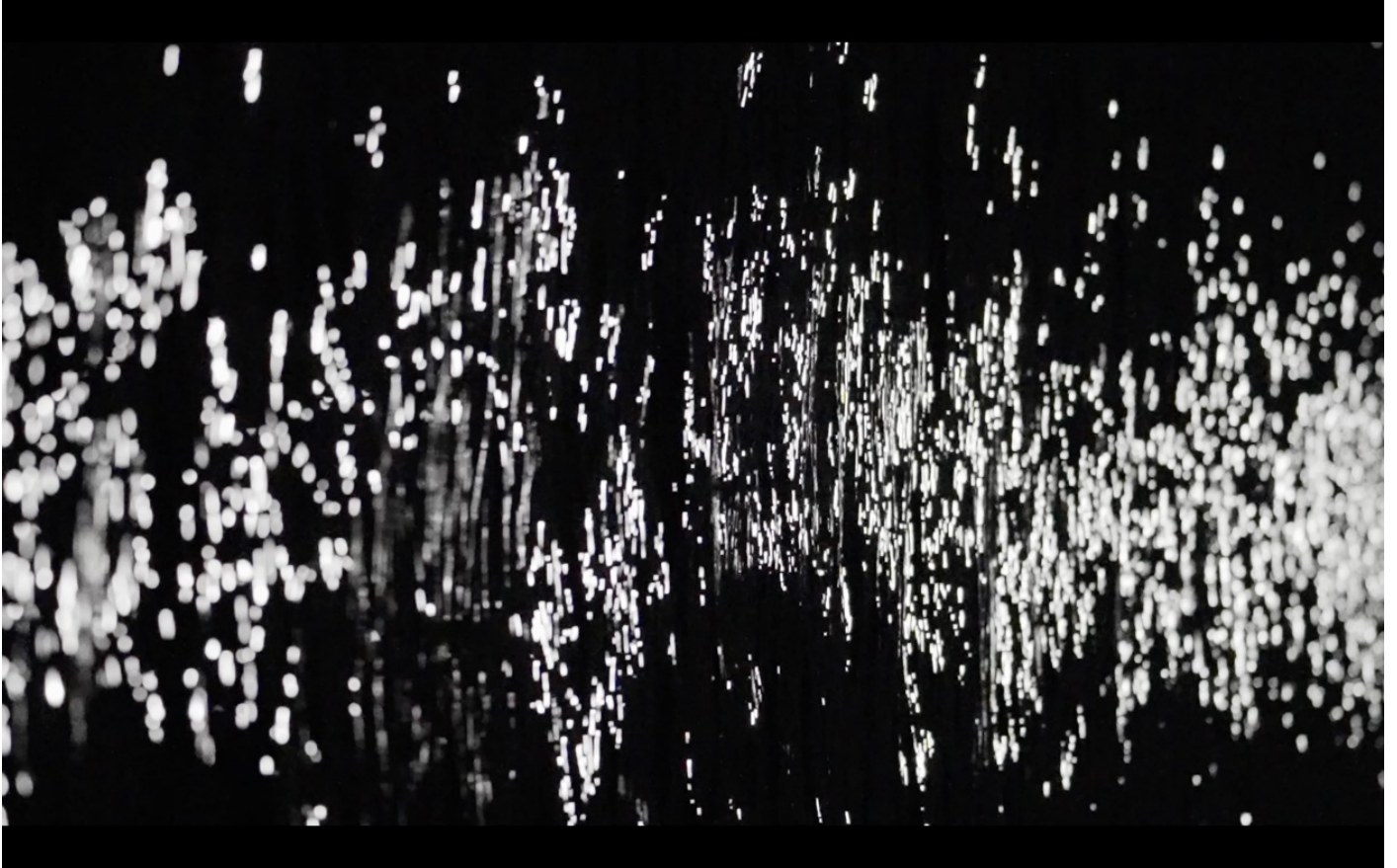




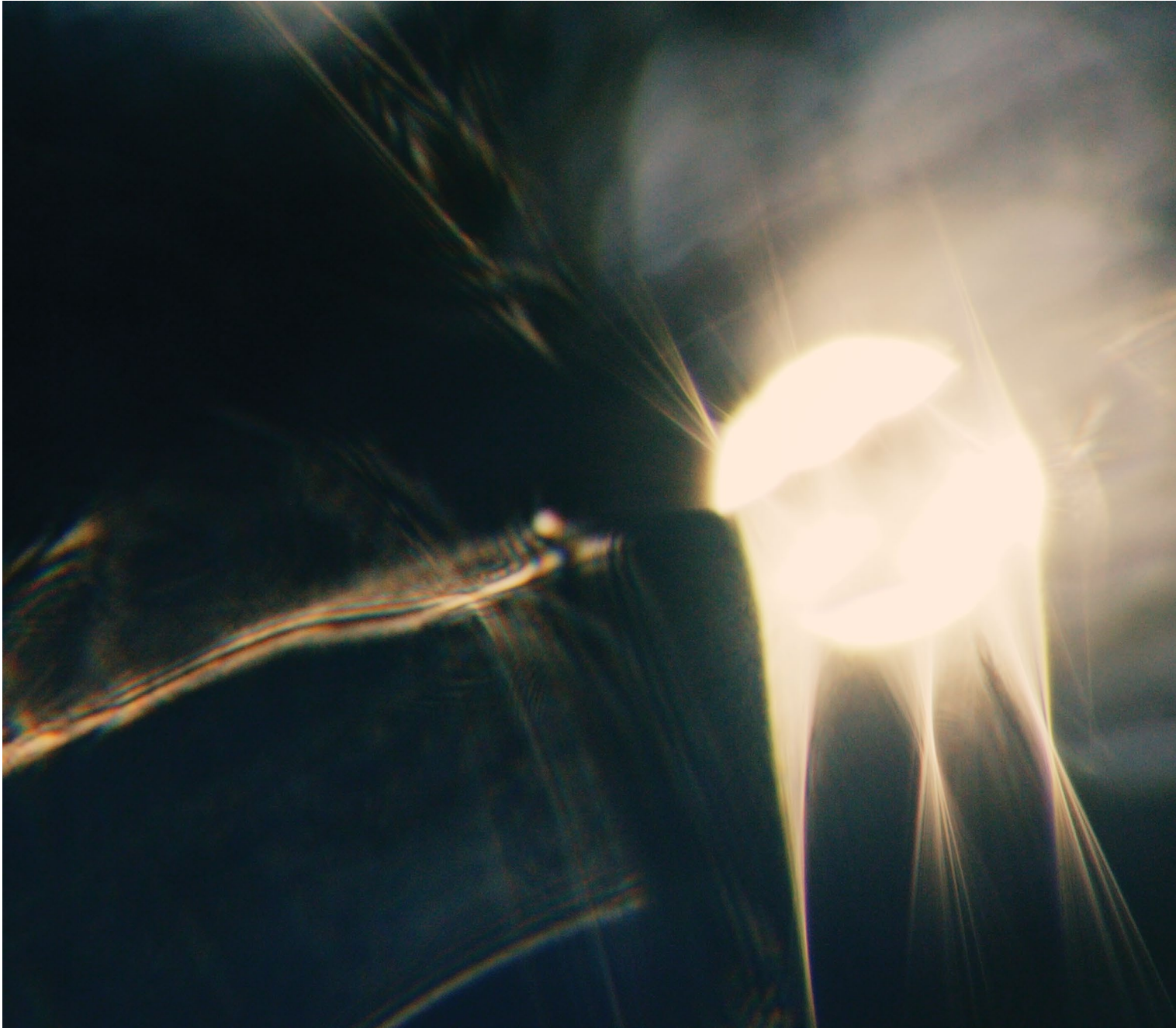
Theatre 20, 2022, archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm



Theatre 7, 2022, archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm

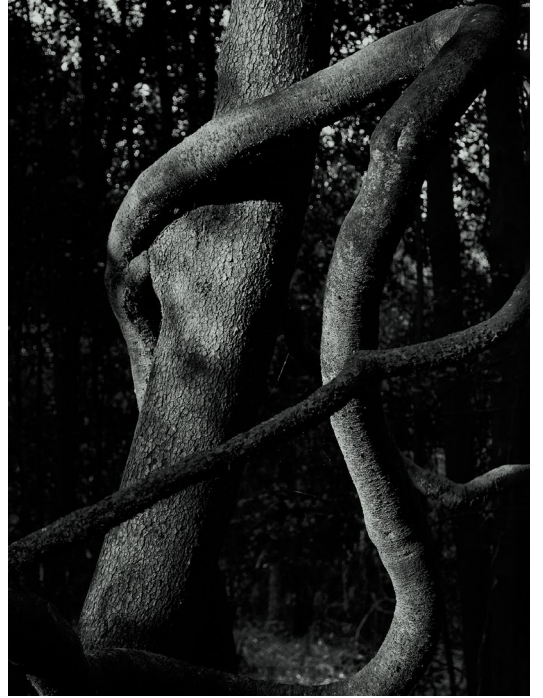


Moon Frequency, 2023. Duration: 10:03 Minutes. 1 channel film and sound environment.
Samsung 85, screen sponsored by Samsung Australia





Morphogenesis, 2022. Duration: 4.2 Minutes. 1 channel film and sound environment. Composition by William Barton. Samsung 85, screen sponsored by Samsung Australia





The Veil, 2022, archival pigment prints. On loan from Bundanon Collection, commissioned by Bundanon in 2022, donated by the artist

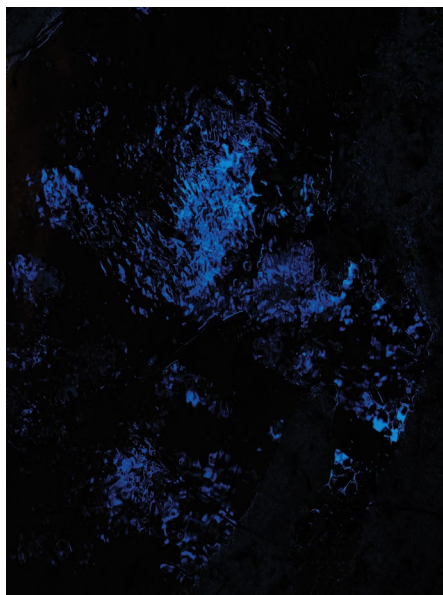
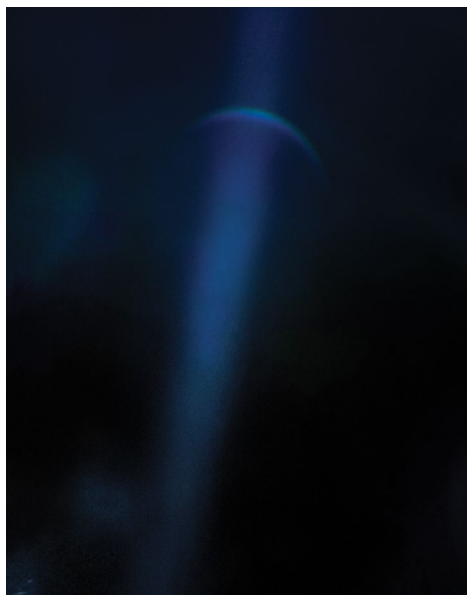




Theatre 14, 2022, archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm



Theatre 21, 2024, archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm



Theatre of Blue (From Left to right *Theatre 4*, *Theatre 5*, *Theatre 3*), 2022, archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm. On loan from Olsen Gallery, Sydney

List of Works

Ancient Breaths 2024

Dye sublimation prints on transparent voile made from recycled plastic
8 panels x 400 x 120 cm (each)

Theatre 7 2022

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
200 x 100 cm

Theatre 10 2023

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
139 x 300 cm

Theatre 14 2022

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
150 x 200 cm

Theatre 15 2022

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
150 x 200 cm

Theatre 16 2022

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
150 x 200 cm

Theatre 20 2022

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
139 x 300 cm

Theatre 21 2024

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
150 x 200 cm

The Veil 2022

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
123 x 512 cm
Bundanon Collection, commissioned by Bundanon in 2022, donated by the artist.

Theatre of Blue

(From left to right **Theatre 4, Theatre 5, Theatre 3**) 2022

Archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm
120 x 270 cm
On loan from Olsen Gallery, Sydney

The Hidden Theatre 2022

Duration: 28.5 minutes
3 Channel film and sound environment
Composition by William Barton

Alegory of Red 2021-22

Duration: 5:13 Minutes
1 channel film and sound environment
Composition by William Barton
Samsung 85, screen sponsored by Samsung Australia

Morphogenesis 2022

Duration: 4.2 Minutes
1 channel film and sound environment
Composition by William Barton
Samsung 85, screen sponsored by Samsung Australia

Moon Frequency 2023

Duration: 10:03 Minutes
1 channel film and sound environment
Samsung 85, screen sponsored by Samsung Australia

All images are courtesy of the Artist.

Tim Georgeson is represented by Olsen Gallery, Sydney.



Theatre 16, 2022, archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm

GLASSHOUSE REGIONAL GALLERY

Gallery Curator: Bridget Purtil

Graphic Design: Marie Taylor

Catalogue Printing: Acorn Press

Text Copyright: Bridget Purtil

Cover Image: *Theatre 10*, 2023, archival pigment ink prints on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm, 139 x 300 cm

Images courtesy of the artist. Tim Georgeson is represented by Olsen Gallery, Sydney.

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The Hidden Theatre

8 February - 13 April 2025

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Special thanks to Samsung Australia for their support, the Bundanon Art Museum and the Olsen Gallery for loaning works featured within this display.

A Glasshouse Regional Gallery initiative.

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Gallery opening hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday - Sunday: 10am - 2pm
Public Holidays: 10am - 2pm

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