

*Simryn Gill:
Sweet Chariot*

16 September - 12 November
2016

Exhibition
Labels

SIMRYN GILL
Sweet Chariot

16 September – 12 November 2016

Simryn Gill (1959–) has developed a distinctive oeuvre that encompasses an array of media and processes, including drawing, installation and photography.

The series of large black and white photographs, *Sweet Chariot* (2015), depicts the Strait of Malacca, taken from a fishing boat in the vicinity of the artist's studio in Malaysia. The title is derived from the African American spiritual "Swing low, sweet chariot". It conveys a longing for home, which might be earthly or heavenly.

The new series of relief prints *Pressing In* (2016) was developed with Melbourne printmaker Trent Walter. They are impressions taken off the surfaces of machine-shaped and hand-wrought timbers washed onto the same coast. Various paper types are used, from a catalogue of butterflies, the locations of stars, the moral development of children, industrial design practice, and wage rolls and ledgers.

An earlier sculptural work *Four atlases of the world and one of stars* (2009) pulps and reconstitutes into spheres a flattened version of knowledge and classification. Resonances with texts and their role in shaping and triggering but also limiting ideas, play out in this exhibition, where bound objects and those adrift reveal complex global relations at a particular stage in time.

Sweet Chariot is the first exhibition by Simryn Gill in Australian public institution for five years. Her non-literal and unimposing approach to artmaking has profoundly contributed to the landscape of contemporary art in the last three decades, both internationally and in Australia. This exhibition, across multiple mediums, explores the resonances and intersections of the personal, poetic and geopolitical perspectives of Gill's extensive practice.

Curator: Naomi Evans

Simryn Gill

b.1959, Singapore

Sweet Chariot 2015

Gelatin silver photographs taken on the Strait of Malacca from a fishing boat

Pressing In 2016

Relief prints: etching ink on various papers

- *A Catalogue/Checklist of the Butterflies of America North of Mexico*, Lee Miller and F. Martin Brown. Florida: Lepidopterists' Society, Florida 1981
- *Apparent Places of Fundamental Stars 1963*. Heidelberg, Karlsruhe: Astronomisches Rechen-Institut, Heidelberg. Karlsruhe: Verlag G. Braun, 1964
- *Apparent Places of Fundamental Stars 1970*. Astronomisches Rechen-Institut, Heidelberg. Karlsruhe: Verlag G. Braun, 1971
- *Design Review: Industrial Design 22nd Annual*, John Margolies, Editor. New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1976
- *Das Moralische Urteil Beim Kinder* [The moral judgement of the child], Jean Piaget. First published as *Le jugement moral chez l'enfant*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1932. German translation: Rascher & Cie, Zürich, 1954
- Various ledgers
- Wage rolls, used and unused

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body

Four atlases of the world and one of stars 2009

Paper, glue

Collection: Amanda Love, Sydney