
David Cotterrell: Three Mirrors and a Wall - 24.02.17

Date: 24th February 2017

For his fifth solo exhibition at Danielle Arnaud contemporary art, David presents three works from the Mirror project: a series of two-screen works produced in collaboration with Ruwanthie de Chickera considering polarised perspectives, drawing alternatively on assumption and objectivity. This evolving project is designed to explore the common human characteristics that could provide a stronger empathetic bridge between strangers than their contexts, roles and attire might suggest. Portraits of individuals are constructed in a manner that transcend or challenge place, prejudice, projection, assumption and fear of the other while at the same time providing insight into nuanced internal negotiations and narratives.

Mirror I: Hierarchy is the first work of this series devised to explore the anxieties and thought-processes of two protagonists within the world of surgery the patient and the surgeon. The installation considers the concerns and devices by which an impending operation is philosophically contextualised and the way the mind might wander under the catalytic pressure of approaching professional or personal risk.

Mirror II: Distance examines the distances between individuals who occupy, protect and work in worlds that they may not own or belong to. It is inspired by observations of the Diplomatic Enclave in Islamabad, a heavily gated expat community living in the capital city of Pakistan. Entry into the enclave and then, within the enclave, entry into the various demarcated territories inside is monitored by local Pakistani guards. In this installation, two such men observe each other across a distance as they listen to the visitors, the experts and the specialists discuss Pakistan, its people and its future.

Mirror III: Horizon examines what might transpire between two strangers if their communication was reduced to the language of lights. Filmed in Malta, set against the dramatic edges of the islands stunning coast and contextualized by the islands deep historical experience of visitors who arrived repeatedly by sea, the installation draws on the fluctuating paranoia of the current refugee crisis. Mirror III examines what might possibly be communicated between strangers if their words were reduced to beams of light and their faces need never be revealed.

Within the exhibition, The Wall - a home installable table-top defensive barrier with an ensemble of miniature figurines - offers a playful interaction with the debates regarding walls, borders, and functions as an introduction to a conversation around xenophobic paranoia.

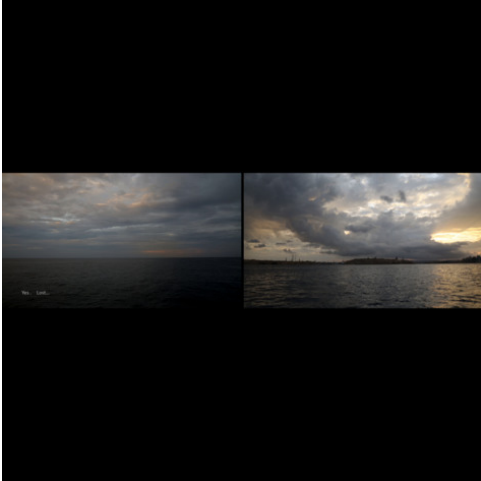
An accompanying essay by Sri Lankan playwright and theatre director Ruwanthie de Chickera, with whom David collaborates for the Mirror project, will be available as part of the exhibition.

Private View: Friday 24 February 6 - 9 pm

For more information and images please contact Danielle Arnaud at danielle@daniellearnaud.com

Danielle Arnaud
123 Kennington Road
London SE11 6SF UK
t/f +44(0) 207 735 8292
Thursday, Friday & Saturday 2-6pm (or by appointment)

Show continues until 1st April 2017



Mirror III : Composite Video Still Credit: © David Cotterrell (2017)