

GALERIE PARIS-BEIJING

PARIS - BRUSSELS - BEIJING

# ALEX SETON THE JOURNEY



Alex Seton, *Oilstone 01: Transparent*, 2015  
Bianco carrara marble, stainless steel,  
engine oil, plastic tarpaulin / 42x48x100 cm  
© Mark Pokorny

## ALEX SETON THE JOURNEY

*Solo exhibition from September 10 to October 24 2015*

*Opening Thursday 10 September from 6:00 pm*

Australian artist Alex Seton investigates the complex relationship between form and substance through different artistic practices such as photography, video, sculpture and installation. He is best known for his beguiling marble carving to which he applies his refined craftsmanship in order to create unexpected and light forms, ordinary and yet highly symbolic. By infusing the rich heritage of Classical statuary with contemporary concerns, Seton gives weight to the issues we face here and now.

Galerie Paris-Beijing is delighted to present *The Journey*, his most recent and unseen project, which explores the international issue of asylum seekers. This new body of works incorporates installations and Carrara marble sculptures alluding to the perilous sea journey of millions of people fleeing war and famine.

A boat motor, a rubber dinghy, a life jacket, a paddle or an anchor become potent reminders of all those individual lives being risked everyday in the hope of a better tomorrow.

*The Journey* unpicks the universal elements of the story of aspiration employing narrative techniques. The idea of the quest or journey has long been embodied in the structure of storytelling traditions, as basic and fundamental themes that express the commonality of the human experience. At the heart of metaphor of the hero's journey are a series of trials and tribulations that must be endured to reach an end goal. This exhibition is a critical contemplation of this universal narrative, expressed in a carefully staged sequence of carved marble sculptures and installations.

Alex Seton's scenography leads the viewer through the spaces of Galerie Paris-Beijing in a metaphoric "Odyssey" of human pains and hopes.

*Alex Seton was born in 1977 in Sydney, where he currently lives and works.*

*His work has been exhibited extensively in Australia, in Asia, in Europe and in the United States, in museums, galleries and contemporary art fairs. His work has also been included in prestigious private and public collections.*

*Seton first explored the theme of immigration in 2013 with his work Someone died trying to have a life like mine, a large scale installation created for the Adelaide Biennial Dark Heart, Art Gallery of South Australia (Adelaide, 2014) which dealt specifically with the Australian experience, pushing back against the hardline policies of the current Australian political landscape. The Journey is Seton's first look at these issues on a universal level, and highlights the struggles which are common to all people, and all nations.*

# OILSTONE



Oilstone 01 : *Transparent*, 2015  
Oilstone 02: *Transcendent*, 2015  
Bianca Carrara, tarp, oil, steel  
Installed dimensions variable

# FOLDED ZODIAC



*Folded Zodiac 01*, 2015

*Folded Zodiac 02*, 2015

Bianca Carrara, tarp, rope, spigot

56 x 42 x 35 cm

# DELUGE IN A CUP



*Deluge in a Cup*, 2015  
Bianca Carrara, tarp, water, steel  
Installed dimensions variable

# REFUGE



*Refuge*, 2015  
Bianca Carrara, tarp, eyelets  
110 x 120 x 170 cm

# THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS



*The Best of All Possible Worlds*, 2015  
Bianca Carrara, tarp, tin, bucket, sand, light  
Installed dimensions variable

# ALEX SETON CV

## Selected Prizes

2014

Il Henraux International Sculpture Award, Querceta, Italy, finalist  
University of Queensland National Artists' Self Portrait Prize, University of Queensland, 'People's Choice' award

2013

Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, finalist

2012

Art OMI Australia, Art OMI International Artists Residency, New York, USA

## Selected Group Show

2014

Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Dark Heart, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

2013

Australia: Contemporary Voices, The Fine Art Society Contemporary, London, UK  
Gravity of Sculpture: Part II, Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs, New York, USA

2012

Variable Truth, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney

## COLLECTIONS

Albury Regional Gallery, Albury  
Artbank  
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide  
Art Gallery Society of New South Wales, Sydney  
ARTS ACT, Canberra  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra  
Canberra Civic Collection, Canberra  
Danish Royal Art Collection, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Fidelity Worldwide Investment, Hong Kong and Sydney  
HBO Collection, New York, USA  
Lane Cove Municipal Council, Sydney  
Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
Patrick Corrigan Collection, Sydney  
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane  
St Ignatius College Collection, Sydney  
University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**PARIS - PHOTO 2015**

12th - 15th November 2015

Zhang Kechun, Liu Bolin, Wang Bing, Li Wei

**CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL 2015**

12th - 15th November 2015

RERO, Chul-Hyun Ahn, Nandan Ghiya, Liu  
Bolin