

**ARC ONE IN SYDNEY
PRESENTING
MURRAY FREDERICKS
WITNESS
4 APRIL - 13 APRIL
36 - 40 QUEEN RD WOOLLAHRA**

**ARC
ONE**



ARC ONE in Sydney is delighted to present, *WITNESS*, the latest 'cycle' in award-winning Australian artist Murray Fredericks' 16-year *SALT* Project. These visually-arresting abstract landscapes continue from the artist's emotional engagement with Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre), South Australia.

***WITNESS* will be exhibited at ARC ONE in Sydney, 36 - 40 Queen Rd, Woollahra, from 4 - 13 April, 11am - 6pm. An opening reception will be held on 4 April, 6pm - 8pm.**

"Standing in the silken water, surrounded only by a boundless horizon, I sense a release, a surrendering as the self dissolves into the light and space."

- Murray Fredericks

WITNESS continues Murray Fredericks' deep relationship with Lake Eyre and his intrepid pursuit to understand the overwhelming emptiness and powerful emotional resonance of remote land and sky. Camping alone for weeks at a time, Fredericks' spiritual and mental experience of this environment is encapsulated in his immersive abstract landscapes that bear *WITNESS* to the transcendent capacity of light, colour, and space.

Comprised of two significant bodies of work, *Vanity* (2017) and *Array* (2018/9), *WITNESS* sees the artist intersect endless space through the ethereal reflective quality of mirrors. Rather than employing the mirror as a symbol of self-reflection, Fredericks redirects our gaze away from ourselves and into the immense environment. His translations of the landscape verge on otherworldly; reflections hover together as geometric forms, apertures or portals, offering a dual experience of looking both into another realm and out, as the lake's glass-like surface mirrors an infinite space above. These works

plunge the viewer into a mesmerising spatial gestalt as Fredericks dissolves the contours of the landscape into a limitless optical deception. Place is defined by boundless empty space.

By removing his/ our reflection from the picture entirely, we are not the projected centre of the world. Fredericks subtly questions the narcissistic qualities of the human condition in the age of the Anthropocene, wherein human activity has become the overriding force on climate and the natural world. He casts our self/image adrift, so that we might be consumed by the sensory phenomena of light, colour and space on a visceral level, engaging another stratum of consciousness that echoes the artist's own experience of living in solitude on the lake.

These works offer a release from the ever-present vanity, anxiety, and doomed search for perfection inherent in human nature as we confront the pure potentiality of the natural world itself. In this exhibition, Fredericks' meditations on the immeasurable and unknown void that encompasses us offer a space in which to escape ourselves and *WITNESS* a moment of transcendence.

Both *Vanity* and *Array* are cycles of a much larger *SALT Project* which to date comprises of 23 trips to Lake Eyre since 2003. *SALT* has unintentionally become a truly epic project in time and scale as Fredericks is drawn again and again to the desolate, empty and infinite salt pan that is Lake Eyre.

Murray Fredericks is an internationally acclaimed and multi-award-winning photographer and filmmaker. Fredericks has exhibited widely, including Fotográfica Bogotá, Museum of Photography, Bogota, Colombia, 2017; Inside the Dome (DYE2) (with Tom Schutzinger), Geelong Gallery, 2015-16; SALT, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, 2016; a major Australian landscape survey exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, 2012; and two solo shows at the Australian Centre for Photography, 2010 and 2015 respectively. His work has been acquired by prestigious public and private collections internationally, including the National Gallery of Victoria; Australian Parliament House; Australian National Portrait Gallery; Artbank; The Sir Elton John Collection; Macquarie Bank; Commonwealth Bank; The Myer Collection; The Valentino Collection; and a number of regional galleries across Australia. Fredericks has been the recipient of numerous awards and is a regular finalist in Australia's top photography prizes. In 2015, he received the People's Choice Award for the Bowness Photography Prize, was runner up in the Head-On Festival Landscape Prize and a finalist in the JUWS Photography Award. His first documentary film, Salt, for which he was cinematographer and co-director, won twelve major international awards, played over 50 festivals and was screened on the ABC and PBS in the USA.

Image: Murray Fredericks, *Mirror 17*, 2017, digital pigment print, 120 x 155 cm.

**For all enquiries, interviews and images please contact ARC ONE Gallery at
mail@arc1gallery.com or 03 9650 0589**