

LYNDELL BROWN CHARLES GREEN

ARC
ONE

8 JUNE - 16 JULY

THE LAST COOL SKIES



ARC ONE Gallery is delighted to present *The Last Cool Skies*, a major exhibition by Australia's foremost artist collaboration, Lyndell Brown & Charles Green.

The longstanding collaborative partnership of Brown and Green has culminated in a new exhibition *The Last Cool Skies*, which presents their profound and layered response to the contemporary world-shift. Working together in their home in regional Victoria, the artists' increasingly exquisite trompe l'oeil technique has been used to record and feed into the historical and cultural vibrations that continue to shake our world. With a suite of works dating from 2020 and 2021, this exhibition presents the strongest and most thoughtful response to our fraught contemporary moment yet seen in Australian art.

For these artists there is no singular event in history. Through their rich and sophisticated quotation of found images and constructed tableaus, a response to 2020 and its aftermaths is coupled with images of distance and atmospheric tension drawn from global culture. This is captured best in a perfect use of Neil Armstrong's image of Buzz Aldrin, alone on the moon's surface. The artists articulate two intense positions that characterise an experience of the last few years that many can relate to: being in peril from a real and devastating disaster, while on the other hand, being cocooned at home. This ominous situation Brown and Green compare (in a differing way) to watching a lightening storm ignite fire after fire in the forested hills around their rural town during one of Australia's deadly bushfire seasons. Brown and Green are interested in addressing the most difficult problems that face humanity. In their profound art they preserve a role for the "fragile emotional vision" of art and culture among the cascade of catastrophic turbulence. In paintings from 2021, the artists pare back their dense layers of history to focus on images of children protesting inaction on climate change. In this way the intensity of 2020 gives way to a new resolve. The children represent a reason to stay vigilant and awake to the fabrication of the future. Brown and Green make art for our troubled world.

Lyndell Brown and Charles Green have worked as a collaborative team since 1989. Since then, their art has always been made together. Working across mixed media on paper, oils, photography and overpainted photographs, they have held more than 40 solo exhibitions and have been included in more than 50 curated exhibitions. In 2007, they were Australia's Official War Artists, deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and between 2011 and 2019 worked on a follow-up project in collaboration with artist Jon Cattapan (assisted by two Australian Research Council Discovery Grants) about the aftermath of Australia's wars since Vietnam, which the three artists exhibited in Melbourne across two galleries in late 2014, accompanied by a book (Framing Conflict: Contemporary War and Aftermath, Macmillan, 2014).

In 2017 Brown and Green were commissioned to design a major tapestry, Morning Star, woven by the Australian Tapestry Workshop, to celebrate the opening of the Sir John Monash Centre at Villers-Bretonneaux, France. Brown's and Green's art has been written about extensively. Their works have been included in a number of museum surveys and are in the collections of most of Australia's public art collections and institutions, including the National Gallery of Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Australian War Memorial, as well as in many major private collections in Australia and overseas. Charles Green is Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Melbourne and Lyndell Green is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne. They are based in regional Victoria.

For all enquiries, interviews and images we welcome you to contact ARC ONE Gallery at mail@arc1gallery.com