

# SAM SHMITH IN SPATES

29 MARCH - 23 APRIL



ARC  
ONE

Sam Shmith's photographs resemble the opening scenes of a Hollywood blockbuster. By harnessing our collective imagination, each image is charged with mystery and intrigue, leaving the viewer to draw their own conclusions about the narrative embedded in each of the works.

Digitally layered from an image bank of over 60,000 self-shot images, Sam's twenty-two new landscapes choreograph a series of temporal clues into single images that simultaneously obliterate all references to a particular locality. His works are a hybrid of images from his personal archives, composited so that each journey is no longer distinct, but melded to create their single, artificial realities.

Influenced by François Truffaut's film *Day for Night* (1973), the works are shot during the day, and meticulously transformed into twilight scenes. Reworking and repeating particular motifs, these elaborately constructed works are broken up into four distinct groups - sky, mountains, cities and roads. The centre of the frame concentrates an immediate human intervention enveloped by mountainous panoramas, vaporous clouds or close foliage to create a murky tension between the encompassing landscape and specks of synthetic light. Intuitively composited from between 30 to 40 photographs per pictorial narrative, the works are shot from cars, aeroplanes and hot air balloons producing moody scenes that have a thematic unity.

Through his methods Sam fashions an unconventional approach to landscape photography. Citing the melancholic landscapes of Bill Henson, the suburban malaise of Gregory Crewdson and drawing motivation from Alfred Stieglitz's *Equivalents*, *In Spates* communicates the artist's devotional dedication to the emotive importance of the genre. Though isolation appears as a common theme in his work, Sam's observations should also be considered as an arbitrary moment viewed from afar, evoking a feeling of alienation and disengagement between the environment and ourselves.

Following on from the success of *Synthetics*, *In Spates* is Sam Shmith's second solo exhibition at Arc One Gallery. Sam Shmith has recently been shortlisted for the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award with his work *Untitled (In Spates 5)*. In 2010 Sam Shmith was awarded GQ's Artist of the Year. He was also a finalist in the National Photography Prize and the Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award (2010). He is a young emerging artist who is fast becoming a highly collectable artist. His works appear in the collection of Art Bank, Albury Art Gallery, influential collector Patrick Corrigan and private collections throughout Australia and the United Kingdom.

For more information please contact the gallery.

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