

INTERNATIONAL / VISUAL ARTS



THE HUMOURS

Exploring how comedy and absurdity can be used to reveal more serious concerns about race, work, gender and politics, **The humours** brings together six international and Australian artists in a challenging and often hilarious exhibition.

Created by MUMA Senior Curator Hannah Mathews, this exhibition of new commissions and recent works includes moving image, photographic, installation and performance works. It features new commissions from Australian artist Matthew Griffin and collective Barbara Cleveland.

Rather than offering a compendium of funny art, the show looks at some of the underlying strategies – physical movement, dialogue, exaggerations of scale and absurdity – that artists work with when using humour as a tool for provoking thought.

“The humours ties in with a long history of comedy and absurdity in art. It delves into the ability of these languages to be stridently transgressive in their approach to dealing with challenging topics,” Mathews says.

The exhibition pays particular attention to the roles physicality and language play in unsettling preconceptions through comedy. What, for example, does it mean to mute the famously outspoken African-American comedian Richard Pryor and dissect his body language across seven video screens, as artist Glenn Ligon does?

“I’m interested in the ability of art – especially art combining physicality and language with humour – to confront social problems through these quite complex emotional, physical and behavioural experiences,” Mathews say.

Curator: Hannah Mathews

Artists: Gabriel Abrantes (PRT), Barbara Cleveland (AUS), Matthew Griffin (AUS), Glenn Ligon (USA), Mary Reid Kelley (USA) and Mika Rottenberg (ARG)

“...**hilarious and sinister...**” New York Times on Mika Rottenberg’s Squeeze

“...**handmade costumes and sets that suggest Picasso channeling Pee-wee’s Playhouse...**” Art in America on Mary Reid Kelley’s The Thong of Dionysus

Museum Of Art (Muma) - Caulfield Campus
Sat 7 Oct – Sat 16 Dec
Tue—Fri 10am—5pm
Sat 12—5pm
Sat 7 Oct 3—5pm
Free

www.festival.melbourne
monash.edu.au/muma
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Presented with Monash University Museum of Art

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