ANNE FERRAN: SHADOW LAND

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY

8 FEBRUARY – 19 APRIL 2014

As part of the 2014 Perth International Arts Festival, the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery is delighted to present a survey exhibition of Anne Ferran one of Australia’s best-known contemporary photomedia artists. It is the largest exhibition of her works ever held and the first in Western Australia. With a career spanning more than 30 years, this exhibition includes a selection of works from her most significant projects and series. Through her work Anne Ferran investigates Australia’s colonial past, in particular that of women and children incarcerated in prisons and asylums. Ferran’s practice incorporates a variety of media: photography, video, textiles, text and installation.

The earliest series of works in the exhibition Carnal Knowledge and Scenes on the Death of Nature date from the 1980s, and their staged classical tableaux reflect feminist theories of representation. Since 1995, Anne has been examining Australia’s colonial history, utilizing museum collections, archives and archaeological sites nationally and internationally. The series Female House of Correction (after John Watt Beattie) [2000], Lost to Worlds [2008] and In the ground on the air [2006] explore the gaps and silences in the records of these sites. Her more recent video works Canal [2009] and Body of Water [2011] look at holes in the past in another way, with landscapes and waterways disappearing due to urban expansion.

Included in the exhibition is a new body of work arising from a residency in Western Australia at the Fremantle Arts Centre in July 2013. The Prison Library project is based on the residues of the disbanded library at the Fremantle Prison. It is the first time she has investigated a primarily men’s prison and depicted a WA heritage site.

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