

A grocer, a student, a passenger.

This problematical information gathering is faintly dangerous in a society alerted to the alarm of dissident reactionaries. Concern over access to this information leads to the risk of being dictated to by the voyeur. More wall is built, gates are bolted, dogs are barking. The status quo can only be maintained if we match the speed of information transfer. In a lightning quick digital world, this industriousness is breathtaking.

Nonetheless the surveillance continues unabated. The journalist becomes the perpetrator and the lines of control are de-focussed.

An elderly couple find a rifle in the bushes down near the river.

**Merrick Belyea**

2014

Merrick Belyea is an artist based in Perth, Western Australia.

## Curator's Notes

The *TILT* program is part of the annual exhibition schedule and has been developed by Heathcote Museum & Gallery to support local art practice, inquiry and arts practitioners.

Each year an artist is invited to respond to the Point Heathcote site, with its many layered history, by creating a new body of works. *TILT* provides local artists with an opportunity to bring a range of art and practices to new audiences, plus engage with a heritage site.

**Jana Braddock**

Curator

City of Melville

The artist would like to acknowledge the assistance and collaboration with artists Jon Tarry, Rick Vermey and Tony Nathan; Dennis Smith and his helicopter for the initial idea; as well as the kind support of family and friends.

*Front image: The Majestic, digital print 40 x 40cm*

All images: Merrick Belyea

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# THE MAJESTIC



Merrick Belyea  
Heathcote Museum & Gallery  
8 November to 14 December 2014

## The Majestic

Recent focus has seen a shift toward information gathering; the task of the photo-journalist who is briefed to capture the surrounding streets of Heathcote Museum. Mapping the growth and changing demographic of the suburb of Applecross. The artist is positioned as a covert observer gathering information using a variety of techniques including security camera footage, night vision and remote devices. This exhibition gives a stark and oblique view of the suburban street.

Seventeen days in a hide waiting for the suspect to return.

In *The Majestic* I am an interloper. I am moving silently through the streets. I am floating above houses. I am a covert operative collecting information. Capturing a streetscape living in the shadows of an asylum. A sleepy hollow. After midnight a series of random events occur in the suburb. A parked car moves without a driver, an apartment light goes on and then out again, a sleepout in a boarding house has a visitor, a front door bell rings at 4am. The camera, a headless horseman, rides slowly through town gathering the surreal, the unseen, the resident.

A babysitter, a beautician, a social worker.

Imagining myself as a night walker. A compulsive gatherer of information but with no agenda. A momentary visitor. An anxious observer. The compulsion is not malicious, merely driven, constant. I view other interlopers with suspicion. Criminals whose activities are at cross purposes to my own. Malingers. Vagrants.



Heathcote Museum & Gallery • Heathcote Cultural Centre  
Swan House • Duncraig Rd, Applecross  
Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am - 3pm  
Saturday & Sunday 12 noon - 4pm • T: 9364 5666





*The Majestic, digital print 61 x 107cm*



*The Majestic (film still)*



*The Majestic, digital print 61 x 107cm*



*The Majestic (film still)*