

# firstdraft

Gallery 4

12 Jan – 13 Feb 2022

## Haunting In Kensington

Blake Lawrence

*Haunting In Kensington* hints at the magic-in-the-messiness of queer kin-fields and deep-seeded fag geographies. It presents image-based media, video montage and salvaged objects as an assemblage of ephemera for the contemplation of historical gay spaces, what it means when they are lost, and the steady erosion of time. The exhibition embraces latent queer materialities, performing spectral persistence – while imagining new practices for the airing of collective grief: for fading spaces, flawed utopias, temporal displacement and for time robbed of togetherness. A glory-hole as an aperture.

*Haunting In Kensington* includes two-channel video work *Dust* made in collaboration with **Garden Reflexxx**.

**Blake Lawrence** is an interdisciplinary artist working across photography, drag, video, performance and ceremony. Drawing on the performative potential of materials, Lawrence works in entanglement with crude and camera-less photographic processes. They are devoted to relationship and responsibility beyond genealogy, absence and residue, drag, care, love, sex and pleasure in a practice-based research.

Borne from Yaegl land and waters in Northern NSW, Lawrence lives and works on Gadigal land. They completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the Sydney College of the Arts, and subsequently Honours In Design (Photography) at the University of Technology Sydney. They have exhibited locally and interstate, at Firstdraft, Seventh Gallery, C3 Contemporary, The Walls and Verge. They have presented live work in Brisbane's Spring Hill Reservoirs, the Art Gallery of NSW and Newcastle's *This Is Not Art* and have performed drag at Club Kooky, The Bearded Tit, Bad Dog, Tropical Fruits, Falls Festival and more.

*The artist would like to thank André Shannon and Jen Atherton from Garden Reflexxx, Charlie Kember, Leen Reith, Simon Acaster, Ben Parangi and Cameron Jewell. For Uncle Jonny, who DJ'd the pool room at Ken's long before I came to the party.*

Blake Lawrence's exhibition *Haunting In Kensington* is powered by Lūpa Media Player. More information at [lupaplayer.com](http://lupaplayer.com)

**lūpa**

[www.lupaplayer.com](http://www.lupaplayer.com)

Gallery 1

**Circling the Sun**

Curated by Tim Marvin

Gallery 2

**Lectus**

Spence Messih

Gallery 3

**Lesser palace**

Sofiyah Ruqayah

**firstdraft**  
**gadigal land**  
**13–17 riley street**  
**woolloomooloo**  
**nsw 2011**  
**+61 2 8970 2999**  
**firstdraft.org.au**

**we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.**

**firstdraft is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW; and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.**



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### Artwork

For sales enquiries, please  
email [blakelawrence5522@gmail.com](mailto:blakelawrence5522@gmail.com)

*Dust*, 2021  
two-channel HD video  
60 minutes  
Made in collaboration with **Garden Reflexxx**  
POA

Original bench seats and sauna stones  
salvaged from Ken's of Kensington  
NFS

*Steamroom and sauna (ground floor)*, 2021  
archival pigment print in blackwood frame  
42 × 59.4 cm  
AUD\$950

*Courtyard and south wing glory holes  
(ground floor)*, 2021  
archival pigment print in blackwood frame  
42 × 59.4 cm  
AUD\$950

*Sunroom (first floor)*, 2021  
archival pigment print in blackwood frame  
42 × 59.4 cm  
AUD\$950

*Courtyard and north wing glory holes  
(ground floor)*, 2021  
archival pigment print in blackwood frame  
42 × 59.4 cm  
AUD\$950

*To throw dust - glory hole constellation from  
cruising labyrinth with under stall passage  
(central ground floor)*, 2022  
cyanotype on cotton with sequins, Swarovski  
crystals, silicone lubricant, amyl nitrate,  
springwater, flying fox faeces, clove oil and  
bleach  
190 × 135 cm  
AUD\$1500

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