

firstdraft

Gallery 1

4 May – 13 Jun 2022

Temples of Doom

Ryan Andrew Lee

Temples of Doom is a moving image work that explores the threat to pagoda rock formations and sacred First Nations rock-art sites in the recently announced Gardens of Stone State Conservation area of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The work exposes the irreparable damage caused by Centennial Coal Companies' Angus Place and Mount Airly Mines, as well as the abandoned Baal Bone Colliery. These ancient sandstone and ironstone pagoda structures, which took around one million years to form and each measure 8 metres in height, are exhibiting subsidence cracks, and many are completely collapsing due to the tunnelling and extraction of coal 250–300 metres directly below the surface. The anthropogenic deterioration of these unique rock structures also pose great risk of destruction to Aboriginal rock art sites situated in caves or under escarpments such as Maiyngu Marragu.

The title of the work adopts the name of one of the locations of pagodas in the Lidsdale area. Now, ironically and unfortunately, this is becoming a fitting name for the entire area. The title alludes that it's only a matter of time before all of these pagoda landscapes would be destroyed forever.

The work questions the cogency and efficacy of the NSW Government's environmental protection 'State Conservation Area' category, which claims to protect a natural area whilst still allowing detrimental mining operations to continue, destroying several million-year-old irreplaceable rock formations and endangering many sacred Aboriginal rock art sites.

Ryan Andrew Lee's exhibition *Temples of Doom* is powered by Lūpa Media Player.
More information at lupaplayer.com

lūpa

www.lupaplayer.com

Gallery 2

Shoe Bathers

IchikawaEdward

Gallery 3

sister +++++

familial formations

Marian Abboud

Gallery 4

Born to Draw

Matthew Clarke

firstdraft
gadigal land
13–17 riley street
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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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Temples of Doom

Ryan Andrew Lee

Ryan Andrew Lee is a conceptual new media artist whose practice explores alternative ontologies and epistemologies which are strongly informed by First Nations people and community. His work employs experimental film-making processes including *cinéma vérité* and slow cinema to present contemplative observations on contemporary environmental and socio-political issues. Lee's work explores interdisciplinary thematics of psychogeography, deep topography and landscapism to suggest deeper sense and perception of place in order to restore and preserve ecological, historical and cultural knowledge and values.

Across his practice, Lee strives to create works that resonate a deeper level of consciousness with the intent to unify all things. Ryan holds a BMA (Digital Media) from the University of New South Wales College of Fine Arts and has exhibited at numerous galleries and festivals across Australia and the world.

Temples of Doom was filmed at various locations on Wiradjuri and Dharug Country and depicts the lands of the Wiradjuri and Dharug peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians upon whose unceded land this work was realised, pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all nations of this land.

The artist would like to thank Rae and Yuri Bolotin as well as The Lithgow Environmental Group for the ongoing support and mentorship. This work was overseen and fact-checked by Yuri Bolotin and The Lithgow Environmental Group.

Artwork

Temples of Doom, 2022

single-channel video

39 minutes 43 seconds

Created in residency for the 2021 BigCi Environmental Award

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