



Vivian Cooper Smith, *A light without stars*

Galerie pompom, Sydney

7 February - 4 March 2018

A light without stars is a disorienting collection of photographs that withdraw from presumption. They are photographs that do not reveal or locate a subject; eschewing a perspective on the world. They are positionless, without relation to an external reality. These are photographs with their backs turned, oriented towards an inner light, an inner navigation and a way of being with and of the world rather than a copy of it.

This exhibition asks, can photography act as a model for seeing and being differently? Can a photograph relinquish its role as navigator and become one being amongst many in a continually shifting and changing world?

Formed through a set of haptic and performative studio processes, re-photography and both analogue and digital techniques these photographs are interference patterns, fragile and fleeting. They speak of the entangled relationship of photograph, photographer, camera and light. They are the traces of a coming together and a becoming together – the effects of difference.

Vivian Cooper Smith is a photo-artist based in Melbourne. Born in New Zealand, he lived in Bangladesh, India, and Perth before moving to Melbourne in 1999. His recent work employs the principles of a diffractive methodology in the making of photographic images to explore the possibility for photography to resist its inherent representationalism.

Recent solo exhibitions include Apparition Apparatus at Galerie pompom, Sydney and Turner Galleries, Perth (2016); and Concrete Compositions at Fort Delta, Melbourne (2015). In 2015 Smith was included in the Sydney Contemporary Art Fair and a group exhibition at Galerie Pavlova, Berlin. He has been a finalist in the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award and the Bowness Photography Prize and in 2013 was the winner of the CCP Salon Patrick Corrigan AM Acquisitive Award. In 2017 he completed a Masters in Fine Arts (Research) at the Victorian College of the Arts, and was awarded an NGV Women's Association Award. He was also included in the group exhibition Another Look: Contemporary Artists and the Collection, at Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn. Exhibitions in 2018 include Imagine, at Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale; Interference Pattern, in collaboration with Rebecca Najdowski, The Perth Centre for Photography; and An Empire of Things, at Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Sydney. Smith's works are held in the public collections of Artbank, City of Yarra, Melbourne, and Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale.