

# THE COMMERCIAL

## LILLIAN O'NEIL



## TOTAL ROMANCE

FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY, 6-8pm

exhibition: 01/02/13 - 16/02/13

open Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm

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Image: *Funeraria*, 2013, collage on wooden board (framed), overall framed dimensions 161 x 161cm



The theme of love and the investigation of the creation of emotional narratives through a process of collection and assessment is central to Lillian O'Neil's work. She uses monumentally-scaled collage to explore possibilities of accumulative autobiography and is interested in the way aggregated images compress time and history. O'Neil's collages employ the actual pages of old books and magazines from a pre-internet era giving the surface rich variety of texture. She describes the collages as memorials to obsolete printing technology, pulled from the past to the present like a time capsule. They respond to the abundance of imagery with which we are surrounded.

From 2007 until 2010, O'Neil (b. 1985) was part of the Melbourne-based collaborative group, Safari Team, but has since been producing solo work. Her solo exhibitions include *Cream* at Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney (2010) and *Love Bomb* at MOP, Sydney (2012). Group exhibitions include *THREE/THREE* at The Commercial Gallery, Sydney (2012) (this exhibition featured O'Neil's [epic collage, \*Attack of the Romance\*](#)); *House of Love* at Seventh Gallery, Melbourne (2011); *Super Market* (curated by Kim Brockett) at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces (2010); *Evolution*, as part of the Next Wave Festival, Melbourne (2010); *Group Group Show* (curated by DAMP), at Margaret Laurence Gallery, Melbourne (2008). As Safari Team, O'Neil exhibited in a collaborative solo exhibition, *Molto Morte*, that toured in Australia and Canada (international venues were Galerie VAV, Concordia University, Montréal and Lab Synthèse, Montréal).

O'Neil has been awarded numerous grants including those from the Australia Council for the Arts, Arts Victoria, Melbourne City Council, the Besen Foundation and traveling awards from both Monash University and Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney.

Her work is held in the Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide.

She is currently completing a Master of Fine Art at Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney, with an Australian Postgraduate Award supervised by artist, Mikala Dwyer.

*Total Romance* is Lillian O'Neil's first solo exhibition in a commercial gallery.

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