

Two bleached whale bones are laid out on a dark asphalt surface. The bones are curved and have a yellowish-white color. The text is overlaid on the image.

THE COMMERCIAL

YASMIN SMITH

NTARIA FENCE

opening Friday 10/07/15, 6-8pm

Yasmin Smith (b. 1984) has been producing large-scale ceramics installations for almost a decade. In early 2014, she spent several weeks living in Ntaria about 130km west of Alice Springs assisting the community of potters there on the Old Church Project. The elemental life-cycle and deep materiality of the desert stuck with her. (Iron-rich earth sucked up by trees that live and die and are put back in the earth, like us, as ash and bones.) Typical of Smith's somewhat archeological approach to ceramics, she has worked for eighteen months on an ambitious, highly process-driven installation that has come from her time in Ntaria. In the lead up to the exhibition, she returned several times. Like the cycles of the landscape she found there, *Ntaria Fence* has an in-built circularity, its materials self-defining and self-referential. Writer, Eleanor Ivory Weber, traveled with Smith on her most recent trip. A text commissioned from Weber will accompany the exhibition.

Yasmin Smith completed her Master of Visual Arts (Ceramics) at Sydney College of the Arts, the University of Sydney in 2010. She was a director of the influential Sydney artist-run initiative, Locksmith Project, from 2008 until 2010 (co-directors Rachel Fuller, Kenzie Larsen, Kenzee Patterson and Samuel Villalobos).

Smith's interest in ceramics extends to archeology. In 2010, she participated in the excavation of a site at Clunia, Penalba Del Castro in Spain.

Solo exhibitions include *Stone Skin* at The Commercial Gallery, Sydney (2013); *For the Promise of Water or Being Clean* at Peloton, Sydney (2011); *Boundary* (with Kenzee Patterson) at MOP, Sydney (2011); *For No Real Reason* at Firstdraft, Sydney (2010) and *If I Could Come Near Your Beauty With My Nails* at Newspace Gallery, Sydney (2006).

Group exhibitions include *MCA Artbar*, curated by Nick Dorey and Hossein Ghaemi, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2014); *Nocturnal Windows*, curated by Ian Geraghty, in the display windows of Gregory Boutique, Sydney (2014); *Installation Contemporary*, curated by Aaron Seeto for the inaugural Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sydney (2013); *Reality Considerations (for the sake of)*, curated by Eleanor Ivory Weber at 55 Sydenham Rd; *Ceramica* curated by Scott Donovan at the Institute of Contemporary Art Newtown, Sydney (both 2012); *Everything's Alright* curated by Amanda Rowell at Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney and *Structural Integrity* as part of the Next Wave Festival, Melbourne (both 2010).

In 2013, Smith was shortlisted for the 2013 Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Artists' Travel Scholarship Prize, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney.

Her work is in the collection of Artbank.



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