

Media Release



The Australian Centre for the Moving Image presents the world premiere of

Daniel Crooks: Phantom Ride

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission

Tuesday 16 February to Sunday 29 May 2016

acmi.net.au/danielcrooks #danielcrooks #phantomride



The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and The Ian Potter Cultural Trust are proud to present the world premiere of *Phantom Ride*, a brand new work by one of Australia's leading moving image artists, Melbourne-based **Daniel Crooks**. Practising across a range of media including digital video, photography and installation, Crooks' work plays with the notion of time, stretching and distorting reality while questioning our perception of it.

Phantom Ride is the second Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (IPMIC), a ten-year, biennial program providing \$100,000 for the creation of new works by mid-career Australian artist – and the most significant moving image commission in the country.

Opening at ACMI on Tuesday 16 February 2016, *Phantom Ride* is a two-screen video work inspired by a history of cinema and the way in which trains have featured as an extension of the camera for the purposes of experimentation with the moving image. Taking as a starting point films such as the **Lumiere Brothers' *Leaving Jerusalem by Railway*** (1896), regarded today as the first ever tracking shot, Crooks' latest installation creates a continuous, seamless tracking shot that moves the viewer through a fragmented reality, constructed from a collage of Australian railways. The work references the phantom rides of early cinema, a genre of film popular in Britain and the United States in the early 1900s. Pre-dating narrative features, these short films showed the progress of a vehicle, usually a train, moving forward by mounting a camera on its front.

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission is a year-long commitment that supports artists to dedicate a significant period of time to creating a new work that will significantly further their practice. For Crooks, the commission enabled a collaboration with a motion-control engineer to create a highly sophisticated filming device that has allowed Crooks to capture incredibly smooth tracking shots. This device, combined with the time and resources to develop sophisticated video compositing techniques, has allowed Crooks to create a work that pushes his practice into a new realm.

"*Phantom Ride* comes out of my long held fascination with the convergence of trains, the birth of cinema and modern ideas and representations of time," said Crooks, "I've presented it as a two sided video; the forward facing journey on one side and the rear looking journey on the reverse. The screen becomes a meniscus of the present, separating the past and the future. For me, the never ending concatenation of railed spaces is a metaphor for our experience of time while the branching forks and parallel sidings conjure multiple worlds".

"*Phantom Ride* is a stunning new piece from Daniel Crooks, whose work constantly surprises and entralls as it manipulates time and space, captivating the viewer with often mesmeric imagery" said ACMI CEO and Director Katrina Sedgwick, "It is a particularly fitting moving image art work to be premiering at ACMI, taking its inspiration from early cinema and yet pushing new technological boundaries in how these moving images are captured and framed for audiences".

"How exciting it is to see the second Ian Potter Moving Image Commission come to fruition," said Lady Potter AC, Trustee of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, "In establishing this commission we hoped to enable talented mid-career artists to take their art and their careers to the next

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
IMAGES OR INTERVIEWS,
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level, and to engage new younger audiences in this important contemporary art form. There is no doubt that this has been realised, first with Angelica Mesiti's mesmerising commission *The Calling* and now with this brilliant work by Daniel Crooks. Congratulations to Daniel on its completion. I look forward to experiencing *Phantom Ride* in situ at ACMI and encourage all Melburnians and visitors to our city to do the same."

Daniel Crooks is one of Australia's most renowned contemporary artists. His work has been widely exhibited nationally and internationally and is held in private and public collections including Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Crooks has received awards including the Digital Video award at the inaugural Prudential Eye Awards (2014), the inaugural Basil Sellers Art Prize (2008), and the Juror's Choice Award for Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation, Signature Art Prize (2011). Daniel Crooks is represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery and Future Perfect, Singapore.

The *Phantom Ride* exhibition catalogue is available exclusively at the [ACMI Shop](#) for RRP \$10

Special Event as part of ART + FILM:

Daniel Crooks Presents: On Art and (The Manipulation of) Time

Tuesday 23 February

acmi.net.au/Daniel-Crooks-Talk

To coincide with the exhibition of *Phantom Ride*, Daniel Crooks will present a selection of his work in a cinema screening on Tuesday 23 February 2016. Crooks will introduce each work to contextualise his working process and his overarching fascination with the manipulation of time and space. Films screened at the event will include: *Static No.19* (shibuya rorschach) (2012, 6 mins), *Static No.12* (seek stillness in movement) (2009, 5 mins 23 secs), and *Train No.10* (onward backwards) (2012, 7 mins, 20 secs).

***Daniel Crooks: Phantom Ride* is ACMI's autumn exhibition opening Tuesday 16 February until Sunday 29 May 2016. Entry is free. For more information: www.acmi.net.au**

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