

# eX de Medici

## Artist Statement and Biography

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### Artist Statement

*That's a Good Dog* extends eX de Medici's ongoing interrogation of the politics of power and the fragile nexus between life and death. As an emblematic and ubiquitous signifier of death, the gun in the painting is wreathed with organic ornamentation and feathered with the tiny scales of moths, provoking an unsettling oscillation between the bloom of life and the doom of death. The work lures the viewer into an aesthetic engagement before ensnaring them in a web of political concern, and here the artist hints that we are always already implicated or complicit in evil. In this way, the work critiques a culture that blindly consumes and accepts without critical or moral engagement. The barrel grip of the rifle is pinned with stars and enveloped in stripes, while a crowned and bejeweled skeleton straddles the weapon and peers through its telescope. The work reinforces the notion that art can be a weapon for change. Vacillating between the beautiful and the repulsive, the viewer is asked to reconsider their position in and perspectives on society.

## Artist Biography

### **eX DE MEDICI** **Australia**

b.1959, Riverina District, NSW. Lives and works in Canberra, Australia

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

- 2013 *Cold Blooded: eX de Medici*, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2013 *eX de Medici*: Urima Univeristy, Iran
- 2012 *Ton of Bricks*, Sullivan+Strumpf, Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2011 *Need Head*, Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney
- 2010 *eX de Medici/Vexed Generation*, Fashion Space Gallery, London College of Fashion, London, UK
- 2009 *Sweet Complicity*, Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 *Black Flag*, Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 *Charm School*, Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
- 2004 *Masters and Slaves*, Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
- 2004 *eX de Medici@MPRG*, Mornington Peninsula Art Gallery, Mornington
- 2003 *Soft Steel*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2001 *Sq*, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
- 2001 *Secret Life of Plants*, Australian Academy of Science, Canberra

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2014 *Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Dark Heart*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2013 *Flipside: The Underbelly of Canberra*, Australian National Capital Artists Gallery+ Studios, Canberra

- 2013 Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney
- 2012-13 *Rapture of Death*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale
- 2012 *Like*, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
- 2012 Sullivan+ Strumpf 2012 Group Exhibition
- 2012 *Contemporary Iran*, New Albion Gallery, Sydney
- 2010-13 *Perspectives*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra and touring
- 2011 *SSFA 11*, Sullivan+Strumpf Fine Art, Sydney
- 2010 *Freehand: Recent Australian Drawing*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2010 *The World, eX de Medici/Vexed Generation*, London School of Fashion Gallery, London, UK and Queensland College of the Arts Gallery, Griffith University, Brisbane
- 2008 *Cruel and Unusual Punishment: Art and Violence*, La Trobe University Museum, Melbourne
- 2008 *Neo-Goth: back in black*, University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
- 2008 *Chaos & Revelry: Neo-Baroque & Camp Aesthetics*, Counihan Gallery, Melbourne
- 2008 *New Acquisitions*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2008 *New Acquisitions*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2008 *New Acquisitions*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2008 *Retroactive III*, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
- 2007 *Australian Print Workshop Collie Fellowship Exhibition*, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne
- 2007 *Schmetterling/Insect in Art*, Innsbruck Natural History Museum/Art Gallery, Innsbruck, Austria
- 2007 *The Story of Australian Printmaking*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2007 *United Spectres*, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne

- 2006 *Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
- 2006 *Social Capital*, Canberra Contemporary Art Space Contemporary Commonwealth, The Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria (Federation Square), Melbourne
- 2006 *Contemporary Commonwealth*, Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2006 *Warning, Smoking*, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington
- 2006 *Making Portraits*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
- 2005 *Moist- Australian Watercolours*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2005 *Future Tense: Security and Human Right*, Dell Gallery, Griffith University, Brisbane
- 2005 *Contemporary Australian Drawing*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

### **Selected Performance**

- 2004 *Stilled Life*, Mornington Peninsula Gallery, Mornington
- 2004 Performance in two parts with Dr. Ted Gott, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2004 *Gals With Guns*, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
- 2000 *Red/Blue*, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra

### **Selected Awards and Grants**

- 2009 Artist in War Program, Solomon Islands Peace Keeping Mission, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- 2006 Australian Print Workshop, Collie Print Trust Fellowship, Melbourne
- 2003-04 Artist Fellow, CSIRO Entomology, (Taxonomy), Black Mountain Facility, Canberra
- 2002 National Works on Paper Prize. Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington, winner
- 2002 Dobell Prize for Drawing, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, finalist
- 2001 Professional Development Grant. VACB, Australia Council
- 2001 Dunedin Museum and Gallery, New Zealand

- 2000 Norfolk Island Museums Trust, Norfolk Island
- 1999-02 CSIRO Entomology Division, (Taxonomy) Black Mountain Facility, Canberra
- 1998 University of Tasmania, Hobart
- 1997 Trongate studios, Glasgow, Scotland
- 1995 Critics Circle Award for Visual Arts, Canberra
- 1988 Professional Development Grant, VACB, Australia Council
- 1987 Claremont School of Art, Perth
- 1986-88 non Australia. Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Canberra