

# Min-Woo Bang and Joshua Cocking

## CHANCE ENCOUNTERS

Wagner Contemporary is delighted to present Min-Woo Bang and Joshua Cocking's *Chance Encounters*, a new body of work by two Contemporary figurative artists. Both Bang and Cocking look at the immensity of the sky, and in their unique powerful and sublime language, generate the suggestion of the familiar and the strange. For Bang, the ephemeral beauty of clouds are metaphors of life's dramas and fleeting moments, while Cocking's imagery suggests the notions of disconnection and isolation in the landscape.



XXXX

Joshua Cocking's work and practice primarily creates a critical discourse on the influence outsiders have in remote communities.

Cocking approaches this body of work through a lens of personal experience, as he reflects on his role as a Kariya (white outsider) in remote communities on Kija/Jaru, Walmajarri/Wangkatjungka and Djugun/Yawuru country in North Western Australia over the last 15 years. The ramifications and legacy of the 'outsider' in these remote places is interrogated.

Throughout his years living in remote Indigenous communities, Cocking was always consciously aware of being an outsider; a 'visitor' in an unfamiliar place. So too do Cocking's implausible *orbs* float in the landscape, attempting to blend in to their surroundings, reflecting and absorbing colour. But ultimately, they are a foreign body - they do not belong.

In comparison, Min-Woo Bang's subject matter is extremely poetic and therefore deeply moving. Based on a recent trip to Tasmania, Bang's new body of work portrays the feeling of a "visual shock" when confronted with the sublime natural environment. Bang's skyscapes are both restless and sublime, provoking reflection on the inter-relationship between himself, endless time, and the vastness of nature. In each untouched landscape, the expansive skies are a vehicle for expression, gently absorbing, reflecting and interpreting the intensities and energies in flux. In this way,

***"The cloud is like an actor, a kind of creature ... and the landscape is like the stage"*** - Min-Woo Bang, 2024



XXXX

Min-Woo Bang is a past finalist in the Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting at the Art Gallery of NSW, King's School Art Prize, NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize, Muswellbrook Art Prize, Hadley's Art Prize, Tattersall's Art Prize and Mosman Art Prize (Highly Commended, 2016). He is a past Winner of the KAAF Art Prize and the Gold Coast Art Prize. Born in Seoul and now based in Sydney, Min-Woo Bang gained graduate and post-graduate qualifications at the National Art School and Sydney College of the Arts.

Joshua Cocking has won multiple prize awards including the The Paddington Art Prize, The Lester Prize for Portraiture, The Cossack Art Prize, The West Kimberley Art Prize, the Shinju Matsuri Art Prize, The Hedland Art Prize, The Lethbridge Art Prize and the Midwest Art Prize. He has also held residencies at the Fremantle Art Centre, Fremantle and Cossack, Western Australia.