

Excerpt:



... In a rather more contained photographic exhibition entitled, *I am what I am* (24 August - 17 November), Trevor Smith, Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Western Australia has drawn together works by Alin Huma, Neil Wallace and John Browne that foreground some of Western Australia's least picturesque and most defiantly banal locales. Though tangentially connected by that ogreish monolith 'the everyday', such works are neither simple celebrations of the ordinary, nor a straightforward critique. Fleshing out this hybridity is work from Derek Kreckler's series "The Looking and Other Outcomes". In particular, Kreckler's engagements with the everyday take on an ambiguously theatrical edge that makes plain the constructed nature of prosaic experience as it unearths the racial, class and socially determined contexts that define the here and now. Also included in the show is David Goldblatt's "Church" series, a subtle visual archaeology of the apartheid era through one of its main pillars, the Dutch Reformed Church, as haunting promises of an eternal elsewhere are imposed across South Africa. In its unapologetic reference to that old seadog Popeye, *I am what I am* suggests a kind of emergent self-acceptance, and demonstrates that what we are and the places we live in and through, are never quite as simple as we imagine.

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