

New Sean Slemon exhibition in Joburg

A new exhibition of the recent and developing body of work by Sean Slemon is being held at Arts on Main, Maboneng Precinct, Joburg, from 8 to 18 July, 2012, between 1pm and 5pm.



The shadow is an indelible image for us all. It's also something that we cannot possess, cannot hold and cannot own. Commodity is the driver of our daily existence and resources are constantly being co-opted from the realm of the "un-ownable" to that of "bought and sold" in a process of trade that has underpinned our existence for hundreds of years. However, there still remains an idea that there are some things belonging to all people: land, light, water and nature. These have transformed through our complex and insatiable economic systems from resources available to all, to resources with commercial value, owned resources, and this is the focus of his recent work.

Sean Slemon's work, while mostly drawn from nature, is concerned with the ephemeral becoming physical - making the intangible tactile. But to what end?

Something intangible and ephemeral

Shadows are turned into solid three-dimensional works - their scale derived directly from the original object, such as the tree. Slemon transforms shadows into solid entities by casting from life and tracing from the sun, joining these two processes together to make a single solid shape, defining the parameters of a shadow. In doing this, Slemon makes something intangible and ephemeral completely fill the space it sometimes moves through. This stands for Slemon as a process of commoditisation: converting something from a resource - light - to something that now occupies space and represents time and the intangible in solid form. It is through simple and subtle gestures like this that his concerns are brought to the fore through sculpture, drawing, installation and printmaking. The body of work presented here, still in progress, works towards a reminder that when things that belong to everyone are appropriated for personal gain, something that someone else needs to survive may be taken away from him.

All work on the exhibition was produced while in residency at the Nirox Foundation. Jillian Ross and her staff at DKW printed the etchings concurrently.

First solo exhibition

This new body of work leaves off from Slemon's recent solo show: *The Sun Stands Still* at MagnanMetz Gallery in New York in December of 2011. He is currently working towards his first solo exhibition with Brundyn + Gonsalves in Cape Town in October, 2013, towards which this new work will contribute.

Sean Slemon is also participating in Joburg: *Don't/Panic*, curated by Gabi Ngcobo, which will open on 6 July, 2012, at the Centre for Historical Re-enactment. This is a re-iteration of the exhibition *Don't/Panic* that featured Slemon's work at the Durban Art Gallery during COP 17 in 2011, and will take place at 32 August House, 76 End Street, Johannesburg.

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