

Tom Yousif

Reconnaissance Painting

Flinders Street Gallery

In till 22nd June 2019

Tom Yousif is an emerging artist born in South West Sydney in 1994. Yousif graduated at the National Art School with a master's degree majoring in painting in 2019. Since 16' Yousif has focused on making work in hard edged format with a particular interest in the positive and negative effects of silhouetting images. Yousif incorporates both analogue and digital processes in his practice to reassess the current condition of painting and how it can be expanded.

Reconnaissance painting is Tom Yousif's selection of iconic images from western art practices that are treated as form of readymade material. He has transformed these images using new technology while retaining some aspects of the original work. This process is done deliberately to question authenticities position in 21st century art making. The paintings are examples of existing art works beyond their initial manifestations that incorporate multiple methodologies.

The term 'reconnaissance' with its military connotations is a nod to the way the artist has sourced, changed, and completed the work. This jarring term when utilised in a creative context envisions the artist exploring and gathering resources behind a metaphoric enemy line of artistic property.

Using visual strategies such as silhouetting primary forms has given an opposite, alternative meaning to something that already exists in art history. Yousif focuses on achieving a flat, matte surface that is seen dominantly in the 20th century post-painterly abstractionist. He intentionally chooses colours for vibrant and striking effects to disassociate from the original art works colour properties. To further transform the images of selection, Yousif duplicates layers in different tones or colours to maximise a three dimensional effect impacting how the paintings are perceived.