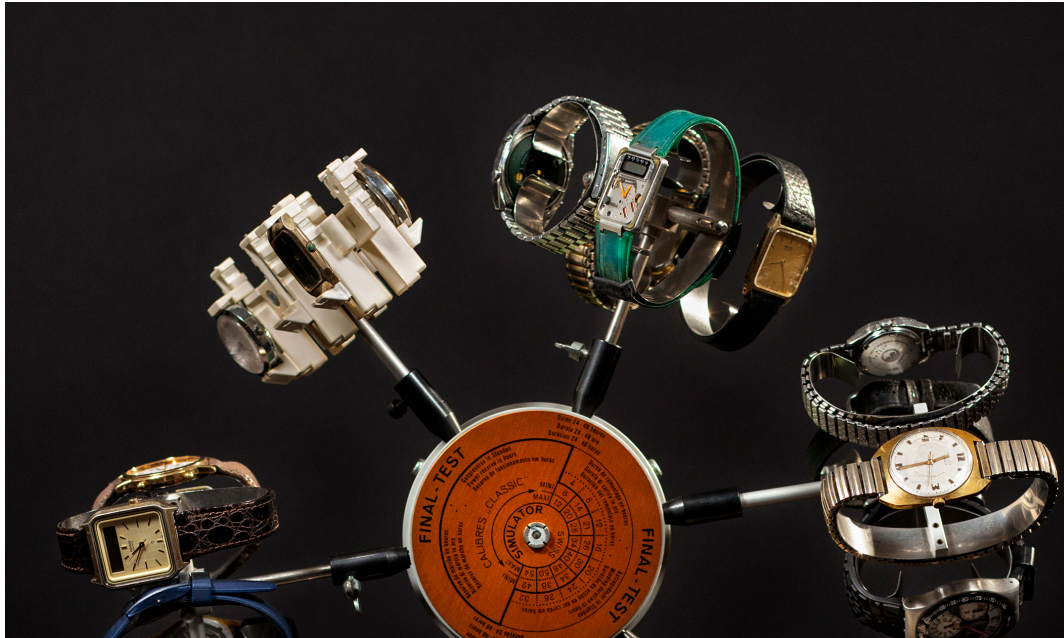


Critic's Guide to Melbourne Art Week

BY SOPHIE KNEZIC 31 JULY 2018



'Architecture Makes Us: Cinematic Visions of Sonia Leber and David Chesworth'
Centre for Contemporary Photography
27 July – 9 September 2018

Artists who have been collaborating since 1996, Sonia Leber and David Chesworth, present a seamless and suave body of work in this mid-career survey exhibition hosted by CCP. An abiding interest in sonic experiences – spanning the dulcet to the discordant, surveillance systems, obsolete technologies and remote landscapes – make for overlapping correspondences that tether the discrete works into a consonant whole. An attunement to relics and ruins is particularly evident.

Myriad Falls (2017) is an enthralling rumination on chronometric time through the filming of a cluster of outmoded analogue wristwatches installed on a calibrating machine in a horologist's workshop. The watches' intricate internal circular mechanisms find accord in the machine's calculated rotations; the dual modalities of time and motion, the durational and superannuated, forming a mesmerizingly dynamic interplay. The thematic of obsolescence recurs in *Earthwork* (2016) with its aerial filming of a discarded and decaying architect's model.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a newly commissioned work, *Geography Becomes Territory Becomes* (2018); an 8-channel HD video installation featuring footage of the 18th century island fortress Suomenlinna in Finland. The cinematography is predatory, the camera stalking the abandoned structure and shooting through its apertures as if filmed by a sniper. With a soundtrack that thrums with portent, the matrix of screens produces a bracing experience of sonic and visual disorientation.

Photo: Sonia Leber & David Chesworth, Myriad Falls, 2017. HD video, 7:00 minutes (still).