

# THE WALLS ART SPACE

**ABBIEY MCCULLOCH**

THE ADVENTURE

1 - 22 December, 2019

[Clockwise from entrance]

THE ADVENTURE [2019]

Single channel video

2min 34sec

PAM [209]

White raku, glaze

43cm x 40cm x 31cm

ONE [2019]

White raku, glaze

36cm x 22cm x 16cm

TWO [2019]

White raku, glaze

29cm x 14cm x 30cm

THREE [2019]

White raku, glaze

46cm x 17cm x 18cm

FOUR [2019]

White raku, glaze

35cm x 17cm x 25cm

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**THE WALLS  
ART SPACE**

CITY OF  
**GOLDCOAST.**

THE WALLS ART SPACE

4/18 Mountain View Avenue MIAMI 4220 GOLD COAST QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

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THE WALLS are supported by the City of Gold Coast through the Accelerate Triennial Grant Program.

## The Adventure

Adventure implies a deliberate lack of planning. Perhaps you pack for the conditions but forgo a map, or, more likely these days, an internet connection. There's an intrepid sense of getting lost on purpose to experience things off the beaten track or outside of the scope of a prepaid vacation. Adventure could mean going bush, going solo or even going nowhere.

Working beyond the canvas and vivid colour palette of her most iconic works, *The Adventure* is a new destination for local artist Abbey McCulloch. Playing with light and water, *The Adventure* extends beyond its primary mediums of ceramic and video, and into the landscape and the gallery-scape. White raku and glaze sculptures explore the breadth of the exhibition space in an artistic play with light and shadow. Experiments with light extend to the projection of a single channel video work that captures a sole sculptural figure spinning in the sunlight on a nearby beach. *The Adventure* is a metaphor presenting two sides: the escape and the reality.

The shadows of the four wall-mounted sculptures are cast across the largest wall, creating roschach-like spills that mirror the faces and forms of each piece. The shadows are simultaneously inky and empty, and yet full of visual analogy, making the psychological connotations of the roschach particularly apt. The voids of our imaginations, the dark compartments of our minds, the intangible baggage that we carry with us when we go on holiday, the places where we pack away our thoughts, experiences and memories, and the subdivided suitcases of the soul.

These entirely monochromatic compositions draw us into the deep and dark places of their imagined psyches. The compositions anchor us to the idea of running away in their reference to wall totems and the faraway places they evoke.

"They represent a longing to escape from where we are, only to discover that it's certain parts of ourselves that we are really needing solace or distraction from. The sculptures circle and writhe on the walls as if to say that it's the discovery of something exotic and uncharted inside of us that needs commemorating."<sup>1</sup>

The metaphor of the uncharted is also represented in the video work (also titled *The Adventure*) which delves into McCulloch's fascination with "the prospect of seclusion, serenity and isolation"<sup>2</sup>. The work maps out a chance occurrence that takes place when a sole figurative work is situated on the seashore and is swept up in the currents of the Coral Sea, presenting us with a 360-degree view of the sculpture, and serendipitously enabling us to view the work in the round.

A lifetime resident of the Gold Coast, Abbey McCulloch has shown nationally and internationally across the past few decades but never in her own postcode which this exhibition at The Walls allows. With this in mind, we might consider what it means to stay in the same place and to explore what's in front of us, or inside us. Perhaps it's an invitation to unpack the notion that instead of longing for someplace else we could take time to discover or recover parts of ourselves, and to travel to the fringes and paradises that are within us. As Aldous Huxley so artfully put, "... nobody needs to go anywhere else, we are all, if we only knew it, already there."<sup>3</sup>

— Rebecca Ross, 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> McCulloch, Abbey "The Adventure" (Exhibition notes: 2019)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Huxley, Aldous "Island" (Vintage: 2005)

With thanks to Aaron Chapman.