

# THE WALLS

**BYRON COATHUP**

MIAMI/MIAMI

7 - 21 October, 2017

How do these two cities figure utopia? When will development decelerate? When will we be content with the cities' fascia? What will we uncover beyond the surface? What lies beneath? In the end all that consistently remains is the sun, sand and surf. Never the less we carry on, striving for this ideal world – but have we already reached it? Two magic cities and two things that will always remain; the warm sun shining down on us and the moon that glitters on our ocean. These two will always be there for us and will turn up to every party you hold.

MIAMI/MIAMI is a cross-cultural project between two cities that share similarities and differences. Miami (QLD) and Miami (FL). Both run under the slogans that tempt and encourage tourism, as these two cities were made on Sun, Sand and Surf and the Holiday aesthetic. Built environments, towering apartments, seaside ornamentals and motifs that reflect a carefree vacation. All of these characteristics portray the essence of what it might feel, look, sound and taste like in these man-built fantasylands.

Our inaugural international exchange, MIAMI/MIAMI initiates a new collaboration between Gold Coast artist Byron Coathup and artist-run initiative Obsolete Media Miami, from the other Miami (Florida/USA).

Byron Coathup was born and raised in Brisbane and lives and works on the Southern Gold Coast where he runs Maverick Hair and Art Space, and works as an artist, designer and gallerist. Byron completed a Bachelor of Fine Art [2008] at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Gold Coast, including study abroad at the Alberta College of Art & Design in Alberta, Canada, and a Graduate Diploma in Graphic Design [2011] at RMIT in Melbourne. Byron returned to the warm and sunny Gold Coast in 2012, working as a freelance designer for Gold Coast City Gallery and Bleach Festival, and continuing his active engagement in the Gold Coast creative community. Byron has exhibited in group exhibitions at Testing Grounds (Melbourne), QT Hotel (Gold Coast), Gold Coast City Gallery, Bleach Festival (Gold Coast) and Falls Festival (Victoria).

Byron is currently curating SUPER SOUVENIR, in conjunction with City of Gold Coast's 'Generate' program, for exhibition during the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Byron's work is multi-disciplinary and his practice is concerned with the cross-overs between art, design and popular culture, often combining mediums that are suggestive of his ideas concerning space and place, and how we might interact with them. His belief that art should be an integral part of our everyday life is the key to his conceptual projects and a driving force in his collaborations. His artworks and installations are often aimed at creating 'situations' or 'experiences' that reflect the objects and destinations of tourist meccas and perceived holiday utopias like the Gold Coast.

[Clockwise from entrance]

**OCCUPY MIAMI [2014]**

Timber Armchair: Original (Miami Ice) timber, nails, trolley wheels

Size Variable

**MIAMI/MIAMI: THE MAGIC CITY [2017]**

Single channel video projection on scaffolding with builders shade cloth, cable ties, astroturf, LED light, umbrella

5min 6sec/ Size variable

**LUXURY [2017]**

Scaffold brace, printed vinyl banners with eyelets, printed mesh with eyelets, cable ties, tarp, enamel paint, marking-making aerosol paint, fluorescent light

Size variable

**OUR CLOSEST NEIGHBOURS (MIAMI COMPILATION) [2017]**

Single channel video on TV monitor

**MOONLIGHT MIAMI (FL) [2017]**

2min 25sec

**MIAMI SUN (QLD) [2017]**

2min 41sec

**MOTIFS OF A BUILDER'S PARADISE [2017]**

Scaffold brace, printed vinyl banners with eyelets, printed mesh with eyelets, cable ties, tarp, enamel paint, marking-making aerosol paint, fluorescent light

Size variable

Thanks: Film contributed by Obsolete Media Miami (FL) and The Lyn and Louis Wolfson II, Florida Moving Image Archives (FL). Palm Trees from The Borrowed Nursery, Miami (GC).

## **THE WALLS ART SPACE**

[Contemporary art on the GC since 2013]

4/18 Mountain View Avenue MIAMI 4220

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CITY OF  
**GOLDCOAST.**

THE WALLS is supported by City of Gold Coast through Accelerate. MIAMI/MIAMI is supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund. The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Queensland Government and City of Gold Coast Council partnership to support local arts and culture.