

Toronto Exhibition

Tasman Richardson

KALI YUGA

Curated by Shauna Jean Doherty

In collaboration with Scotiabank
Contact Photography Festival

Mar 9 - May 22, 2021



Tasman Richardson, Sphere of Influence, Circle of Protection, 2019. Video Multiplier, projectors, broken mirrors, camera strobe flash, midi to voltage converter, speakers, mac book, external audio interface, wood, cloth, paint, variable dimensions.

Following its debut at Arsenal Contemporary Art Montreal in Fall 2019, Arsenal Contemporary Art Toronto is pleased to present Kali Yuga by **Tasman Richardson**, an audio/visual experience that takes viewers through an immersive and psychological journey. Visitors are invited to navigate the exhibition's dark pathways, relying on the artist's signature analogue monitors, digital projections, and confronting video works to light their way.

Six maximalist media pieces are carefully arranged in a slightly askew, nearly symmetrical formation and showcase Richardson's technological ingenuity and sculptural sensibility. The collection includes a combination of generative content pillaged from the Internet, pre-recorded playback captured in the artist's bedroom, and live video feeds that produce hauntingly decayed, surveilled, and teleported reflections of each gallery visitor.

Here, Richardson manipulates ways of seeing and being seen, focusing on the complexity of transmitting one's own image through technology. In an age of spectacle, he critiques the artifice of (self) images by underlining the parasitic relationships they encourage between us.

The title of the exhibition, Kali Yuga (which translates to “The Age of Vice”), refers to a Hindu apocalypse tale. As the story goes, while dreaming of our universe and all of the people within it, a deity is suddenly stirred from sleep. Upon awakening, our shared reality is destroyed, ready to be rebuilt, anew.

Richardson draws parallels between Bentham’s panopticon design, the contemporary media landscape, and this ancient myth, concluding that so long as the deity sleeps, our world remains a fragmented feedback loop of hyper-connectivity, self-obsession and alienation.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, available for sale.

Based in Toronto (Canada), **Tasman Richardson** has exhibited extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. He predominantly works with video collages using the JAWA method (the manifesto he authored in 1996), fully immersive media installations (Necropolis, MOCCA 2012), and live audiovisual performances. His practice is defined as a critical response to the spectacular, emotionally potent illusion of media culture.

Shauna Jean Doherty is a Toronto-based critic and curator. Her exhibitions and texts predominantly examine historical and contemporary alliances between art and technology. She has served as Programming Coordinator at InterAccess and graduate studies instructor in the Curatorial Studies program at OCAD University. Doherty has curated exhibitions and screenings in Vancouver, Calgary, Halifax, Montreal and Toronto

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