**Benjamin Prabowo Sexton**

*Peace 2021*

oil on silver gelatin prints (unique)

125 x 89cm

# Benjamin Prabowo Sexton

## Artist Statement

Benjamin Prabowo Sexton works predominantly with photography, placing an emphasis on the postproduction values of the medium. Sexton utilises his photographic archive to alter images through experimental darkroom processes, such as masking and mis-registration to form new compositions. His works are typically monochromatic, unique state, silver gelatin prints that combine collage, photography and drawing techniques to step outside the traditional conventions of photographic practice.

In this series of works, Sexton selected source photographs taken around the streets of central Sydney, East Brunswick in Melbourne and Traralgon, a town in Gippsland known for its coal and power industries. For the artist, any literal readings informed by this fact are moot – his work is not a didactic or political statement about 'place' as such, but rather about the distillation of sensation in a poetic expression of feeling. However, as locations in which the artist has spent time they inevitably hold personal resonance.

*Benjamin's selections are made on aesthetic grounds, and for their power to project his own emotion: "I'm looking for motifs, symbols, images, that tie in with an overall feeling that I've got at the moment.' Here they consist of closely focused fragments of pavement, wall, shadow, tree branch or rusted metal, characteristically worn or degraded, projecting a feeling he describes as 'tranquil'. These fragments are further abstracted through omission and embellishment in their printing and with oil paint, to create a new vision. The titles 'Peace', 'Order' and 'Adore' came last, and were taken from his archive of collected language and turns of phrase.*

## Biography (b.1984)

Indonesian-born Benjamin Prabowo Sexton (né Lichtenstein) is a Melbourne-based artist who combines his photography practice with his professional commitments as a Fireman. He studied at the Victorian College of the Arts and has a Bachelor of Fine Art (Photography).

Sexton was a finalist for the 2013 Bowness Prize, and a recipient of the 2006 Kodak Salon Excellence in Photomedia award at the Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne.

His work was included in the prestigious group exhibition *The National*, Art Gallery of New South Wales (2021), as well as being featured in *Index*, Centre for Contemporary Photography (2020), *Illusions and Allusions*, Missing Persons (2018), *Group Show: Second Iteration*, a collaborative exhibition with Arts Project Australia, Arts Project Australia (2016), *The Bends*, PhotoAccess (2016), *The Alchemists: Rediscovering Photography in the Age of the Jpeg*, Australian Centre for Photography (2015) and *Mental*, Muddguts Gallery New York (2014).

The artist was originally represented by Utopian Slumps, a gallery known for spotting emerging talent. who gave Sexton one of his first solo exhibitions - *I Know You Will Be Happy Here*, Utopian Slumps (2013). Sexton is now represented by Melbourne gallery Daine Singer, and his recent solo exhibitions there include *Peaceful interval* (2020) and *Touch* (2019).

**Benjamin Prabowo Sexton is represented by Daine Singer, Melbourne**