

INTRODUCTION TO THE DREAMERS: NEW LANDSCAPES

by **CHARLIE HILL – SMITH**

My name is Charlie Hill-Smith, I am a documentary filmmaker and decade long friend of the artist.

For those of you like me, who've seen previous exhibits by Kirstin, you'll be struck, once again, by the strength of the offering and her re-inventive creativity. She has again found new materials and new horizons to focus the strong themes that seem to inspire and haunt her work.

The great Australian anthropologist, W.H. Stanner, coined the expression 'the Great Australian Silence', a reference to the nationwide repression of true Australian history by a 'Christian' people unable to accept a terribly un-Christian, violent and odious past. 'The Great Australian Silence' refers to a national forgetting of events and stories too violent and odious to build into a working national consciousness or national identity, it is the beginning of our long crawl out of white supremacy and into a postcolonial Australia.

This work is full of reference to that journey. The surface level 'black vs. white'. The honouring of discarded objects, things, like people, tossed aside by a society focused only on its future. The white-washing of societies' refuse and disposable, the covering up of regret and shame. The reinvention of something beautiful from something despised, forgotten or suppressed. The work is pregnant with these ideas and many other that ask us to reflect on a society based on many illusions, collusions and misdirection.

The great American post-colonial thinker James Baldwin summed up why it's important to recognise and explore these themes of the near and old past, saying, 'Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.'