

# MICHAEL COOK

## FAKE



THIS IS NO FANTASY  
dianne tanzer + nicola stein

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## FAKE

Shot in remote locations across the central Australian desert, Fake follows an Indigenous couple and their adopted child on a road-trip through the outback. As we follow the story, the family who are decked out with luxury clothing and goods, gradually become more immersed in the ancient landscape. Inspired by Cook's personal story (with a nod to past Gucci campaigns), the series reverses Cook's own biography: he was adopted into a non-Indigenous family, and growing up travelled to remote communities with his parents who's hobby was gold prospecting.

Cook cheekily places luxury brands and accessories, both real and counterfeit, throughout the images. This use of 'fake' items parallels the misuse of Indigenous motifs, similarly co-opted as tourist souvenirs since the 1950s. As the narrative continues, the family slowly become more connected to their surroundings – the final image captures a celebration in the open landscape, and sees their designer clothes and luxuries discarded.

In recent years, Cook has spent more time in small First Nations' communities, observing the strength of peoples' connections to each other and the environment, a balance which has existed for millennia. He said, 'In Fake, the three travellers find a release from their contemporary trappings and move toward a deeper level of connection. You could say that this reflects my journey in life – and a realisation of what is important and enduring in this world.'

### BIO

Michael Cook is a Brisbane-based photomedia artist of Bidjara heritage. Cook's photographs restage colonial-focused histories and re-image the contemporary reality of indigenous populations. Touching on the discriminatory nature of society, his images muddle racial and social roles 'painting' a picture of a societal structure reversed. Cook invites viewers to speculate Indigenous cultures living at the forefront, even a majority, rather than manipulated to live within the confines of a white man's world. Cook's images challenge our ingrained belief systems yet do not offer judgement – they are observational, asking questions without proffering neat prescriptive conclusions.

Significant career highlights include The British Museum, London, UK; MOPA, San Francisco, USA; the Musee d'ethnographie de Geneve, Switzerland; National Gallery of Singapore; AAMU Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, The Netherlands; Musee de la Civilisation, Quebec, Canada; Fukiyama Musuem of Art, Japan, 13th Dong Gang International Photo Festival, South Korea; Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. Cook's work was included in Personal Structures – Crossing Borders at Palazzo Mora during the 56th Venice Biennale.

Cook's work has been acquired by institutions including the British Museum, National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales and Art Gallery of Western Australia.

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MICHAEL COOK  
Fake (Servo), 2023

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
80 x 120 cm, edition 8 + 2 AP  
\$8,800 unframed

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
113 x 170 cm, edition 5 + 2 AP  
\$13,500 unframed

archival inkjet print on canvas  
140 x 210 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
\$19,000 stretched



MICHAEL COOK  
Fake (Hotel), 2023

archival inkjet print on canvas  
140 x 210 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
\$19,000 stretched





MICHAEL COOK  
Fake (Sacred Site), 2023

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
80 x 120 cm, edition 8 + 2 AP  
\$8,800 unframed

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
113 x 170 cm, edition 5 + 2 AP  
\$13,500 unframed

archival inkjet print on canvas  
140 x 210 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
\$19,000 stretched



MICHAEL COOK  
Fake (Uluru), 2023

archival inkjet print on canvas  
140 x 210 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
\$19,000 stretched





MICHAEL COOK  
Fake (Salt Lake), 2023

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
80 x 120 cm, edition 8 + 2 AP  
\$8,800 unframed

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
113 x 170 cm, edition 5 + 2 AP  
\$13,500 unframed

archival inkjet print on canvas  
140 x 210 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
\$19,000 stretched



MICHAEL COOK  
Fake (Horse Tour), 2023

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
80 x 120 cm, edition 8 + 2 AP  
\$8,800 unframed

archival pigment print on 310 gsm paper  
113 x 170 cm, edition 5 + 2 AP  
\$13,500 unframed

archival inkjet print on canvas  
140 x 210 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
\$19,000 stretched





MICHAEL COOK  
Fake (Resort), 2023

archival inkjet print on canvas  
140 x 210 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP  
\$19,000 stretched

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## CV

Heritage, Bidjara people of South-West Queensland

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Fake, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2022 Enculturation, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC  
The Mission, Tweed Regional Gallery NSW  
Natures Mortes, Noosa Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast QLD  
Invasion, Benalla Art Gallery, Benalla VIC  
Natures Mortes, Deletaille Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 Natures mortes, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD  
Livin' the Dream, Horsham Regional Gallery VIC  
Undiscovered, Photo 2021, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2020 Michael Cook, Emerging Photographer sector, Paris Photo New York, New York (online)  
Livin' the Dream, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC  
Michael Cook – Undiscovered, Sunshine Coast University, Sunshine Coast QLD
- 2019 Michael Cook In Focus, Ten Cubed, Melbourne VIC  
Michael Cook survey, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, South Africa
- 2018 The Mission, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart TAS  
Invasion, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2017 Mother, Coloundra Regional Art Gallery, QLD  
Undiscovered, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory NT
- 2016 Mother, Art Basel Hong Kong, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC  
Mother, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD  
Mother, Tweed Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2015 Object, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC  
Undiscovered, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney NSW  
Through My Eyes, Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery QLD  
Through My Eyes, Kick Arts, Cairns QLD  
Civilised, Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong HK
- 2014 Through My Eyes, Museum of Australian Democracy, Canberra ACT  
Australian Landscapes, La Trobe University, Melbourne VIC
- 2013 Civilised, dianne tanzer gallery + projects, Melbourne VIC  
Hear no... See no... Speak no... Queensland Centre for Photography at Depot Gallery Sydney
- 2012 Stickman, dianne tanzer gallery + projects, Melbourne VIC  
Through My Eyes, La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre, Bendigo VIC  
Broken Dreams, October Gallery, London UK  
The Mission, dianne tanzer gallery + projects, Melbourne VIC
- 2010 Through My Eyes, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Out of the Everywhen, Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, TAS
- 2022 Ever Present - first peoples art of Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, WA  
HOTA Collects: Punching Up, 21st Century Indigenous Photography, HOTA, QLD  
Still Life Now, QAGOMA QLD  
The Dingo Project, Ngununggula Southern Highlands Regional Gallery, Bowral NSW

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- Art in Conflict, Shepparton Regional Gallery, Shepparton VIC  
Rockhampton Museum of Art - Opening Exhibition, Rockhampton, QLD  
Civilised, Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, NL
- 2021 Before Time Began, Art and History Museum, Brussels, Belgium  
Endeavour Voyage, National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT
- 2020 First Nations Artwork, Caloundra Regional Gallery QLD  
The Burning World, Bendigo Regional Gallery VIC  
Looking Back, Looking Forward, Australian National Maritime Museum NSW  
Storylines + Songlines, Justin Art House Museum, Melbourne VIC  
How Did I Get Here?, Katanning Library and Gallery, WA (touring)  
Focus on the Collection, Artspace Mackay QLD  
Eight days in Kamay, State Library of New South Wales NSW
- 2019 Queens Land Blak Portraiture, Cairns Art Gallery QLD  
Defining Place/Space, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego USA  
Art Basel Hong Kong, THIS IS NO FANTASY, HK  
From where I stand, Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW  
From Bark to Neon, National Gallery of Victoria, VIC  
To Be Continued, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA  
While You Were Sleeping, aMBUSH Gallery, Kambri at ANU Cultural Centre, Canberra ACT  
Unfolding Time, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
Expose, Queensland Centre of Photography, Rockhampton Art Gallery, Tweed Regional Gallery  
Seeing Voices, Bathurst Art Gallery, Bathurst NSW  
Moon Landing, Giant Leap—Future, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney NSW  
Celebrating Culture, Contemporary Indigenous Art, Glen Eira Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
Queen's Land Blak Portraiture—Late 19th Century to the Present, Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD  
Shared Connections, Museum of Brisbane, QLD  
How Did I Get Here?, Katanning Library and Gallery, WA (touring)
- 2018 Colony Frontier Wars, National Gallery of Victoria VIC  
Continental Drift, Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns Maas, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo NSW  
Chaos & Order, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
Art Basel Hong Kong Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, HK  
Australian Exotica, Monash Gallery of Art (touring), Redland Gallery QLD
- 2017 FotoFever, Paris FR  
Sydney Contemporary NSW  
The Boomerang Effect, Musée d'ethnographie de Genève, Switzerland  
All Dressed UP!, Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery NSW
- 2016 Australian Exotica, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC  
Reframed, Incinerator Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
A Conversation about Portraiture, Pine Rivers Art Gallery, QLD  
This Place of Ours, Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, QLD  
Impact: New Media Works, Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD  
Taba Naba Living Waters, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco  
Artist and Empire: (En)countering Colonial Legacy, National Gallery of Singapore, SG  
Mapping Australia - country to cartography, AAMU Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht NL  
Over The Fence, UQ Art Museum, Brisbane QLD
- 2015 Personal Structures: Crossing Borders, Palazzo Mora, Venice IT  
Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation, British Museum, London UK  
Salt-Water Country, AAMU Museum for Contemporary Aboriginal Art Utrecht NL

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- Lifelines, Musee De La Civilisation, Quebec, Canada  
Indigenous Art: Moving Backwards Into the Future, National Gallery of Victoria VIC  
Storm in a Teacup, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington VIC  
Resistance, Art Gallery of Western Australia WA  
The Encounters Project, National Museum of Australia ACT  
Salt-Water Country, Manly Art Museum, NSW  
Sydney Contemporary, THIS IS NO FANTASY + Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Sydney NSW  
Photo LA, Queensland Centre for Photography  
Photo Contemporary, Los Angeles USA  
The New Black, Artspace, Mackay QLD  
Arcadia, Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
East Coast Encounter, Caloundra Regional Gallery QLD  
Cross Pose, University of Queensland Art Museum QLD  
New Sensation, Artspace, Mackay QLD
- 2014 You Imagine What You Desire, 19th Biennale of Sydney, Art Gallery of NSW  
Mother and Child, McMaster Museum of Art, Hamilton, Canada  
New Passports, New Photography, Art Gallery of Western Australia WA  
Episodes: Australia Photography Now, 13th Dong Gang International Photo Festival, South Korea  
Kyota Hanga: International Print Exhibition, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art JP  
My Country: Contemporary Art from Black Australia, Auckland Art Gallery NZ  
Photo LA, Queensland Centre for Photography, Los Angeles USA  
East Coast Encounter, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney NSW  
Private Assembly: A Contemporary Collection, Tweed Regional Gallery NSW  
Saltwater Country, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Surfers Paradise QLD
- 2013 Debil Debil, curated by Marcia Langton AM, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Sydney NSW  
My Country, I Still Call Australia Home: Contemporary Art from Black Australia, Gallery of Modern Art QLD  
UnDisclosed: 2nd National Indigenous Art Triennial, Cairns Regional Gallery (touring)  
Photo LA: The 22nd International Los Angeles Photographic Art Exposition, Los Angeles USA
- 2012 The 7th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art – APT7, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD  
UnDisclosed: 2nd National Indigenous Art Triennial, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT  
29th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, MAGNT, Darwin NT  
O'Mission, Linden Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne VIC  
Where the Art Leads – CIAF, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns QLD  
My Country, University of Western Sydney Art Gallery NSW  
Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2012, Caloundra Regional Galleries, Sunshine Coast QLD  
All I Need Is Everything, Rockhampton Art Gallery QLD  
Pairs, dianne tanzer gallery + projects VIC
- 2011 Face Up: A look at portraits from the collection, Gold Coast City Art Gallery QLD  
Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards, Art Gallery of Western Australia WA
- 2010 15th Redlands Westpac Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney NSW

### AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2022 Winner, Fisher's Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown Arts Centre NSW  
Winner, People's Choice Award, Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award QLD  
Finalist, Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC
- 2021 Finalist, Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC
- 2020 Finalist, Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC

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## CV

- 2018 Finalist, Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC
- 2016 Winner, Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Galleries, Sunshine Coast QLD  
Finalist, National Photography Prize, Murray Art Museum, Albury NSW  
Finalist, Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Prize, Gold Coast City Art Gallery QLD
- 2014 Australia Council for the Arts Greene Street Residency, New York USA
- 2013 Recipient, ACCELERATE, British Council, London, UK  
Finalist, Olive Cotton Award, Tweed River Art Gallery NSW  
Finalist, Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery QLD
- 2012 Finalist, 29th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, MAGNT, Darwin NT  
Finalist, Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Galleries, Sunshine Coast QLD  
Finalist, Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery QLD
- 2011 Winner, People's Choice Award, Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Winner, Deadly Visual Artist of the year, 17th Annual Deadly Awards—the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards  
Finalist, Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery QLD
- 2010 Finalist, 15th Redlands Westpac Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2008 Winner, 'Visual Artist of the Year', 14th Annual Deadly Awards—the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards

## COLLECTIONS

The British Museum, United Kingdom  
AAMU Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, The Netherlands  
Fondation Opale, Lens, Switzerland  
The Owen & Wagner Collection of Australian Aboriginal Art, USA  
Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, Charlottesville, VA, USA  
McMaster Museum of Art, McMaster University, ON Canada  
Musée d'ethnographie de Geneve, Switzerland  
Stichting National Museum van Wereldculturen, Leiden, Netherlands  
Alan Conder & Alan Pigot Collection, Hong Kong  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW  
Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, QLD  
Art Gallery of Western Australia, WA  
National Museum of Australia, ACT  
National Library of Australia, ACT  
Australian War Memorial, ACT  
Parliament House, ACT  
Artbank  
Ten Cubed, Melbourne VIC  
RMIT University, Melbourne VIC  
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, TAS  
Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW  
Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD  
Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC  
Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney NSW  
Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD

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Ipswich Art Gallery, QLD  
Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
Rockhampton Art Gallery, QLD  
Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, QLD  
Museum of Australian Democracy, Canberra ACT  
La Trobe University, Melbourne VIC  
Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne VIC  
Artspace, Mackay QLD  
Redland Art Gallery, QLD  
University of Technology, Brisbane QLD  
University of Western Sydney NSW  
University of Wollongong, NSW  
University of Queensland Art Museum, QLD  
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, TAS  
City of Yarra Collection, VIC  
The Macquarie Group Collection, Sydney NSW  
Westpac Corporate Art Collection, Sydney NSW  
The Gene and Brian Sherman Collection, Sydney NSW  
Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane QLD  
Alex Mackay Collection, Brisbane QLD  
Alstonville Art Collective, NSW  
The Bowerman Collection, Brisbane QLD  
Corrigan Collection, Sydney NSW  
Daryl Hewson Collection, Brisbane QLD  
The M Collection, Melbourne VIC  
Dr Clinton Ng Collection, Sydney NSW  
TEWRR Collection, Brisbane QLD  
Supreme Court of Queensland Library, QLD  
Griffith University, QLD  
Tweed Regional Gallery, NSW  
Murwillumbah Murray Art Museum, Aulbury NSW  
Sydney Church of England Grammar School, Sydney NSW  
City of Sydney Civic Collection, Sydney NSW  
Sunshine Coast Regional Gallery, Caloundra QLD  
University of Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast QLD  
Wyndham Cultural Centre, Werribee VIC  
The Art Group, Melbourne VIC  
Port Phillip City Collection, Melbourne VIC  
Mather Collection, Brisbane QLD  
Port Phillip City Collection, Melbourne VIC





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