

Huw Davies Gallery  
10th March – 9th April 2022

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## ***Selected Suburban Works***

### **William Broadhurst**

*Selected Suburban Works* is a series of fleeting encounters shot in South-West Sydney. Broadhurst blurs the line between representation and abstraction, shifting familiar motifs of Australian suburban life off-kilter. Transitional light disrupts planes of focus and masks details, giving the sense of a much larger scene perceived in a brief moment and pointing to how time and movement play upon memory.



William Broadhurst, *Untitled #6*, 2021, archival inkjet print

## **Meanwhile in the Suburbs**

The European Enlightenment assimilated ancient methods of coding time into a system to effectively schedule modern life and frame its functions. Every day, we're committed to the conventions and requirements of chronology, and in following these forms, we catch buses, trains, aircraft, and other forms of transport that run to specific timetables. Even when driving, or riding in cars, our direction and velocity is dictated by the pre-ordained demands of traffic lights.

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Our lives are constantly on the go, on the move, and on the way. Each of these simple catch phrases suggest not only our collective engagement with motion, but also the activity of going places – being in transit. These ideas – rolling off the tongue on a continual basis – describe the rapidity with which we find ourselves enacting everyday life.

William Broadhurst has titled this exhibition of individual, if related subjects, Selected Suburban Works, as though his imagery is indeed as prosaic as the constraints of this phrase. However, I suggest the artist's vision possesses the highly personal lens of reflection – as his images narrate details of fleeting encounters – easily forgotten, and perhaps unremarkable events.

This sense of fragmented experience – of anonymity – as we travel between one place and another, posits these images as documents of liminal space. In his choice of subject, the artist provides each of his untitled images with the appearance of viewing his immediate world from a moving vehicle. Broadhurst's blurred images suggest not only movement, but apparently also refer to the impenetrable. By this, I mean that these images are abstractions, as much as their origins lie in representation.

A number of the images also convey visual effects that parallel the oblique nature of their collective subject matter – the unremarkable urban infrastructure we tend to overlook as we move around in pursuit of our livelihoods. Overhead power lines, road surfaces, and congested freeways constitute the artist's pictorial language. In these recent images, Will Broadhurst manages to transcend the gap between what might be identified as straight documentary photography, and has instead, begun to explore something akin to allegory. As much as these images evoke movement, they also appear to reflect our experience of life beyond the frame – current restrictions on mobility – and a contemporary rupture of suburban complacency.

### **Mark Bayly**

*Mark Bayly is an independent curator with a thirty-year career in the visual arts. He has worked at CMAG, Australian Parliament House, National Gallery of Australia and QAGOMA and has been curator of more than twenty exhibitions. Mark also maintains a writing practice, dealing with the intertwining of historical chronicles, family narratives and expressions of queer desire - ways of living.*

## List of Works

|     |  |                   |        |
|-----|--|-------------------|--------|
| 1.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #1</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 2.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #2</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 3.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #3</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 4.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #4</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 5.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #5</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 6.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #6</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 7.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #7</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 8.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #8</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 41cm x 61cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 9.  | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #9</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 41cm x 61cm  | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 10. | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #10</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 11. | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #11</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 84cm x 60cm | edition of 5+1 AP | \$1000 |
| 12. | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #12</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 13. | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #13</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 14. | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #14</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 15. | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #15</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 41cm x 61cm | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |
| 16. | William Broadhurst, <i>Untitled #16</i> , 2021, archival inkjet print, 61cm x 41cm | edition of 5+1 AP | \$425  |

## William Broadhurst | About

William Broadhurst is a photographer based in Campbelltown NSW. He completed a Bachelor of Arts (Photography) at RMIT University in 2012. For the last ten years he has been actively travelling throughout Australian suburban and country landscapes amassing a large body of work in both 35mm and medium formats.

## More Online

Visit [www.gallery.photoaccess.org.au](http://www.gallery.photoaccess.org.au) to learn more about *Selected Suburban Works*.