

No Confidence

Institute for New Feeling (USA) | Felix Kalmenson (Russia-Canada)
Jennifer Moon (USA) | Yuri Pattison (Ireland)
Julika Rudelius (Germany) | Stefanos Tsivopoulos (Greece)

Sat 20 Feb–Sun 10 Apr 2016

Exhibition opens Sat 20 February from 6pm



Part of the 2016 Perth International Arts Festival, Visual Arts programme

No Confidence is an exhibition about our political situation. Artists in this show express a lack of confidence in the current condition of liberal democratic society. They consider its various inadequacies, failures and challenges, and together, create an image of a dystopian political present.

In last year's Festival, the curators presented *Theatres*, an exploration of the art which took worldwide geopolitical conflict as its subject. For the 2016 Festival, *No Confidence* forms its counterpart, turning its attention to political conflicts at home in neo-liberal society.

Our current political period began with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the victory of democratic capitalism. It emerged as the sole surviving ideology in a political and economic consensus. The supremacy of democratic capitalism survived the U.S.-led wars and the 2008 financial crash. It staggered through the Eurozone's political and economic crisis. It survived recent civil unrest, shaken but intact. Now, wholly unpredictable challenges born of technological change face this political condition: digital mediation, mass surveillance, and hyperreality. Today, despite the absence of any viable alternative, our society's political era seems ill-equipped to deal with the future.

In *No Confidence*, this era is characterised as an inability to see a way forward politically, an inability to constructively challenge predominant conditions, or to find new solutions. The works of the international artists in *No Confidence* express themes of defeat, exhaustion, and isolation, and depicts contemporary political situations as vacant, frozen, or hollow. Some artworks cloak their perspectives in ambiguity, and others protect themselves through irony. All are conscious of their inability to provide concrete solutions, answers, and alternatives to the political problems they depict.



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