

ENTROPY AWAKENING



www.mariehadley.com/entropy_awakening/

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION



Photo credit: Jade Goodwin

"Our speculative fiction is the Dreaming of the future."

Travis De Vries (Research data, 2022)

As you walk around, you will experience five pivotal moments in Travis De Vries' thinking about sovereignty.

- 1. The place of self
- 2. The loss of self
- 3. The reimagining of self
- 4. The ambivalence of self
- 5. The power of self

Of course, it's not just his thoughts that you will experience, but five worlds. Five possibilities, underpinned by different ways of enacting, losing, or questioning where agency fits in amongst futurism and fable.

When I commissioned Travis to create an artwork that responds to a piece of legal scholarship, I joined him in the fifth world; the power of self - Entropy Awakening.

At the outset, all I wanted to know was what an artist might think about how law regulates anti-racism graffiti. How they interpret law, and what they see as important.

The project had other ideas.

There were moments where I felt confused and uncomfortable. And there were moments where I felt law as an experience, as something other than rules and regulations, and I sensed liberation on the horizon.

This unsettlement is what it means to walk through the worlds that Travis builds. The worlds change, but there is always tension. Disintegration juxtaposed against a beautiful sunrise. A remedy but never reparation.

Entropy Awakening started with a question about law's regulation of colonial statues.

For Travis, it ended with self-actualisation; a knitting together of five key moments.

For me, it ended with an understanding that the conversations that we most need to have, are those that make us the most uneasy.

How does it end for you?

Marie Hadley Curator Researcher, Centre for Law and Social Justice Lecturer in Law, University of Newcastle