

# PALAS<sup>®</sup>

**Shaun Gladwell**  
**Inverted Monuments**  
**PALAS, Sydney**

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Inverted Monuments evolves a long-standing series of photographs and videos of inverted performances and gestures where the resulting images are, in turn, rotated 180 degrees, to re-orient the body upright within an upside-down world. The exhibition takes its title from a new video and related photographs that engage monuments to colonial or Eurocentric power.

Inverted Monuments continues the series loosely titled Sculpture Inverts (2011–), where the artist and others climb upon and hang upside down from statues in Australian and European cities. While formally related, the new works are distinct. The new performances necessarily engage methodologies in response to a post-2020 context, where monuments are subject to increased surveillance by a State power responding to the zeitgeist of protest.

For Gladwell, protest is an open gesture leaving no damage; a gesture towards symbolic inversion and anti-monumentalism through hybridising performance art, gymnastics, parkour and urban exploring. Offering his own body as a scale reference to an historical corpus, Inverted Monuments is not simply an irreverence to the historical forms of political and cultural power, but an opportunity to see the functionality (and even beauty) of these representations when pictorially and symbolically upended. Inverted Monuments uncouples the representation from its referent, the strategies of protest from a specific cause. The works in this exhibition rather negate the monumentality of bronze with the timeframe of flesh in temporal performance.

Shaun Gladwell (born Sydney 1972) has been the subject of numerous solo institutional exhibitions including Shaun Gladwell: Pacific Undertow, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney (2019); 1000 Horses, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel (2017); Shaun Gladwell. Skaters versus Minimalismo, Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno CAAM, Las Palmas, Gran Canaria (2017); Cycles of Radical Will, De LaWarr Pavilion, East Sussex, United Kingdom (2013); Perpetual 360° Sessions, SCHUNCK\* Heerlen, The Netherlands (2011); and MADDESTMAXIMVS: Planet & Stars Sequence, Australian Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice (2009). Recent group exhibitions include, Free/State, Adelaide Biennial, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide (2022); Hyper Real, National Gallery of Australia (2017); Interior and the Collectors, La Biennale de Lyon (2015); VIDEONALE.15, Kunstmuseum, Bonn (2015); 2014 Busan Biennale, MoCA Busan (2014); California-Pacific Triennial, Orange County Museum, California (2013); and Walking Sideways, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2013).

Shaun Gladwell's works are held in museum collections including, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Museum of Fine Art, Houston; Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Orange County Museum of Art, California; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney.