

Michael Cook

Mother

The Friends Gallery

26 August – 11 December 2016

Cook's emotionally engaging new series *Mother* explores a universal theme that is crucial to the wellbeing of all. The love or absence of a mother is paramount to the development and future of each child the world over.

Mother is a journey through thirteen images of a woman in a deserted Australian landscape.

His 'mother' is always alone, her baby absent, although evidence of a child remains in the empty pram, abandoned toys on the Hopscotch court, the slackness of the skipping rope. These images possess an arrested stillness that speaks to a recently bereft status.

Michael Cook has tackled subjects, from the political to the historical, since 2009. In *Mother* we see his most intensely personal work to date. While these images speak directly and poetically to Australia's Stolen Generation, they speak also to a universal experience of disconnection between mother and child. They powerfully evoke the essential nature of the relationship between mother and child that is at the heart of human experience. Seductive yet enigmatic, Cook's vignettes construct a psychological mirror between personal experience and political power.

**Exhibition launch event: 16 September 2016, 6pm for 6.30pm until 8pm.
No RSVP required**

The Tweed Regional Gallery acknowledges the generous support of collectors Alan Conder and Alan Pigott in presenting this exhibition.

Michael Cook is represented by Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane and THIS IS NO FANTASY + dianne tanzer gallery, Melbourne.

Image Credit

Michael Cook

Mother (Pram) 2016

inkjet print on archival Hahnemuhle cotton rag

120 x 180cm

Image courtesy Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane and THIS IS NO FANTASY + dianne tanzer gallery, Melbourne