



Object

Michael Cook

The Friends Gallery

Until 11 March 2018

During 2016 the Gallery was thrilled to show the work of Australian artist Michael Cook through our Artist in Residence program. Cook's photographic series *Mother* was shown for the first time in Australia, loaned to the Gallery by collectors Alan Conder and Alan Pigott. As a result of this stunning exhibition, the public's response to his work and his gratitude to the Gallery, Michael Cook generously gifted two suites of his earlier work to the Gallery's collection.

Object is a series of five photographs presented in a tableau. I first saw these images at the National Gallery of Victoria in 2015 and was immediately seduced by their aesthetic. The scene depicted is luxurious and plush, yet imbued with strong contradiction as the true and startling message of the series is revealed. Cook fashions a compelling sense of theatre and narrative through costume and dramatic lighting, setting the scene and constructing an otherworldly approach to the objectification of race.

Susi Muddiman OAM

Michael Cook is represented by Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane and THIS IS NO FANTASY + Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne.

Michael Cook

Object (Vase) 2015

inkjet print

100 × 140cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016
Tweed Regional Gallery collection