

THE COMMERCIAL

ROBERT PULIE



CHANGE SIGN

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 6-8pm

exhibition: 15/11/13 - 07/12/13

open Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm

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Image: Robert Pulie, *Library Music*, 2013, oil on linen, 53.5 x 78.5 cm (incl. artist frame)

The intelligence and humour of materials and other symbolic systems, such as language, is enunciated in the work of Robert Pulie beyond ordinary parlance. Slippages between what is said and what is heard, between two and three dimensions, between positive and negative values are the rich difference that separate expected and actual output. Pulie's economy ruminates upon stuff ordinarily discarded or not noticed. A nostalgia for and knowledge of materials more often found in room furnishings – a wide variety of timbers, metals, mirror, cane, leather, silk etc – is mined for its rich aesthetic and conceptual generative potential.

Change Sign, Pulie's second solo exhibition at The Commercial, consists of a series of oil on linen paintings, carved wood marionettes and copper art that toy with common signifiers.

Robert Pulie (b. 1969) completed a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney in 1990 and was actively involved in a number of Sydney artist-run-initiatives in his early career: CBD Gallery (1993-1995), Front Room (2002-2003) and BLOCK (2002-2003).

Solo exhibitions include *Turning around and looking back* at The Commercial Gallery, Sydney, and *Belief In Suspension* at db Project, Sydney (both 2012); *Behind Red Eyelid Blind*, Institute of Contemporary Art Newtown (ICAN), Sydney (2008). Pulie had five solo exhibitions at Mori Gallery, Sydney (1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2004).

Group exhibitions include *ONE/THREE*, the inaugural exhibition at The Commercial Gallery, Sydney (2012); *Mirror Mirror: Then and Now*, curated by Ann Stephen at Verge Gallery, The University of Sydney, The Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane and Samstag Museum of Art, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide (2009 and 2010); *Public/Private Tumatanui/Tumataiti The 2nd Auckland Triennial*, curated by Ewen McDonald and Ngahiraka Mason, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland (2004); *Anita & Beyond*, curated by Lisa Havilah, Penrith Regional Gallery, Sydney (2003); *Into the Blue*, curated by Linda Michael, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne (2002); *Objection*, curated by Russell Storer, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney and The Physics Room, Christchurch (2000 and 2001).

In 2001, Pulie was the recipient of a Visual Arts & Crafts Grant from the Australia Council for the Arts for a residency in Los Angeles. His work is in the Chartwell Collection, Auckland, the Allens Arthur Robinson Collection, Melbourne and Artbank, Sydney.

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