

CURRENT EXHIBITION

Nasus Y Ram

Our Hearts of Stone

27 June - 25 August 2064

Our Hearts of Stone is a new commission to mark 30 years of restoration, reparation and peace since the Rupture of 2034. This solo presentation by Nasus Y Ram draws on per experience of growing up on a dairy and sheep farm pre-Rupture, and the accumulated transgenerational memories and trauma of family involvement in the 'farmed nonhuman' industry that per family trace back for 1000 years.

Ram binds text and object-based research with drawing and installation to produce artworks that collapse personal experience with historical records to explore how perself, and other humans, were conditioned to dissociate; lack empathy and turn their backs on violence to 'farmed' nonhumans. Ram's work also celebrates the trust established between species post-Rupture.

Charcoal (a material produced from burning), and layering, are used in the drawings. Burning is a reminder that, pre-Rupture, flesh was 'cooked', originally over fire, before it was consumed by Humans. Fire, and the act of burning generally, signify erasure and retribution, as well as purification and renewal. The pre-Rupture 'recipe' books used by Ram in per work, along with the drawings themselves, are partly burned to remind us of the normalisation of violence and the human capacity to deny consciousness of suffering at that time. Layering in the works is also symbolic of this denial, or 'covering up' that was the mark of pre-Rupture cultures.

Ram makes drawings of objects from per own family archive to highlight that tools, as objects of violence and 'ownership', are essential to colonisation. Along with objects, language is central to how Humans learned to dominate others: for example 'farmed nonhuman' were called 'livestock' to signify that living beings should be thought of as objects to make profit for Humans.

Cattle were originally used in Human cultures to signify wealth and ownership (the word 'capital' from the Old French meant 'of the head' and originally related to the number of 'heads' of cattle that someone owned). In some religions the golden calf was a false idol; bull worship was common in many cultures. Whether a calf was a symbol of adoration and worship or of wealth, bov was objectified. Here, Ram depicts the calf as a peaceful subjective being, with bov own will to live, and bov own nonhuman centric way of perceiving the world in peace with other species. The statue is made from recycled paper and copper leaf: copper has traditionally been symbolic of love.

Our Hearts of Stone was commissioned by *The Museum of Human Violence* in 2064, and curated by *Weksa Nosmada*.

Lead Supporters: The International Commission For Peace (ICP)
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