

Ugly/ Beautiful

Mark Smith | Photo 2022

30 April - 22 May 2022

“After my accident, I was told I’d never walk again. I proved them wrong.”

Ugly/Beautiful is a solo exhibition of photographic work by Melbourne-based mixed-media artist Mark Smith. It presents a space for beauty and ugliness to coalesce. Exploring identity, difference and faith, the artwork aims to express feelings of joy, yet, the viewer’s experience is more confronting, with imagery depicting digital collages of body parts lurching outwards from a black background, prompting feelings of disconnectedness, discomfort, and unease.

“I consider limitations and barriers imposed on me as an invitation/motivation to fuel my determination to create and succeed. My works are ambiguous to the viewing public. However, my greater intention is to break down preconceived understandings of disability. My life’s experiences are definitely an inspiration for my artworks.”

Arts Project Australia respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, exhibit and create art.

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Working across painting, ceramics, mixed media, video and soft sculpture, Mark Smith's primarily figurative works are concerned with how the physicality of the body relates to human nature and the human condition. He considers the body a non-negotiable starting point for existence, using the primitive vessel to explore the truly distinctive characteristics of being human. Within this framework, Smith addresses the experiences and complexities of the individual and of humanity as a whole, as well as examines the language of subtle movement. Working from a feeling or emotion rather than a model or image, his artwork has an intrinsic quality that is imbued with a deep sense of character.

Mark Smith has worked in the Arts Project Australia studio since 2003. He held his first solo show *Words Are...Jarmbi* at Gallery Upstairs in 2014, as well as featuring in group shows nationally including *Spring1883*, *Gertrude Glasshouse*, *The Substation* and *West Space*. In 2014, he self-published *Alive: an autobiographical reflection of his life* and in 2020 he undertook an artist residency at the *Australian Tapestry Workshop*. Public collections include the *Monash University Museum of Art* and *Moreland City Council*. His work is also held in national and international private and corporate collections.

This exhibition has been generously supported by the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS).



Mark Smith

Ugly/Beautiful 2022

Giclee digital print on Canson Platine

150 x 150 cm

MASMDP22-0001

Edition of 3

\$1,800 unframed

\$2,650 framed

Collector's Edition

Giclee digital print on Canson Baryta

84 x 84 cm

MASMDP22-0005

Edition of 4

\$990 unframed

\$1,490 framed



Mark Smith

In 2022

Giclee digital print on Canson Platine

150 x 150 cm

MASMDP22-0002

Edition of 3

\$1,800 unframed

\$2,650 framed

Collector's Edition

Giclee digital print on Canson Baryta

84 x 84 cm

MASMDP22-0006

Edition of 4

\$990 unframed

\$1,490 framed



Mark Smith

Charm 2022

Giclee digital print on Canson Platine

150 x 150 cm

MASMDP22-0003

Edition of 3

\$1,800 unframed

\$2,650 framed

Collector's Edition

Giclee digital print on Canson Baryta

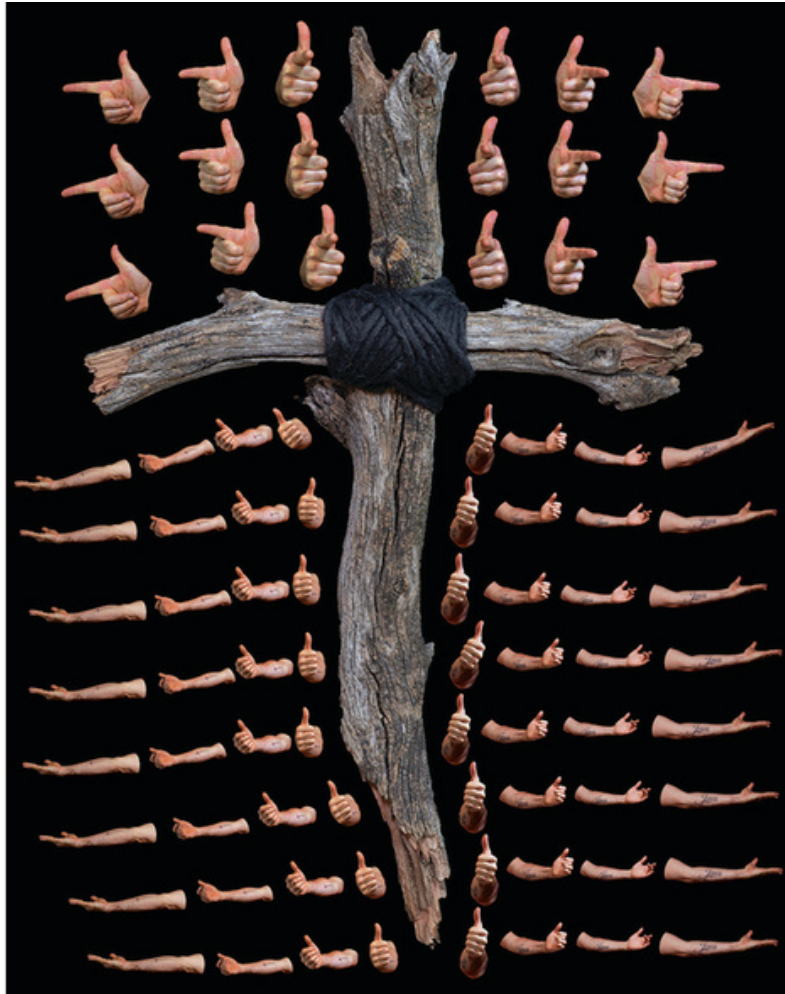
84 x 84 cm

MASMDP22-0007

Edition of 4

\$990 unframed

\$1,490 framed



Mark Smith

Is it? It is 2022

Giclee digital print on Canson Platine

189 x 150 cm

MASMDP22-0004

Edition of 3

\$1,950 unframed

\$2,900 framed

Collector's Edition

Giclee digital print on Canson Baryta

84 x 66.8 cm

MASMDP22-0008

Edition of 4

\$990 unframed

\$1,490 framed