

EXHIBITION » SATURDAY 7 MARCH - SATURDAY 9 MAY 2020

# RMIT DESIGN HUB GALLERY PRESENTS *METAHAVEN: FIELD REPORT*



## ***METAHAVEN: FIELD REPORT***

**SATURDAY 7 MARCH - SATURDAY 9 MAY 2020  
OPENING FRIDAY 6 MARCH  
RMIT DESIGN HUB GALLERY**

Announcing ***Metahaven: Field Report*** – the first Australian solo exhibition of renowned Amsterdam-based artists, filmmakers and designers Metahaven at RMIT Design Hub Gallery.

Presented by RMIT Design Hub Gallery and Melbourne Design Week / Melbourne Art Book Fair.

*Metahaven: Field Report* brings the immersive and compelling art and design practice of Metahaven to Australian audiences for the first time.

The work of Amsterdam-based artists, filmmakers, and designers Metahaven occupies the intersection of design and film, poetry and storytelling, and engages propaganda, physical geography and speculative research. Since 2007, their work has expanded from graphic design and installation to garments, objects and music videos and, since 2015, to moving image. Metahaven create film-essays drawing on documentary, found footage, graphics and fiction.

*Metahaven: Field Report* reflects upon today's condition of information overload that has replaced the Cold War's information shortages. Everybody has become a broadcaster, designer, filmmaker, prosecutor, judge, key witness, perpetrator and storyteller. This is not merely

a political and social fact, but an aesthetic and cinematic regime. Propaganda is now a lived reality, necessitating novel forms of media literacy.

The exhibition features the inaugural presentation of the major film and sound installation *Eurasia (Questions on Happiness)*, 2018, in Australia. *Eurasia* is a cinematic assemblage of landscapes of the south-eastern Urals (Russia) and Macedonia built around a narrative of political fragmentation in Europe. As Metahaven state: "Like much of our previous work, *Eurasia* is itself a field report on the incongruencies of lived experience through digital media, in which the Eurasian steppe interjects with soft, heavenly nothingness — a space vast, tender, and forgiving, without dimension or aspect ratio."

The exhibition also presents *Arrows I, II and III*, 2020, a series of tapestry works comprised of several parts that together form a larger megastructure or timeline. The work is reminiscent of timelines in film editing software such as Premiere, and is inspired by the arrow-shaped video playhead, which commonly symbolises linear temporal progress. *Arrows I, II and III* is one body of work within a series that engages with the notion of time. The tapestries materialise research from Metahaven's book-length essay *Digital Tarkovsky* (Strelka Press, 2018), an exploration of Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky's noted use of slow, long takes and their significance to the experience of time in the digital age. The

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tapestries look at the ways (historical) timelines are constructed and how, having become images, they contribute to our mental construction of long-term duration.

Exclusively developed for RMIT Design Hub Gallery, *Metahaven: Field Report* is presented in collaboration with the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and will launch as part of Melbourne Design Week. Metahaven will be keynote presenters at the Melbourne Art Book Fair on Thursday 12 March at the NGV.

*Metahaven: Field Report* opens at Design Hub Gallery on Saturday 7 March and runs until Saturday 9 May (Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm, Saturday 12pm – 5pm).

Special event: Film screening with introduction by Daniel Van der Velden and Vinca Kruk of Metahaven at The Capitol from 3 – 5pm on Saturday 7 March. RSVP via [Eventbrite](#).

The Melbourne Art Book Fair takes place from Friday 13 March to Sunday 15 March at the National Gallery of Victoria.

*Metahaven: Field Report* is conceived and designed by Metahaven, Netherlands.

Guest exhibition curators: Brad Haylock (RMIT) and Megan Patty (NGV).

*Metahaven: Field Report* will be complemented by a series of public programs developed by RMIT Design Hub Gallery curators Kate Rhodes, Fleur Watson and creative producer Nella Themelios. Visit our [website](#) for further details.

## About [Metahaven](#)

Metahaven's work encompasses the practices of filmmaking, writing, design, and installation, and is united conceptually by interests in poetry, storytelling, digital superstructures, and propaganda. Their moving image works manifest as immersive installations, and share an aesthetic logic with the collective's design work in an attention to surface, texture, and the intelligent simplification of complex logics and visual forms. Their work is frequently exhibited and published throughout the world.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Turnarounds* at e-flux New York (2019), *Version History* at the ICA London (2018), and *Earth* at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2018). Recent screenings and group exhibitions include *An evening with Metahaven* MoMA, New York (2019), *Ghost:2651*, Bangkok (2018), the Sharjah Biennial (2017), and the Gwangju Biennale (2016). Recent publications by Metahaven include *PSYOP* (2018, edited with Karen Archey), and *Digital Tarkovsky* (2018).

## About [RMIT Design Hub Gallery](#)

RMIT Design Hub Gallery exists to ask questions about design's role in the world today. Through exhibitions, conversations, performances and publications, we explore the process of design – making space to imagine, test and risk new ideas together.

Founded within RMIT University, the Design Hub Gallery has its roots in the city and in research practice. But most of all, we are a public place, a zone for exploration and a platform for exchange, locally and internationally. We're an open space for discovery, questioning and experimentation.

RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University.

## About the [National Gallery of Victoria \(NGV\)](#)

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is the oldest and most visited gallery in Australia. Situated over two magnificent buildings – NGV International and NGV Australia – the Gallery hosts a wide range of international and local artists, exhibitions, programs and events; from contemporary art to major international historic exhibitions, fashion and design, architecture, sound and dance.

Since its launch in 2015, the annual Melbourne Art Book Fair has attracted more than 50,000 visitors making it the most visited publishing event in the Asia-Pacific region. The sixth Melbourne Art Book Fair in 2020 will bring together international and local publishers and practitioners in a weekend of free talks, book launches, performances, and stalls featuring art, design, architecture and photography publications from around the world.

Image credit: Metahaven, *Eurasia (Questions on Happiness)*, 2018. Installation view at Institute for Contemporary Arts, London, 2018. Photo Mark Blower. *Eurasia (Questions on Happiness)* will form part of *Metahaven: Field Report* at RMIT Design Hub Gallery for Melbourne Design Week.