
NGV NEWS

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Ian Strange: SUBURBAN

NGV Studio | 27 July – 15 September 2013 | FREE



The remarkable work of New York-based Australian artist Ian Strange will take centre stage at NGV Studio from 27 July. *Suburban* is the culmination of Strange travelling for two and a half years through neighbourhoods in the US. Working on a massive scale across key cities, Strange painted directly on to the surfaces and facades of suburban homes, and in some cases burnt them to the ground, to create a moving statement around Western ideas of home.

These unique interventions staged across the cities of Ohio, Detroit, Alabama, New Jersey, New York and New Hampshire were documented with a film crew and volunteers and will be shared at NGV Studio as part of Strange's multifaceted photographic, film and installation work.

Cinematic in both tone and scale, *Suburban* investigates the iconography surrounding the family home and its place in the current economic climate. Through the work, Strange articulates his own conflicted relationship with suburbia he experienced growing up in the Australian suburbs, juxtaposed with living in New York City and the United States. Strange's exploration of suburban experience articulates a distinctively Australian sensibility to a global audience.

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David Hurlston, Curator of Australian Art, NGV, said that Strange was fast becoming recognised, both locally and internationally, for his distinctive practice and, in particular, for this new and unique body of work.

“We are excited to be able to present this ground-breaking exhibition of work by Ian Strange. From his early work as a street artist in Australia he is now a noted contemporary artist with a developing international standing. Strange is one of the most exciting young artists to have emerged from the street art genre in recent times,” Mr Hurlston said.

Suburban considers the status of the family home in the United States and Australia through nine large-scale photographic works and a dramatic multi-channel, surround sound video installation. Carefully selected fragments of the original houses will also be on display in the exhibition as both sculptural objects and social artefacts.

Exhibiting artist Ian Strange said that *Suburban* was a culmination of more than two years’ work.

“This project has been all consuming for the past two and a half years of my life. I wanted to create a body of work that reacted to the icon of the suburban home and to the suburbs as a whole. The suburbs have played an important role in shaping who I am as a person and an artist. The suburbs have always been home, but I have always found suburbia isolating. *Suburban* is my reaction to that,” Mr Strange said.

Strange’s early artistic career evolved as a teenager growing up in the suburbs of Perth. Here he took on the name Kid-Zoom and from the late 1990s played an active role in Australia’s street art movement. After relocating to New York in 2010 under the mentorship of Ron English, he participated in the now legendary underground exhibition *The Underbelly Project*, before his first solo exhibition and pop-up show in the Meatpacking district, *This City Will Eat Me Alive*, which generated critical acclaim and attention from the art world.

Now an internationally recognised artist living between the United States and Australia, Strange has more recently been exploring the notion of home and identity and exhibited in the inaugural Outpost Street Art Festival on Sydney Harbour’s Cockatoo Island with his work *Home*, a full-scale replication of his childhood house installed in the Turbine Hall.

A special late night program will occur on the first Thursday evening of every month, see ngv.vic.gov.au for details.

Suburban will be on display from 27 July to 15 September 2013 at NGV Studio, located at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Federation Square. Open daily 10am–5pm. Free entry.

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Image caption:

Ian Strange

Corinne Terrace 2011

archival digital print

Collection of the artist, New York

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