

JESS JOHNSON

WURM HAUS

Artwork labels

Welcome to the *Wurm Haus*: a reality-warping space created by New Zealand-born, Melbourne-based artist Jess Johnson. *The exhibition's* extraordinary centrepiece is *Ixian Gate*: a 360-degree animation experienced using Oculus Rift technology, a virtual reality system that immerses the viewer in an artificial world.

Ixian Gate's stereoscopic computer-generated environment was built using high-resolution scans of Johnson's drawings, and enables viewers to enter the alternative world depicted in these complex and highly detailed works. *Ixian Gate* takes its name from a planet in Frank Herbert's 1965 science-fiction novel *Dune* renowned for its supreme machine culture and which supplies technology to other planets. The title reflects Johnson's interest in popular culture and acknowledges the new technologies embraced by the artist to create the work.

The exhibition space's geometric patterning, visual motifs and drawings created by Johnson add an additional layer of immersion. *Wurm Haus's* unexpected world reflects the artist's fascination with the intersections between language, science fiction, culture and technology.

Exhibition essay available at

www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/publications/essays

Jess JOHNSON

born New Zealand 1979, arrived Australia 2002

Whirlpull centrium

Blood visions

Wurm whorl narthex

We want to live

Gamma World

2013

pen and ink, coloured fibre-tipped pens, metallic paint and collage on paper

The John McCaughey Memorial Prize Trust, 2013

2013.963.1-5

Jess JOHNSON

born New Zealand 1979, arrived Australia 2002

Void game

Every1 and everything on my back

Caul King Aposate

Bloodfins & Whipwurm

Whol Why Whurl

2013

pen and ink, coloured fibre-tipped pens, metallic paint and collage on paper

Jess JOHNSON

born New Zealand 1979, arrived Australia 2002

Ixian Gate

2015

colour virtual reality animation, stereo sound, 5 min 35 sec

Courtesy of the artist; Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney; and Ivan Anthony Gallery, Auckland

Jess JOHNSON

born New Zealand 1979, arrived Australia 2002

Gilgamesh

2015

pen, coloured fibre-tipped pens, metallic paint and
gouache on paper

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia
Purchased through the TomorrowFund,
Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation, 2015

2015/84

For Kids

Do you like to daydream? What do you imagine? Jess Johnson likes to imagine alien worlds. She fills these worlds with strange things, like bits of buildings and weird people. She likes technology and video games too. That's why Jess made her new work *Ixian Gate* using a computer. You need to wear a special headset to see it; once you put the headset on you can move through Jess's imaginary world and see it from all angles just like in real life. Watch out for the giant worms!