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“Alex Seton: Cargo” at Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney

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“Cargo” shows new marble sculptures depicting highly compressed bales of clothing, of the kind found in the second-hand clothes industry. The exhibition features six hand-carved bales of clothing. “Over the last four years, Seton’s work has responded to the asylum seeker debate and Australia’s offshore immigration policies. In Cargo, the free and profit-driven movement of thousands of bales of our discarded clothes stands in potent counterpoint to the perilous and stymied journey of the asylum seeker. The exhibition takes a step back to reflect on the larger economic and environmental systems that perpetuate our privilege. In spending innumerable slow hours carving these flocked effigies, Seton pauses to consider the environmental, cultural and economic impact of these systems on those that bear the burden of our dispensation. The complexities of the bales’ surfaces are also a nod to the tropes of

classical statuary; the shrouds, drapes and folds of cloth of European marble tradition. Here, individual garments are rendered almost unrecognisable, compressed into bales designed for circulation in transnational markets." (Sullivan+Strumpf)

Speaking on the artist, the gallery says, "[Alex Seton](#)'s artistic practice incorporates photography, video, sculpture and installation to investigate the complex relationship between form and substance. He is best known for his beguiling marble carving, applying his refined craftsmanship to unexpected forms. Blankets, hoodies, inflatables and national flags are rendered in stone, invoking a somatic paradox. By infusing the rich heritage of Classical statuary with contemporary concerns, Seton gives weight to the issues we face here and now. In his recent bodies of work, life jackets and poolside toys become potent reminders of Australia's troubling policies pertaining to asylum seekers; inflatable crowns celebrate the ease of contemporary life, too readily taken for granted. The creative process itself is interrogated in shows such as *Roughing Out* (Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, 2013) and *Replicator* (Tweed River Art Gallery, 2014), in which Seton explored his practice through performance, video and participatory works."

The artist has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. Solo exhibitions include: 'Monument', Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney (2017); '[Alex Seton](#): The Island', Newcastle Art Gallery (2017); 'Someone Else's Problem', Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks (2015); 'As of Today', Australian War Memorial, Canberra (2014-15), Last Resort, touring McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery, Langwarrin, Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne & Rockhampton Art Gallery, Rockhampton (2014-15),

The exhibition will be on view through October 20, 2018, at Sullivan+Strumpf, 799 Elizabeth St, Zetland NSW 2017, Australia.

For details visit: <http://sullivanstrumpf.com>