

EXHIBITIONS Jon Eiseman *Other Realities* 15th July 2014 - 2nd August 2014

Please join us and the artist for the opening of this exhibition on **Saturday 19 July 1 -3pm.**

This exhibition of recent sculptural work by Jon Eiseman and related photographic collaborations with Anne Conron, frequently employs the image of a solitary man, suitcase in hand, set upon a journey through strangely dreamlike surrounds. Here the representation of a journey becomes a powerful metaphor for larger questions that occupy the human condition; namely, the idea of existential meaning and a relentless personal search to find it. Eiseman quietly alludes to such profound and difficult to define notions through a set of symbols that he has steadily developed over a career in sculpture that spans two decades.

The most prominent recurrent feature within Eiseman's work is his balding male protagonist, who cuts a decidedly unassuming figure in his ubiquitous business suit and tie. Here one could argue that the suit becomes a marker for a type of familiar, middle class conformity – a homogenised version of male identity that is completely socially acceptable, yet often a little repressed. Yet the conventionality of the business suit is the perfect device to offset the imaginative and magical scenarios that the man who wears it participates in. A regular person experiencing highly irregular things, the ordinariness of Eiseman's suited male character allows us to more fully empathise with his otherworldly pursuits, and relate to his surreal journey.

The fusion of realism with fantasy is particularly apparent in Eiseman's sculptures. In one piece the suited man leans from a boat with a hearing instrument to better understand a group of talking fish, while in Sanctuary he wears a bird mask and an overcoat from which branches grow and birds shelter. This confluence of recognizable elements into improbable scenes is aligned to magic realism, a genre found within visual art, literature and film. Here magical happenings take place within the context of plausible reality in order to convey a deeper awareness of life's undercurrents.

The uncanny quality of Eiseman's sculptures take on a distinctly more hallucinogenic and dislocated edge in his photographic collaborations with artist Anne Conron. These works feature people wearing animal masks enacting inexplicable scenes that often have a ritualistic overtone, set within nocturnal landscapes. The use of projection, artificial lighting and shadow-play reflects a theatrical and performative sensibility that is the product of these two creative visions combined. Yet while aesthetically divergent from the sculptures, a common symbolic language unites the work in both mediums. The man wearing a bird mask is an example of such



Jon Eiseman
Catch The Wind 2014
unique bronze
23cm x 16cm x 10 cm



Jon Eiseman!
Sanctuary 2014!
unique bronze!
67cm x 24cm x 18cm

recurrent iconography. It obliquely refers to animal spirit guides and the shamanistic practices of various indigenous ethnic cultures. More broadly it reflects a type of earthbound spirituality tied to the natural world that flows throughout the entire exhibition. Animals and trees frequently surround and direct the progress of Eiseman's figures. They actively seek answers from nature, or in the case of the bird mask, physically inhabit it. Thus rather than a mute backdrop, nature becomes animated as a repository of innate wisdom and spiritual understanding which Eiseman's everyman figure seeks to access.

Underpinning all of Eiseman's work is the tacit understanding that ordinary outward appearances can conceal an inner life of remarkable individual richness. Perhaps it is this that makes these modest works so compelling in content.

Essay by Marguerite Brown, MAArtCur
2014

Within my current work I continue to explore the theme of a journey through strange and unfamiliar landscapes, inhabited by people travelling in a timeless world. Their destination, through forests and oceans seems mysteriously purposeful yet enigmatic. Through the development of symbolic images I aim to create sculptures that have a dreamlike and poetic quality as if drawn from the inner landscape of the subconscious. I want them to create in the viewer, a feeling both unsettling and yet familiar. The bird mask on the human figure is a concept drawn from myths and legends about guides and guardian angels. The idea of the suitcase is used to symbolise the inner journey, the departure and arrival, but also the idea of baggage ; the dreams, hopes, desires and memories that are carried through a lifetime. In collaboration with artist Anne Conron, a body of photographic work has been completed which pushes the ideas beyond the boundaries of sculpture. The use of distortion and overlay in the photographs help to enhance the sculptural imagery of the surreal dreamlike world. Jon Eiseman 2014

[JON EISEMAN PROFILE](#)
[DOWNLOAD BIO / CV \(PDF\)](#)

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Jon Eiseman
Searching For The Lost Ocean 2014
unique bronze
27cm x 18cm x 9 cm



Jon Eiseman!
Seeking Wisdom 2014!
unique bronze
38cm x 20cm x 14 cm



Jon Eiseman!
Brother Fish 2014!
unique bronze!
36cm x 49cm x 19 cm



Jon Eiseman
Nest 2014
unique bronze!
72cm x 27cm x 25 cm



Jon Eiseman
Talking To Angels 2014!
unique bronze
23cm x 27cm x 17 cm



Jon Eiseman
The Mariners Dream 2014
unique bronze
18cm x 36cm x 19 cm



Jon Eiseman
Seeking Redemption 2014!
unique bronze
23cm x 25cm x 11 cm



Jon Eiseman
Long Way Home 2014
unique bronze
31cm x 38cm x 20 cm



Jon Eiseman
Waiting 2014
C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
67cm x 100cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman
Breath 2014
C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
67cm x 100cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman

Halo 2014

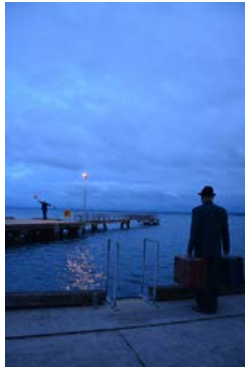
C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman

Reflections 2014

C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman

The Crossing 2014

C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman

Moonbirds 2014

C-Type photograph, framed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available unframed,



Jon Eiseman

Moonbird Dusk 2014

C-Type photograph, framed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available unframed,



Jon Eiseman

The Apparition 2014

C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman

Lightness Of Being 2014

C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman

Searching For Meaning 2014

C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman
The Conductor 2014

C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
100cm x 67cm , also available framed



Jon Eiseman
Kangel 2014

C-Type photograph, unframed, edition of 5. In collaboration with Anne Conron!
67cm x 100cm , also available framed

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