



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE END OF HISTORY + *Origins*

18 May – 17 August 2024

EXPLORATIONS OF ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS.

The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of our season two exhibitions, *THE END OF HISTORY* and *Origins*.

THE END OF HISTORY explores artists' relationship to history, as it's made. Probing the subconscious of a tumultuous decade in art and life.

At its centre is a group of works from the University of Western Australia Art Collection made between 1985 and 1995, united by mood and motif.

This was a decade of transformational change locally, nationally, and globally, in which political philosopher Francis Fukuyama famously declared humanity had reached the 'end of history' - and a time in which Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery first opened its doors to the public.

Although highly partial, this selection suggests shared reoccurring artistic and societal concerns amongst artists working around Australia. It probes the subconscious of an era shaped by the heights of WA Inc and the recession we had to have, Australia's Bicentennial and the fall of the Berlin wall, connection to the Internet and concerns about parochialism. A heady mix of ambition, anxiety, cynicism, and hope played out in works of high drama and grand scale.

These works are juxtaposed with several newly acquired works made by artists born during and after that decade who self-consciously probe their relationship to history. In dialogue, they describe generational connections or divides, and offer a challenge to linear narratives that tend towards endings.



Jacque Moran, *Birth: 3 Seconds Later* (detail), 2005 (reprinted in 2008), series of 12 photographs, 11: 50.8 x 76.2cm each; 1.76.2 x 50.8cm, edition of 10. Cruthers Collection of Women's Art, The University of Western Australia, Gift of the artist

Curator of the exhibition and the University of Western Australia Art Collection Gemma Weston says:

"It feels timely to examine the history of the UWA Art Collection and the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, and also to showcase several major new acquisitions... The exhibition is an opportunity to examine how artists, and how art collections, shape the historical record, or how an artwork contains the context in which it's made."

The *Origins* exhibition is a response to *THE END OF HISTORY*, considering the physical reality of humans. It is an exploration of beginnings and endings – of family mythologies, births, deaths, and cosmic cycles. The exhibition features photographs and paintings from the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art.

As curator Lee Kinsella says, *"The paintings and photographs in this exhibition chart the human passions and drivers that fuel our lives while we exist within these fallible and fleshy forms. As humans, our understandings of the world are not fixed. The concepts of truth and reality are contingent and constantly shifting."*

Exhibition launch opening date and time: [Friday 17 May 5.30–8pm](#)

Exhibition dates: 18 May – 17 August 2024

The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 12pm to 5pm, and admission is free

For more information, visit the LWAG website: uwa.edu.au/lwag/home

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Images:

[Images for THE END OF HISTORY available here](#)

[Images for Origins available here](#)

Website:

uwa.edu.au/lwag/exhibitions/the-end-of-history

uwa.edu.au/lwag/exhibitions/origins

MEDIA REFERENCE:

Annelies Gartner, UWA PR and Media Manage on 08 6488 6876 or annelies.gartner@uwa.edu.au

Clare McFarlane, Visual Design and Communications Officer on 08 6488 7806 or clare.mcfarlane@uwa.edu.au