

# Carol MCGREGOR

Honours (Fine art)

b.1961, Hastings, n/a, New Zealand

## ***Boundary Street* 2013**

Digital photograph on Rag Matte paper

85 x 55 x 0cm

Carol McGregor is an artist of Wathaurung (Victoria) and Scottish descent, whose practice resists reductive, homogenising categorizations as 'traditional' or 'contemporary' Indigenous art. As McGregor states, "I reclaim and connect to culture by employing contemporary methods to reignite traditional practices and expose hidden histories".<sup>1</sup>

In this work, the artist draws on Brisbane's colonial history, depicting the remnants of a one square mile exclusion zone around Brisbane, from Boundary St in West End to Boundary Street in Spring Hill. In the past, mounted police patrolled this boundary, protecting European settlers from Indigenous peoples who had been forced from their lands.<sup>2</sup> Such 'boundary' streets are not unique to Brisbane, however many Australian inhabitants, particularly those benefitting from such lineages of white privilege, are unaware of the oppressive histories these geographical markers represent.

McGregor's photograph is both powerful and open-ended, as is her succinct artist statement, "Boundaries still exist".<sup>3</sup> The image takes past practices of exclusion out of the black and white pages of history books, reframing these firmly in the present. In doing so, McGregor uncovers and reclaims this colonial history, retelling it in a way that conveys the past and present resilience of Aboriginal people and traditions in the face of ongoing sociocultural and institutional discrimination.

Carol McGregor this year completed a Bachelor of Fine Art, Honours at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane. She has shown in numerous group and solo shows, including *15 Artists 2013* at the Redcliffe City Art Gallery. In 2013 McGregor was selected as a finalist in the Sunshine Coast Art Prize (3D division), Noosa Regional Gallery, and the Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, Griffith University Art Gallery. In 2012 she was winner of the Queensland College of Art Graduate Art Show and Espresso Garage Awards (GAS Awards), Griffith University Art Gallery.

Nicola Scott, 2013

1. Carol McGregor, artist curriculum vitae 2013

2. Debra Aldred 2003, 'Outside the square', *The Courier Mail*, Queensland Newspapers, 30 September, <<http://www.kooriweb.org/bell/article3.html>>, viewed 13 November 2013

3. Carol McGregor, artist statement 2013