

26 October -  
12 February

# Fading to the Sky

Steve Carr &  
Christian Lamont



*Fading to the Sky* is a collaborative installation by Steve Carr and Christian Lamont developed and exhibited in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland during 2020, and reworked for CoCA's Ō Papa Ground Floor Gallery. On entering the space, the dulled light levels set the psychological, optical and ambulatory register for the exhibition. This simple adjustment to how the room operates not only sets the mood for this encounter, it also governs our primary sense of locating and understanding what is on show.

Time is an all important element in this installation; it is what is needed for one's perception to become accustomed to the room's faded light, and becomes part of the very materiality of Carr's slightly shifting self-portraits that beckon to be walked past and animated rather than stood in front of. It is also signalled in the fluctuating purple haze, whose condition is determined by changing natural light levels being filtered by theatre gels that Lamont has installed on a set of double doors beyond view. There is an inherent unseen or hidden quality at play in these works, embodied in the ambient glow behind the projection screen, and echoed in the projection whose ghost-like sculptures slowly rotate to reveal a strange array of marks and hollows.

This project is the result of Carr's time as a McCahon House resident in Titirangi in early 2020, which was heavily impacted by Covid-19, and his mother's death from lung cancer on 17 April 2020. For Carr, the installation is also a lamentation on loss; at one level it can be seen as a public way of capturing a very intimate moment, while at a more profound level it may be opening up a space for discussing and processing grief that we all share as an audience.

Steve Carr is a senior lecturer at Ilam School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury and Christian Lamont recently completed his Master of Fine Arts at this School, with Carr being one of his co-supervisors. Both artists utilise tropes and devices from the cinematic arts to create installations that make viewers aware of the passage of time and expand the sense of the moment.

*Fading to the Sky* is presented in partnership with the University of Canterbury Ilam School of Fine Arts and CoCA Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki.

- 1 Steve Carr  
*The First Morning*, 2020  
23 framed digital photographic prints
- 2 Christian Lamont  
*Evocation*, 2021  
Digital file played on monitors
- 3 Steve Carr  
*Winter Feeding*, 2016  
HD Cam transferred to digital file
- 4 Christian Lamont  
*Window intervention*, 2021  
Vinyl on glass

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