



Thoughtlines: The art of Ruark Lewis, 1982 - 2014

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A comprehensive monograph on one of Australia's most intriguing yet elusive contemporary artists Ruark Lewis

By James Paull

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Artist, writer-performer and research-curator, Ruark Lewis's work is a fascinating documentary trace of cultural encounters in Australia. His exploration of place and time has seen him work in a truly hybrid manner with language, performance, sound, installation, painting and sculpture. The result is a poetic output of inter-disciplinary character. Lewis has exhibited and performed extensively since 1987 including the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, the Art Galleries of New South Wales and South Australia, the Berlin Poetry Festival and the Sprengel Museum, Hannover. Recently two major surveys in Sydney chronicled the artist's output over a period of thirty years. Exhibition curator James Paull worked closely with Lewis on these shows recording interviews, unpacking the archives and planning the creation of new works. This has been an opportunity to catalogue the artist's output, as well as examine the plethora of models and prototypes and all the planning documents of his major projects.

Artist, writer-performer and research-curator, Ruark Lewis's work is a fascinating documentary trace of cultural encounters in Australia. Born in 1960, Lewis first drew attention for his curatorial project in experimental literature and performance at the Art Gallery of New South Wales during the 1980s. His artistic development saw the production of Transcription Drawing, a self-styled genre whose enigmatic abstract idiom documents the richly progressive thinking that by the century's end has helped calibrate the nation's post-colonial and migrant identity.

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Bengitj Ngurruwuthun is the resident translator, linguist and researcher at Buku-Larnggay Mulka Centre, Yirrkala.

Dr James Paull is a curator, teacher, librarian, freelance writer and researcher.

