

# The Fall of Rome

Patricia Piccinini

Inga Fillary

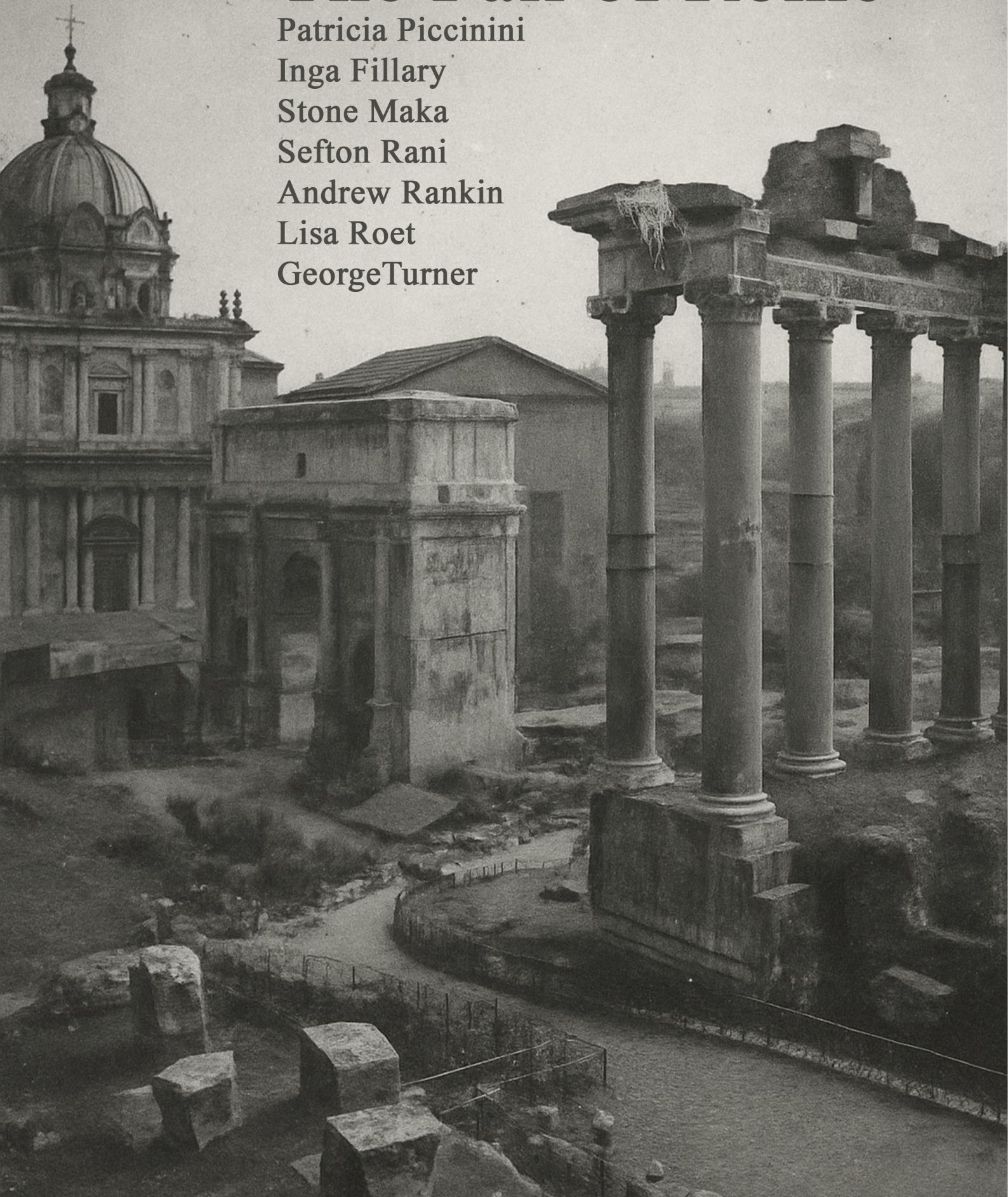
Stone Maka

Sefton Rani

Andrew Rankin

Lisa Roet

George Turner



## THE FALL OF ROME (27 August 27 – 17 September, 2022)

This is an important group show that's centred around a poem written by WH Auden in 1931. The central theme is a dystopian world which seems like it's falling to bits (through corruption, disease and environmental harm... ring any bells?) – but saved by the last stanza which reinforces the idea of hope that nature, if not humanity, will prevail.

This is a minimalist show, quiet and reflective. And I've selected works that offer little incidental moments of nature (because let's face it, we've barely made it central to any aspect of contemporary life under capitalism). Glimpses of sky, a finger, a spider web, etc. It's a show big in scope and presence, but with works that really resonate on an intimate level.

### The Fall of Rome - W. H. Auden

The piers are pummelled by the waves;  
In a lonely field the rain  
Lashes an abandoned train;  
Outlaws fill the mountain caves.

Fantastic grow the evening gowns;  
Agents of the Fisc pursue  
Absconding tax-defaulters through  
The sewers of provincial towns.

Private rites of magic send  
The temple prostitutes to sleep;  
All the literati keep  
An imaginary friend.

Cerebrotonic Cato may  
Extol the Ancient Disciplines,  
But the muscle-bound Marines  
Mutiny for food and pay.

Caesar's double-bed is warm  
As an unimportant clerk  
Writes I DO NOT LIKE MY WORK  
On a pink official form.

Unendowed with wealth or pity,  
Little birds with scarlet legs,  
Sitting on their speckled eggs,  
Eye each flu-infected city.

Altogether elsewhere, vast  
Herds of reindeer move across  
Miles and miles of golden moss,  
Silently and very fast.

Artist Shortlist: Andrew Rankin, Sefton Rani, Lisa Roet, Patricia Piccinini (TBC), Inga Fillary, Stone Maka, and Maxwell (George) Turner.