

RED PILL

Red Pill is an experimental exhibition of artwork, objects and found footage which explores a perceived crisis in contemporary masculinity.

This is an exhibition with an ugly subject - but a subject that is real and existing. It presents this ugly subject with the intention that it attract serious critical scrutiny.

In the 1999 film *The Matrix*, the red pill represented the choice to confront a difficult truth over maintaining a comfortable illusion. 'Taking the red pill' was a decision to refuse the technologically mediated simulation of the matrix, and to instead perceive the apocalyptic real which it concealed.

In 2016, *The Red Pill* is the name of an internet forum for men's rights activists, for whom the 'difficult truth' is the supposedly diminished position of men in a contemporary society dominated by feminist ideology. In this culture's obtuse and misogynistic logic, members attempt to restore the stature of their masculinity through a combination of predatory dating techniques, internet bullying, and self-improvement exercises on the lost masculine arts of grilling steaks, appreciating classical music, and looking good in suits.

Recognising this new style of post-internet activism as a key force in the rise of social extremism and as a seedbed for the next generation of reactionary politics, *Red Pill* attempts to understand the identifiers of a fragile masculinity characterised by dysphoria, anonymity, self-loathing, emasculation, and rage.

This exhibition presents the actors of a hollowed-out ideology, one that privileges emotions - notably outrage and vitriol - over ideas, and reductionism and victimisation over inclusion and education. It considers this culture, and ultimately the nature of post-internet social activism.

1. John Rafman

Still Life (Betamale) (2013), HD video, 4:54

2. Alan Smithee

Pissing Boy (2016), Manneken Pis replica garden fountain, automotive paint, Lynx shower gel, cinema chairs, pine

3. Alan Smithee

Fucking Heavy Spiral (Hidden Depths) (2016), digital print on polystyrene, epoxy resin, acrylic, custom electronics, water, chlorine, Single-channel HD video, 5:01, 4 channel found video looped

4. Alan Smithee

Monster, Absolute Zero (2016), beer fridge, custom electronics, meat pink fluorescent tube, Monster Absolutely Zero, Acqua Di Gio, digital print on tyvek

5. Matthew Greaves

Untitled (Secrets of the female mind) (2013), single channel Auslan translation-video of interview with Suzanne Hindmarsh - 4 minutes looped. Performing artist: Jodee Mundy

6. Matthew Greaves

Untitled (Take back the night) (2013), art-mounted poster, 1189mm x 841 mm

