

7 october - 30 october 2015
artist talks thursday 29 october 6-8pm

gallery 1

SEGUE/SEGWAY PT 2.

Dara Gill

statement

The Segway is a two-wheeled, self-balancing, motorised platform that was the self-proclaimed 'future of transportation'. After the initial awe of the technology wore off, cracks appeared in the futuristic transportation utopia the Segway company wanted for us. It was sent from a bizarre and absurd looking future, built for a city that now seems incomprehensible. Segway has become a novelty, dismissed and ridiculed — now an orphan — it has become the estranged child of invention and progress.

Time Magazine dubbed it the worst invention of all time. Bicycle Police who enthusiastically took up the Segway have become more ridiculed than they were before. The 'Segway Enthusiasts Group of America' were forced to disband after 2 years of existence due to a lack of interest in joining its board. In a bizarre twist of fate the CEO of Segway, Jimi Hesleden, was killed after accidentally riding one of his products off a cliff - only three months after buying the company.

City governments quickly banned its use citing safety concerns for pedestrians and motorists alike, relegating it to 'safe-spaces' such as tourists areas or private land.

SEGUE/SEGWAY PT 2. pays homage to and memorialises this trailblazing invention and its efforts to predict, manipulate and give birth to the future, today. This exhibition is the second installment of the project after the artist's failed attempt to present 'SEGUE/SEGWAY PT 1' which was planned for presentation at Underbelly Arts Festival on Cockatoo Island, Sydney in August 2015. Part 1 was to be a Segway tour of the Island, imagining it as a 'Segway Utopia' in which the infrastructure of the island was transformed to accommodate the device, incorporating new systems such as Segway lanes, signage and traffic management for the device.

The project was ultimately met with 'Segway-phobia' from the Island's stakeholders citing safety concerns and unwillingness to accept the device on its land. Elements from Part 1 will be exhibited in Part 2 alongside new work made specifically for this show.

The exhibition follows the artist's interest on the topic of anxiety and expands on previous work surrounding 'world-anxiety' and the bewildering pace of progress in the 'Age of Anxiety'. The development of this work was supported by the Australia Council's New Work Grant in 2013.

works

clockwise from left

Untitled (Australian Segway Enthusiasts Group Bumper Sticker), 2015

Vinyl Sticker. 21 x 6.9cm
Edition of 200
NFS

Getting Deaned: 12 Hours until D1 and Dean wants a foam version, 2015

Polyurethane foam. Dimensions variable.
NFS

Untitled (Power Failure), 2015

Inkjet print. 89 x 62cm
Edition of 5 + 2 AP
\$550ea

Untitled (Prototype Segway Lane), 2015

Timbre, acrylic, vinyl, safety flags. 240cm x 90cm x 30cm.
NFS

Untitled (Australian Segway Enthusiasts Group Feasibility Study), 2015

Dual channel high definition video. 46m:22s
NFS

Untitled (Segway Death Wobble), 2015

Inkjet print. 89 x 62 cm.
Edition of 5 + 2 AP
\$550ea

Untitled (ISO Standards Submission: 'No Segway'), 2015

Custom designed aluminium sign, chrome pole. Dimensions variable.
NFS

Untitled (Inverted Pendulum/Self Balancing Robot), 2014-2015

3D printed enclosure, custom PCB, Arduino Nano, 6 Degrees of Freedom IMU (accelerometer & gyroscope), dual motor driver board, two 100:1 micro metal gear motors, 2 plastic press fit wheels, two 1200mAh Polymer Lithium Ion Battery, rubber, glass, water, timbre. Dimensions Variable.
NFS

Containing aspects of open source projects; PIDDYBOT by Sean Hodgins and the Freemu Library by Fabio Varesano.

Untitled (Australian Segway Enthusiasts Group Uniform), 2015

Embroidered tracksuits. Dimensions variable.
NFS

Untitled (Shelved Project), 2015

Paper, basket, rubber bands. Dimensions variable.
NFS

Untitled (Jimi Heselden, 1948 - 2010), 2015

Untitled (Dean Kamer, 1951 -), 2015
Outsourced oil on canvas. 122 x 91cm
\$1500 for set
Painted by Qigong Jiang from Europic Art & Craft Co. Ltd, Xiamen, China.

firstdraft

biography

Dara Gill was born in 1986 in Sydney Australia where he currently lives and works.

Gill holds a BCA in Visual Art & Design from the University of Wollongong, 2007 and a BA (Honors) in Fine Art (Sculpture) from the University of New South Wales, Art and Design, Sydney, 2009.

His solo exhibitions include; Non-Sense, Barry Keldoulis Gallery, Sydney, 2012; In action, Inaction Kings ARI, Melbourne, 2012 and MOP Projects, Sydney, 2011; Unwish, Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney, 2010.

Selected group exhibitions include; John Fries Memorial Prize, 2013 Finalists exhibition, curated by Sebastian Goldspink, Gaffa Galleries, Sydney, 2013; The Impossibility of Possibility, curated by Sarah Wermeister, Bus Projects, Melbourne, 2012; Near Earth Art, curated by What, Wollongong City Gallery, NSW, 2012; We Need You, You Need Us, curated by Georgie Meagher, Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney 2012; Redlands Westpac Art Prize, NAS Gallery, Sydney, 2012; Young Art Taipei 2012, Sheraton Hotel, Taipei, 2012; SafARI 2012, curated by Danielle Robson & Nina Stromqvist, Alaska Projects, Sydney, 2012; Hatched National Graduate Exhibition, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, 2008. Gill was a director at Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney in 2010-2012 and currently sits on the SafARI Sydney board. He is also director of Kudos Gallery at the University of New South Wales.

special thanks

The crew at Firstdraft, Kate MacDonald, Micheal Challita, Will French, Georgie Meagher, Peta Farago, Hugh Burridge, Tommy Thoms, Alex Tanazefiti, Claudia Roosen, Tatski Kamekawa, Malcolm Whittaker, Laura Ceaser, Emma Bathgate, Francois Limondin, Kamila Shepherd, Karam Hussain, Belinda Dustan, Jackson Davis, Carly Young, Arc @ UNSW & Australian Federal Police.

gallery 2

**new ceremony
kate beckingham and benjamin
chadbond**

gallery 3

**lookout (objects in mirror)
georgia hutchinson**

gallery 4

**our fetid rank (margaret thatcher's
bottom lip and bill clinton's tongue)
emily parsons-lord**

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firstdraft.org.au**

Firstdraft is supported by the
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