

# SEX BOMBS BLISS &

NEW WORK BY JONAH CACIOPPE

OPENING NIGHT WEDNESDAY 21 MAY. 6-8PM

AT THE *emerge* ART SPACE  
23 BRISBANE STREET. PERTH  
AUSTRALIA. 6000

OPENING TIMES  
WED 21 MAY - SUN 8 JUNE 2008  
WED TO SAT - 11AM-4PM SUN 2-5PM

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PRESS PACK / INFO

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## PRESS RELEASE

After last year's sell out show in London, Perth raised painter Jonah Cacioppe returns to Perth for his first solo show at emerge ART SPACE. Following on from the London show, also titled 'Sex, Bombs & Bliss', Jonah has produced a body of work addressing the enduring themes of beauty, death and the sublime.

Jonah's series of large semi-abstract oil paintings are taken from imagery of the night bombing of Baghdad (the 'Shock and Awe' campaign of 2003), the work also draws on imagery from early nuclear bomb tests. While researching for the show Jonah came across an interview with Robert Oppenheimer (director of the 'Manhattan Project' that developed the first nuclear bomb), that reflects relationship between such opposites as death and creation, violence and awe. After the first nuclear bomb was tested Oppenheimer described the event:

"We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried, and most people were silent, and then we read the line from the Hindu scripture the Bhagavad Gita. Krishna is trying to persuade the prince that he should do his duty and to impress him he takes on his multi armed form, and says; 'Now I am become Siva (Death) the destroyer of worlds.' I suppose we all thought that one way or another."

In hindu mythology Siva is the creator of this world and also its destroyer, Jonah was intrigued by how the same physics law that powered the sun and generated life could also be used to develop the most destructive weapon.

Cacioppe's paintings juxtapose the horrors of war with the awe one feels when faced with such overwhelming force, they don't intend to glorify war but rather explore the sublime in contemporary experience.

Originally from Perth, Jonah studied painting at Curtin University and has a Masters of Studio Arts from Sydney College of the Arts, he also trained in London for several years and recently returned to Perth after several years abroad. He has exhibited extensively including London, Oxford, Perth, Sydney, Melbourne's Metro 5 and is having his first solo show with the emerge ART SPACE.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

Opening times: Wed - Sat, 11am-4pm, Sun 2-5pm or by appointment  
Dates: Wed 21 May - Sun 8 June 2008  
Admission: free  
Venue: emerge ART SPACE  
23 Brisbane Street (east of the Brisbane Hotel)  
Perth, Australia. 6000  
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