

BIOGRAPHY

Dani Marti was born in 1963 in Barcelona, Spain. He lives and works in Sydney, Australia and Glasgow, Scotland. Marti works across video, installation and public art. Each work constitutes an intimate portrait of an encounter, challenging conventions around portraiture. His unorthodox woven and filmic works turns to wider notions of portraiture and sexuality in Modernism, Minimalism, and geometric abstraction.

Since 1998, Marti has held over 35 solo exhibitions and he has recently shown in *Obey!*, Mutacana100, Chile (2015), *Adelaide Biennial* (2014), *Your Nostalgia is Killing Me*, GoMA, Brisbane (2014), *Nervous Tension*, Careof, Milan, Italy (2014), *VIDEONALE 14*, Kunstmuseum, Bonn (2013), *Economy*, CCA Glasgow and Stills, Edinburgh (2013) and *TOUCH: The portraiture of Dani Marti*, (2011) a major solo retrospective at Newcastle Region Art Gallery. His work is held in many major public and private collections including the MCA, Sydney; GoMA, Brisbane; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Newcastle Art Gallery, Australia and MUSAC, Leon, Spain.

The first major monograph of his work was published by Hatje Cantz in 2012. Dani Marti is represented by GAGPROJECTS | Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide, ARC ONE GALLERY, Melbourne and Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney.

www.danimarti.com

LIST OF WORKS

Golden Years, 2014, 4K video, 8:31 mins duration, sound design by Alex Macia

Llorana, 2007, digital video, 4:3, 16:50 mins duration

Mother (Composition in White and Green), 2014–2015, second-hand necklaces and beads on powder coated aluminium frame, 170 x 170 x 9cm

Mother (Composition in Red), 2014–2015, second-hand necklaces and beads on powder coated aluminium frame, 170 x 170 x 9cm

Mother (Composition in Black and Blue), 2014–2015, second-hand necklaces and beads on powder coated aluminium frame, 170 x 170 x 9cm

Mother (Composition in Gold), 2015, second-hand necklaces and beads on powder coated aluminium frame, 170 x 170 x 9cm

Notes for Bob (Take 1–6), take 6/6, 2013, polyester and nylon on wood frame, All works 60 x 60 x 7cm

Notes for Bob, 2013, polyester and nylon on wood frame, 150 x 150 x 7cm

Notes for Bob, 2015, stereo sound installation, 10:58 mins duration, sound design by Alex Macia, funded by the Australia Council for the Arts

Notes for Bob (Embrace), 2015, 4k video, 6:00 mins duration, funded by the Australia Council for the Arts

Prelude 1, 2015, customized corner cube reflectors and glass beads on aluminium frame, 345cm diameter x 50cm depth

Prelude 1, 2015, customized corner cube reflectors and glass beads on aluminium frame, 125cm diameter x 33cm depth

Shield – Study for a Portrait – Take 1, 2015, stainless steel braided hose, polyester, nylon, rubber and leather on aluminium frame, 180 x 140 x 30cm

Shield – Study for a Portrait – Take 2, 2015, stainless steel braided hose, polyester, nylon, rubber and leather on aluminium frame, 180 x 140 x 30cm

Shield – Study for a Portrait – Take 3, 2015, stainless steel braided hose, polyester, nylon, rubber and leather on aluminium frame, 180 x 140 x 30cm

The Pleasure Chest (Composition in White), 2015, second-hand necklaces and beads on powder coated aluminium frame, 190 x 260 x 9cm

The Pleasure Chest (Composition in Black), 2015, second-hand necklaces and beads on powder coated aluminium frame, 190 x 260 x 9cm

The Pleasure Chest (Composition in Wood), 2014–2015, second-hand necklaces and beads on powder coated aluminium frame, 190 x 260 x 9cm

Time, 2013, galvanised and stainless steel scourers on aluminium frame, 250 x 370 x 40cm

All images courtesy the Artist; GAGPROJECTS | Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide; ARC ONE GALLERY, Melbourne; and Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney

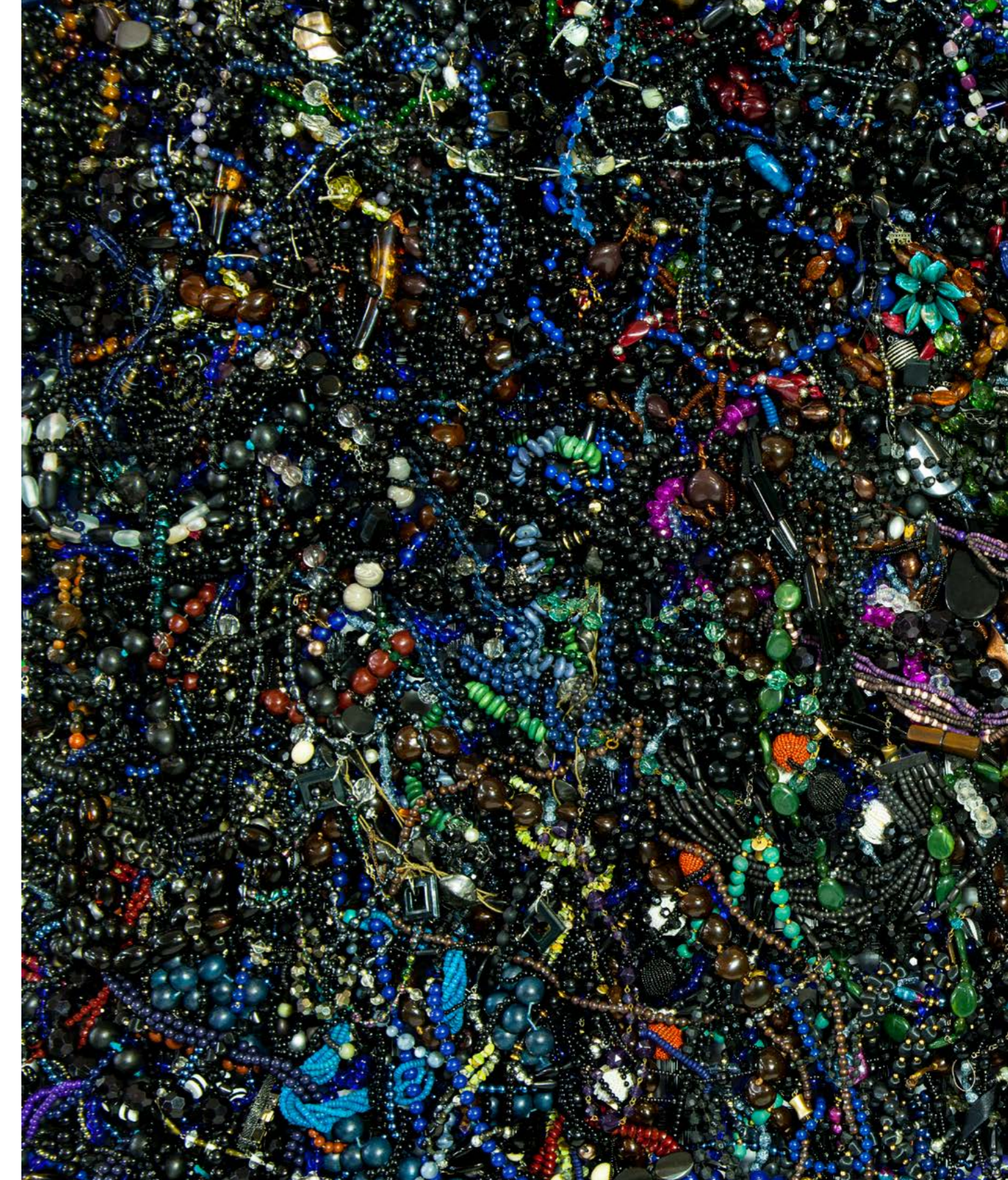


FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE & PERTH INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENT

DANI MARTI

BLACK SUN

7 FEB – 28 MAR 2016



DANI MARTI: WEAVING A BLACK SUN

Black Sun is Dani Marti's first solo show in Western Australia. Including never before shown woven and video works, **Black Sun** brings pieces straight from Marti's studio, with work from the series *Mother*, *The Treasure Chest*, *Notes for Bob* and *Time*. **Black Sun** also includes the newly commissioned *Prelude*, an imposingly large woven circle incorporating customised corner cube reflectors and glass beads.

Black Sun is both seductive and confronting. Marti uniquely combines video and textiles to create portraits reflecting encounters with family, lovers and strangers. His works are intense in their scrutiny, alive in their passion and ask poignant questions about sexuality, intimacy and the efficacy of relationships.

The woven works in *Black Sun* are simultaneously abstract and full of material meaning. They are a luscious monochrome of blacks and greys, interspersed with sensual dark reds and purples and occasionally interlaced with green, yellow or white. The colours and materials Marti selects are directly influenced by his memory and impression of his encounters with his subject. These are portraits, not in a "likeness" but as abstracted residue of moments. Incredibly tactile and visceral, Marti's portraits exude lushness built around trust, power and play; they engage belief in portrayal while understanding its impossibility. In this sense their surface abstraction makes for the only honest representation possible when attempting to capture what is beyond appearance, what is lived through the senses and remembered by the body. Each bead, each reflector, each necklace is painstakingly placed as a physical acknowledgement of a time, place and subject – and like all moving memorials, Marti's work is deeply personal and revealing.

Showing among the woven pieces, Marti's video work draws from the sensual nature of personal encounters. Filmed as close-ups with restricted depth of field, the video works in *Black Sun* (*Llorana*, *Notes for Bob* and *Golden Years*) imbue a claustrophobic, engulfed experience for the viewer, pulling you into the scene through an almost uncomfortably over-familiar use of the lens. *Llorana* is a touching, powerful piece of video narrative documentation. Showing the artist's mother crying on a nearly 17min loop, the intensity of the work is only matched by its sombre sensitivity. Likewise *Notes for Bob*, both in its audio and video state allows us to venture into the fetish world of a blind man whose sexual experiences are derived through sound and touch. Shot on a recent Australia Council residency in New York, *Notes for Bob* is documented in a beautifully supportive manner, allowing us entrance into Bob's world of desire and need.

Dani Marti was born in Barcelona, Spain and now lives and works in Sydney, Australia and Glasgow, Scotland. His internationality as an artist and experiences across the globe enable these ambitious yet very personal works. Since 1998, Marti has held over 35 solo exhibitions, *Black Sun* at Fremantle Arts Centre is a unique opportunity to view a selection of new, elegant and vulnerable works by this internationally acclaimed textile and portrait artist.

RIC SPENCER · CURATOR · FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE



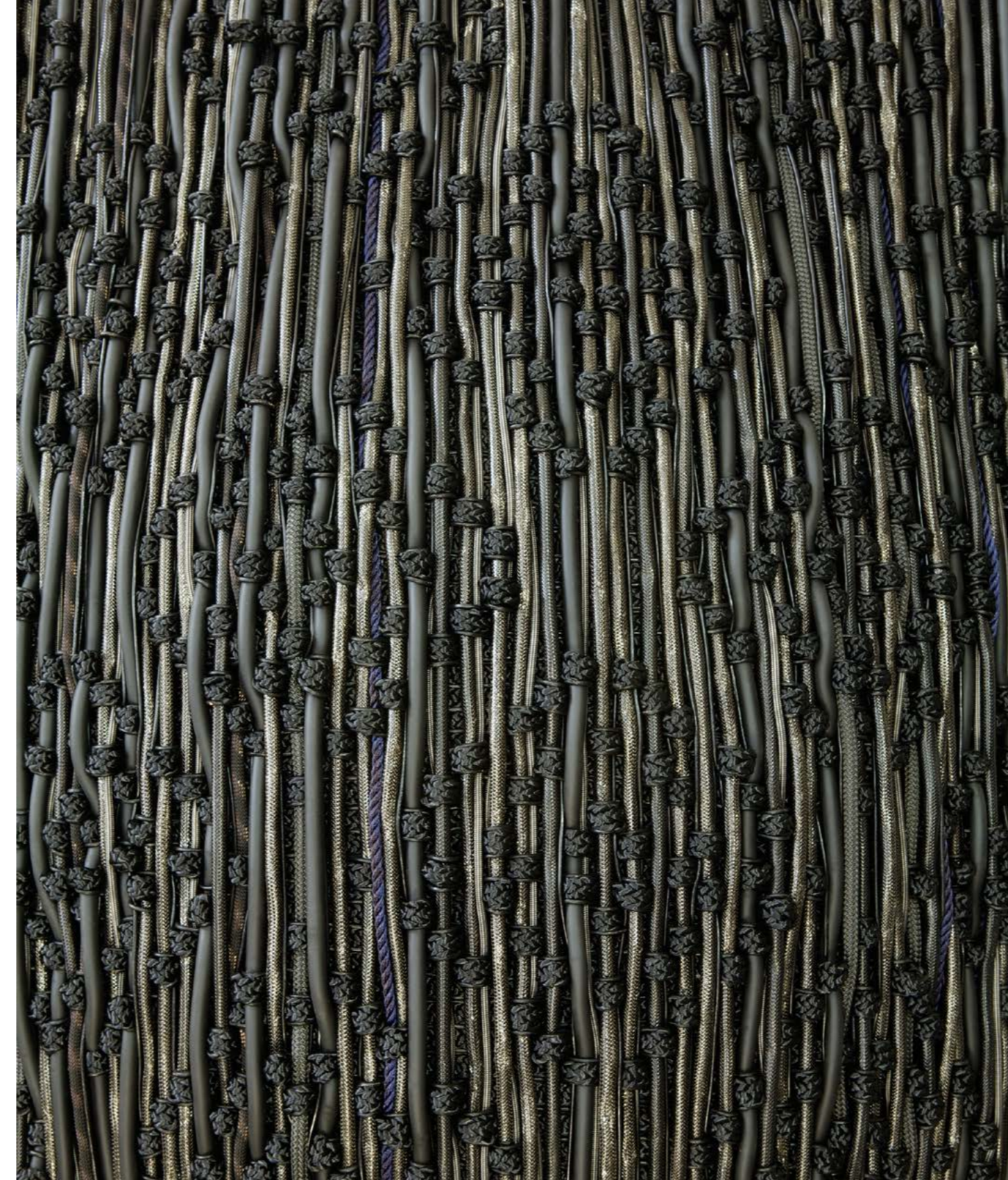
COVER *Prelude* 1, 2015, customised corner, cube reflectors and glass beads on aluminium frame, 125cm diameter x 33cm depth



ABOVE LEFT *Shield – Study for a Portrait – Take 1*, 2015, stainless steel braided hose, polyester, nylon, rubber and leather on aluminium frame, 180 x 140 x 30cm

ABOVE RIGHT *Notes for Bob*, 2013, polyester and nylon on wood frame, 150 x 150 x 7cm

RIGHT *Shield – Study for a Portrait – Take 2*, 2015, stainless steel braided hose, polyester, nylon, rubber and leather on aluminium frame, 180 x 140 x 30cm



TOP *Golden Years*, 2014, 4K video, 8:31 mins duration, sound design by Alex MacIa

MIDDLE *Notes for Bob*, (*Embrace*), 2015, 4K video, 6:00 mins duration, funded by the Australia Council for the Arts

BOTTOM *Llorana*, 2007, digital video, 4:3, 16:50 mins duration