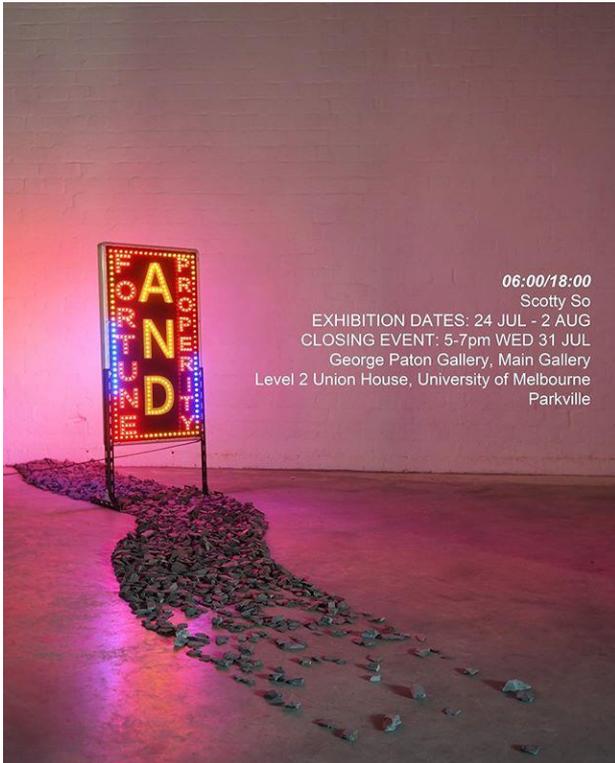


## SCOTTY SO – 06:00 / 18:00

TYLER MEREDITH



Embedded in ambiguity, Scotty So's newest exhibition at the George Paton Gallery *06:00/18:00* highlights the artist's desire to create a place which is unrecognisable.

Growing up in Hong Kong, So moved to Melbourne to study and claims that "I felt like I had a panic attack the first two weeks!" With no family in Australia, the transition between the highly urbanized environment of Hong Kong and the suburban landscape of Melbourne's inner suburbs was difficult for So and forms the basis for this exhibition.

The title piece of the show, *06:00/18:00* (2018) is coined from 'the blue hour'; according to the artist, "With that hour there is the illusion that it is either night or day. [This is clear] When you wake up in the morning and it is blue outside and the streetlights are still on, [it is the same] when you're on your way back home and the sun has just gone down, and the streetlights are beginning to turn back on". It is this uncertainty

which creates a space that allows the viewer complete freedom, it no longer matters whether it is 6am or 6pm, as seen in the work with the orange light on the white billboard, projecting the illusion of time and space.

This theme is carried on throughout the exhibition, particularly in the piece *I love Straya and Straya loves me*, (2019). This work brings together a fusion of stereotypical Australian culture: a backyard party and the fast-paced environment of a club through the introduction of a bar fridge with real plants growing inside. It is this combination and obvious contrast which highlights the desire of the artist to represent both cultures' experiences. Similarly, the road sign suspended by the motor of a disco ball "Is a symbol of translocation, which is seemingly heteronormative," says So. Taking inspiration from the work of an artist such as Marcel Duchamp, So finds gratification in the repurposing of found objects and the creation of a 'Readymade' with an affinity for reproduction, much like Andy Warhol. Placing the words of a Spice Girls song "Stop right now" on the side of a stop sign transfigures the meaning of a well-known and traditionally camp song onto a masculine image influenced by a symbol of 'non-place', synonymous of spaces such as an airport or gas station.

According to So, each work within this exhibition is based upon the understanding that "There are two ways to see the world; for example, the sun is always moving, or, the sun never moves. They are both true, it is just a different perspective of looking into the sun". Through the creation of a collision between two places; the city and the suburbs, or night and day, *06:00/18:00* elicits the understanding that although each artwork may vary in its nuanced meaning, the overarching theme of the exhibition is the realisation that there is much more to life in the grey areas rather than the black and white ones. So takes this view strongly in the production and display of his work and as a result has self-curated an extraordinary exhibition of work that pushes a spectator to re-evaluate the way they view the world.

Tyler Meredith is an Art History student studying at University of Melbourne.