

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 SEPTEMBER 2019

Missing Persons invites you to Michael Lindsey Davison's photography exhibition and book launch, *Some Cell Sites* on Friday, 4 October from 6:00–8:00pm.

Some Cell Sites is Davison's recent exploration of mobile phone base stations across Australia.

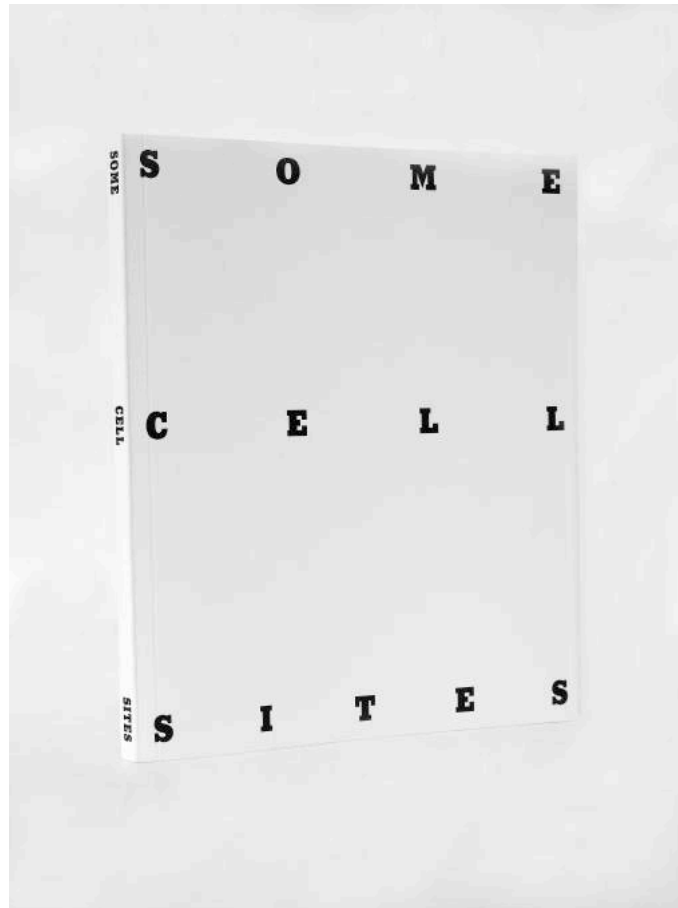


1 Ballarto Rd, Carrum Downs, part of the series 'Some Cell Sites', 2019, Archival inkjet pigment print, 60cm x 60cm

Melbourne is in the throes of a real estate and infrastructure boom. However, another type of boom is flourishing largely unnoticed. Atop of rooftops, defunct silos, churches and government offices, telecommunication companies have installed mobile phone base stations—everywhere. Otherwise known as 'cell sites', over the last decade they have become central to government and corporate surveillance strategies; but they are also essential to how we come to acquire knowledge, how we navigate through the city, and how we communicate with each other.

Some Cell Sites makes visible how this indispensable infrastructure has altered the urban and rural landscape. Employing humour as a point of departure, some of the images from the series often elude to the dystopian motifs of urban decay and alien invasions: many photographs in the series document how some base stations blend in with their surroundings to such a degree the effect is either humorous or deeply unsettling.

The artist book Davison has produced, and which will be launched on the opening night of the exhibition, features 35 cell sites from the hundreds that he photographed across Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. The book includes an essay, which examines contemporary digital culture and its effect on society. Also included are several entries from Davison's notebooks that reflect on his experience photographing cell sites across the country.



Some Cell Sites (cover), 2019, Paperback with glassine jacket, 52 pages, 18cm x 14 cm, edition of 400. Designed and published by the artist

The publication mirrors Ed Ruscha's classic artist books from the 1960s and 1970s. Davison was drawn to Ruscha's books because, for him, "through repetition and difference, something mundane can be seen as significant. Ruscha photographed apartment buildings, parking lots and palm trees. I wanted to do something similar for cell sites."

Each copy of *Some Cell Sites* will be presented with a second volume of text and images called *Some Archival Material*, a work of speculative fiction that describes a world dominated by art-loving cyborgs, who also, among other pursuits, traffic in human cargo.

About the artist:

Michael Lindsey Davison is a Melbourne based photographer and writer (born in Manila, Philippines) who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Monash University in 2010. His interest lies in the geographical and psychological changes that have occurred due to the rise of mobile phones and social media. His research in this area has led him to permanently give up all mobile phone use.

Davison has exhibited his work in Australia and has participated in major book fairs including the *Zine Fair*, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2019; *Melbourne Art Book Fair* (with Bus Projects), National Gallery of Victoria, 2019; and *Self Made: Zines and Artists Books*, State Library of Victoria, 2017. Davison's recent artist books include *Contagion* (2018), *YAAAS!* (2018) and *PLANTBOY* (2017).

His writing has been published in *The Lifted Brow*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Arena Magazine* and *The Age*. See more from the artist: <http://michaellindseydavison.com>

Exhibition: 5 – 6 October 2019

Exhibition opening: Friday 4 October, 6–8pm

Hours Sat 12–6pm and Sun 12–4pm

Location: Missing Persons, Nicholas Building, Room 11-12, Level 4, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

For sales and media enquiries please contact:

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