



Alex Valero: A Grey Mirror

"Do I 'have' a mind? Or am I a mind?"

Creating a seamlessly synonymous investigation between material and mind, Alex Valero presents *A Grey Mirror*.

Since his first encounters with glassblowing in his studies at the University of South Australia, Valero has been fascinated by the material and the challenges of working with glass. Completing his visual arts degree with a specialisation in glass he went on to become an Associate of the training program at JamFactory in 2015, where he was immersed in the world of studio glass, learning traditional craft skills and working as part of a production team.

Valero's practice is known for its strong conceptual drive whilst technically, he is inspired by science. Valero aims to expand the sculptural possibilities of the material by pushing and combining traditional techniques in unconventional ways considering the crafts processes. "After all, the distinction between artifact, process, and observer has parallels with how we talk about art" he says.

Concerned with how the materials limitations can influence his freedom as a maker as much as the finished product, Valero provides an almost Lynch-esque landscape inviting the viewer into the depths of grey uncertainty; to doubt our existence as we think it. "*A Grey Mirror* attempts to capture the cloudy and contradictory nature of my responses to this question of mind. With this body of work, I am arguing for the primacy of process, in craft and the mind".

Each installation, each process accesses a different part of the psyche. Valero's sculptural works are intriguing. Using not only glass, Valero pushes the boundaries of traditional glass display and exhibition presentation by involving digital media, sculpture, light and wood, he creates a story beyond commentary, infused with each reader's own internal narrative. In making this work, Valero says he has tried to capture in physical form, the questions that bounce around in his brain "problems of perspective, of infinite regress, of fuzzy definitions, and of broken metaphors".

Winner of the emerging category of the JamFactory inaugural FUSE glass prize in 2016 with GRAVE (INFRA & ULTRA). Valero currently shares a studio space in Adelaide's CBD and continues to assist other artists at JamFactory's Glass Studio.

JamFactory acknowledges the support and assistance of Arts South Australia and is assisted by the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments. JamFactory is also assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Major Partners:



Presenting Partners:



Supporting Partners:



Government Partners:

