Alex Prager is a self-taught photographer and filmmaker who lives and works in Los Angeles. She was inspired to take up photography after seeing the colour photographs of American artist William Eggleston in 1999. Since 2007 Prager has exhibited her work regularly, including at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC; and Foam Museum, Amsterdam. Prager has also contributed fashion editorial work to publications such as Vogue and W Magazine, and her short film Touch of Evil, commissioned by The New York Times Magazine,won a 2012 Emmy Award.

Prager is renowned for enigmatic narrative tableaux in which she creates intensely emotive, technicolour scenes using a strangely familiar cast of characters. The immaculately groomed women in her work, wearing wigs and fake eyelashes and adorned in retro fashion, resemble actors in mid twentieth-century Hollywood films. Prager’s photographs present melodramatic scenes and her short films present unresolved stories that leave the viewer curious about the protagonists’ past, present and future.

This is the first Alex Prager solo exhibition to be held in Australia, and surveys her practice from the Polyester series, 2007, to her most recent body of work, Face in the Crowd, 2013.

**Photographs from left to right, around the outer edges of the walls:**

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Kimberly

2008

type C photograph

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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3:32pm Coldwater Canyon and Eye #5

2012

pigment print

Collection of Cathy and Jonathan Miller, New York

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7:12pm Redcliff Ave and Eye #10

2012

pigment print

Collection of Cathy and Jonathan Miller, New York

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La petite mort#4

2012

pigment print

Collection of Dr Clinton Ng, Sydney

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La petite mort #5

2012

pigment print

Collection of Dr Clinton Ng, Sydney

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La petite mort #6

2012

pigment print

Collection of Dr Clinton Ng, Sydney

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Maggie

2009

type C photograph

Collection of Dr Clinton Ng, Sydney

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Cathy

2009

type C photograph

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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Crowd #2 (Emma)

2012

pigment print

Collection of Dr Clinton Ng, Sydney

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Crowd #9 (Sunset Five)

2013

pigment print

Bowness Family Fund for Contemporary Photography, 2014

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Crowd #11 (Cedar and Broad Street)

2013

pigment print

Bowness Family Fund for Contemporary Photography, 2014

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Molly

2009

type C photograph

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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Eve

2008

type C photograph

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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Julie

2007

type C photograph

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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Irene

2010

type C photograph

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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Film stills

2010

from the *Despair* series 2010

pigment print

Collection of Jeff Vespa, Los Angeles

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Film in inner gallery:

Face in the crowd

2013

three-channel colour digital video projection, sound, 11 min 52 sec, ed. 1/3

Bowness Family Fund for Contemporary Photography, 2014

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Films projected on rotation:

Despair

2010

colour high definition digital video, sound, 4 min 26 sec

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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Sunday

2010

colour digital video, sound, 1 min 9 sec

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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La petite mort

2012

colour high definition digital video, sound, 7 min 2 sec

Collection of the artist, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong

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