

## LUCAS DAVIDSON

### Why pay attention?

Interdisciplinary Sydney artist **Lucas Davidson** first came into view in 2011 when he won Dominik Mersch Gallery's prize for Sydney College of the Arts' graduates. Since then he's set a cracking pace, staging nine solo exhibitions, including one in Miami, and taking part in group exhibitions across the country and as far afield as Berlin. Earlier this year, he was curated into the video platform at Art Stage Singapore. His work has also been included in the Redlands Art Prize, Fisher's Ghost Art Prize, Gold Coast Art Prize, Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photo Award and the Alice Prize, among others.

### What does he do?

Davidson works across installation, photography and video. At MOP in Sydney last year he exhibited a tangled mess of metal bars with video screens bolted at intervals. For the video, he began with a photographic self-portrait, separating it from its backing and placing the emulsion in the water. He then recorded the pieces as they drifted and broke apart – a fluid take on identity. His installations also refer to flux by leaving cables exposed and laying bare the method of the work's construction and possible deconstruction.

### What's it about?

Davidson's work warns not to get too comfortable with what you think you know. He is interested in flux and impermanence, particularly in relation to the self and the human condition. His works are often disjointed and allow for multiple interpretations. Many of the works also play with and confound the idea that there might be an inner, and therefore true, nature to things.

### The artist says...

"I'm interested in how consciousness threads together pieces of information to create a (seemingly) permanent sense of self. My works often present a fragmented image of the body, which allows for a variety of interpretations and acknowledges identity as a process of continual change."

### You can see it at...

Lucas Davidson has two solo exhibitions this quarter, *Habitual Loop* at The Substation in Melbourne until 10 May 2015 and *Untitled (Flatscreens)* at Dominik Mersch Gallery in Sydney from 30 April. He will also have a solo exhibition at Australian National Capital Artists in Canberra in August.

– JANE O'SULLIVAN

1. // Lucas Davidson, *Another self-portrait*, 2014. Multi-channel video installation. COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND ARCHIVE\_, SYDNEY

2. // Lucas Davidson *The weight of water*, 2014. Multi-channel video installation. COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND LINDEN CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS, MELBOURNE

3. // Lucas Davidson, *Pattern recognition*, 2015. Mixed media. COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND NAS GALLERY, SYDNEY

