

Julian Meagher

Artist Statement

In 1989 David Boon set the record for the most number of beers drunk between Sydney and London on a single flight and has since remained unchallenged as the quintessential Australian male legend. What have orchids to do with Boonie?

Orchida - is the Greek word for testicles and the flower was named that because to the ancients the roots resembled balls; they were ground down into goat's milk (Satyr?) as an aphrodisiacal drink. In Meagher's latest show these balls now sit within empty beer bottles of promised glory, from which grow delicate female flowers.

In this show Meagher continues his take on the binary nature of modern day masculinity. As Norman Mailer points out, masculinity is not something given, but something gained. It is through Meagher's work that these "small battles" are undertaken; they are a performance of masculinity, continued and pursued. With a painting style that adopts oil paints and executes them as though they were watercolours, we are presented with field studies that create a portal through which we may contemplate instances of cultural reckoning.