Nick Modrzewski

The Plaintiff's Third Face

9 July - 21 August, 2021

COMA

COMA is pleased to present *The Plaintiff's Third Face*, a new body of work by Melbourne-based artist Nick Modrzewski, on view 9 July - 21 August, 2021 in the gallery.

Viewing modern day law and its associated practices through a theatrical and historical lens, *The Plaintiff's Third Face* suggests that to exist in the legal system, a series of 'faces', disguises or masks must be worn. The presentation looks at how the law uses 'masking' to construct an elaborate fictional universe, populated by characters who are written into existence during legal disputes. Plaintiffs, defendants, debtors, creditors, judges and legislators all act their parts in both the real and imagined processes of law.

Drawing on historical and contemporary sources, Modrzewski unpacks how legal ideas travel through time and space. The rituals of law are performed across different artistic mediums: a public accusation is rendered in paint; a judgment is etched into an ancient scroll, and an arsenal of floppy sculptural weaponry is used to enforce a debt. One thing is for certain: to be visible in the eyes of the law, it is necessary to adorn one of its many masks.

Nick Modrzewski holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Victorian College of the Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne. He has exhibited locally and internationally, including at Discordia (Melbourne); First Draft (Sydney); the Institute of Contemporary Arts (Singapore); Blindside (Melbourne); Fort Delta (Melbourne); KINGS ARI (Melbourne); OH Open House (Singapore); and the Australian High Commission (Singapore). His writing has been published by Running Dog; Art & Australia; Monash University Museum of Art; un Magazine; Writing & Concepts; the Lifted Brow; Fireflies; VRE Books and The Research Handbook on Art and Law. Nick is the co-chair of West Space.

Nick Modrzewski
The Evening of the Legislative Assembly (Face Swap), 2021
acrylic on board
powder coated welded steel frame
185 x 151 cm framed
72 13/16 x 59 7/8 inches framed

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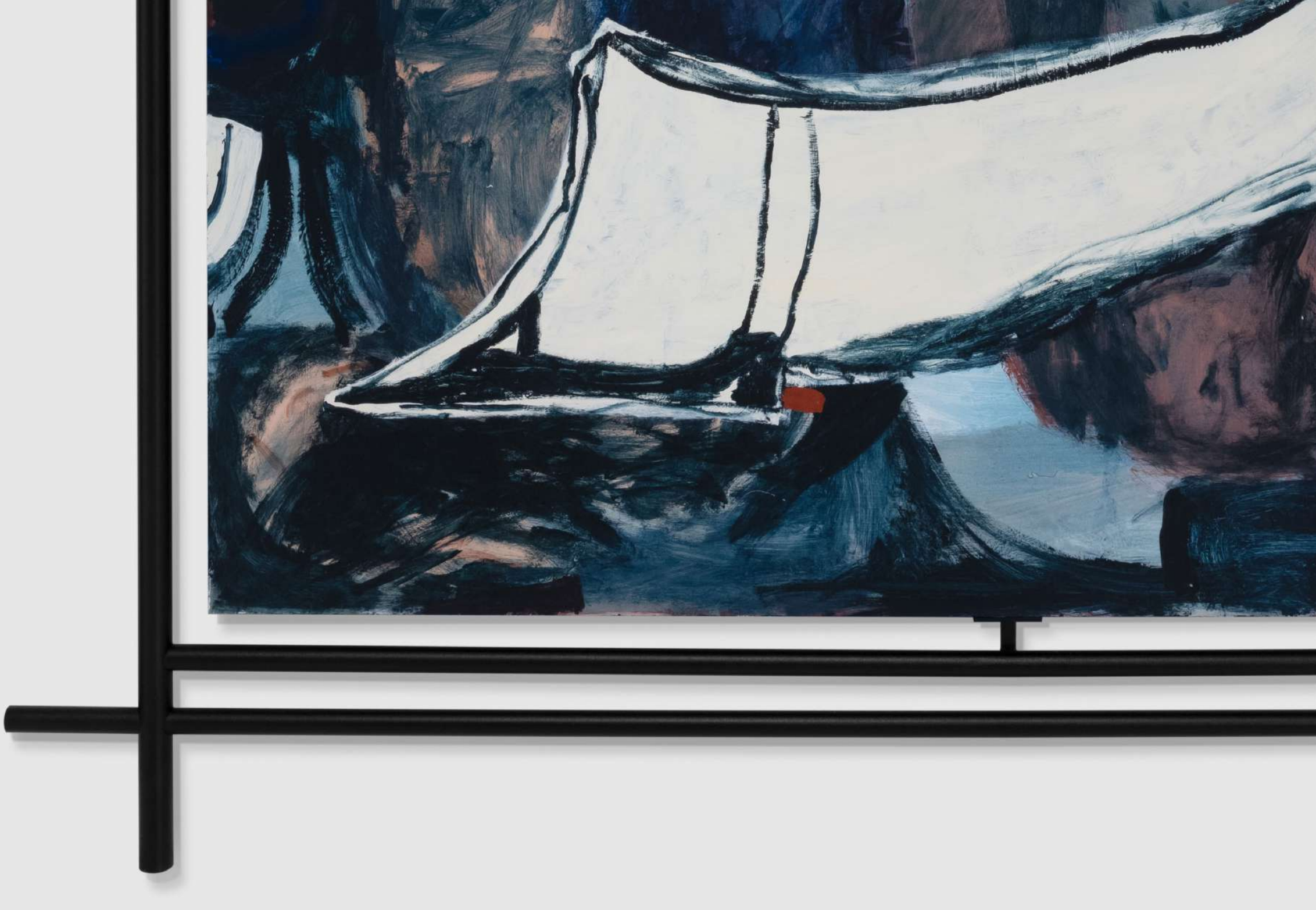

Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the
Pronounced Accuser, 2021
acrylic on board
powder coated welded steel frame
159 x 146 cm framed
62 19/32 x 57 15/32 inches framed

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Nick Modrzewski
Facial Delivery Service (Evening), 2021
acrylic on board
powder coated welded steel frame
92 x 80 cm framed
36 7/32 x 31 1/2 inches framed

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Nick Modrzewski
Armoury, 2021
acrylic on board
powder coated welded steel frame
185 x 151 cm framed
72 13/16 x 59 7/8 inches framed

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Nick Modrzewski
Facial Chamber, 2021
acrylic on board
powder coated welded steel frame
156 x 121 cm framed
61 13/32 x 47 5/8 inches framed

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Nick Modrzewski
Masks 1-4, 2021
Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski

Masks 5-8, 2021

Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski
Masks 9-12, 2021
Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski
Masks 13-16, 2021
Further details see reference page

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"I feel compelled to pull apart law, language and the body, only to stick them all back together again in a hodgepodge of flopping, jostling parts."

- Nick Modrzewski

Nick Modrzewski
Masks 17-20, 2021
Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski

Masks 21-24, 2021

Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski

Masks 25-28, 2021

Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski
Masks 29-32, 2021
Further details see reference page

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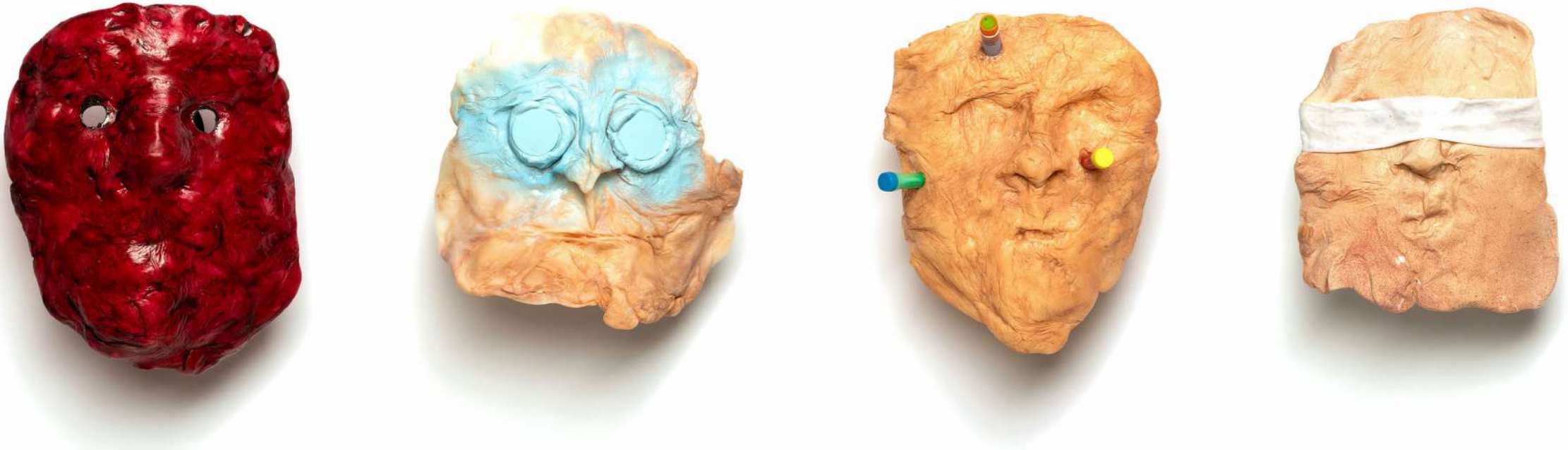

Nick Modrzewski

Masks 33-36, 2021

Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski
Masks 37-40, 2021
Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski

Masks 41-44, 2021

Further details see reference page

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“Counsel for the Defendant asserted that section 12(a)(ii) of the Faces, Heads and Miscellaneous Neck Parts Act requires me to find against the Plaintiff on the basis of his repeated shifts in facial appearance.”

- Justice Ortold in Beckshire v Handleman 36 AR 214

Nick Modrzewski
Masks 45-48, 2021
Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski

Masks 49-52, 2021

Further details see reference page

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Nick Modrzewski

Masks 53-54, 2021

Further details see reference page

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1. Nick Modrzewski
Jester, 2021
mouldable plastic, screw, resin, oil based pigment, epoxy resin glue
16 x 14 x 6 cm
6 1/3 x 5 1/2 x 2 1/3 inches

2. Nick Modrzewski
The Esteemend Facade of a Magistrade Presiding Over a Fencing Dispute, 2021
mouldable plastic, metal fence post, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
36 x 26 x 5 cm
14 1/4 x 10 1/4 x 2 inches

3. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Promissory Estoppel, 2021
mouldable plastic, screws, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
17 x 20 x 9 cm
6 5/8 x 7 7/8 x 3 1/2 inches

4. Nick Modrzewski
Judicial Restraint, 2021
mouldable plastic, felt, oil-based pigment, epoxy resin glue
25 x 17 x 6 cm
10 1/4 x 6 5/8 x 2 1/3 inches

5. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the Unveiled Fraudster, 2021
mouldable plastic, resin, polyurethane pigment, epoxy resin glue
20 x 14 x 11 cm
7 7/8 x 5 1/2 x 4 1/3 inches
NFS

6. Nick Modrzewski
The Inside-Out Face of a Prior Inconsistent Statement, 2021
mouldable plastic, acrylic paint, spray paint, polyurethane pigment, epoxy resin glue
20 x 18 x 13 cm
7 7/8 x 6 5/8 x 5 1/8 inches

7. Nick Modrzewski
The Armoured Face of Well-Funded Plaintiff, 2021
mouldable plastic, epoxy resin glue
20 x 16 x 7 cm
7 7/8 x 6 1/3 x 2 3/4 inches

8. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of a Judgement Creditor, 2021
mouldable plastic, epoxy resin glue
23 x 23 x 10 cm
9 x 9 x 4 inches

9. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of an Armoured Ruling, 2021
mouldable plastic, plaster, oil-based pigment, epoxy resin glue
15 x 18 x 5 cm
6 7/8 x 6 5/8 x 2 inches

10. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of a Winged Assailant, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, resin, polyurethane pigment, screw, epoxy resin glue
27 x 20 x 9 cm
10 1/4 x 7 7/8 x 3 1/2 inches

11. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Executive Government, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
19 x 16 x 9 cm
7 7/8 x 6 1/3 x 3 1/2 inches

12. Nick Modrzewski
The Restless Spirit of the Legislature, 2021
mouldable plastic, coffee, wig, hair, bondcrete, epoxy resin glue
21 x 22 x 7 cm
7 7/8 x 8 5/8 x 2 3/4 inches

13. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Substituted Service, 2021
mouldable plastic, post-it notes, resin, oil-based pigment, epoxy resin glue
23 x 21 x 5 cm
9 x 8 x 2 inches

14. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Stoney-Certainty, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, granite spray, epoxy resin glue
22 x 23 x 10 cm
9 x 9 x 4 inches

15. Nick Modrzewski
The Swamp-Mucked Face of a Junior Associate (Magistrates' Court), 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
22 x 18 x 10 cm
8 x 6 6/8 x 4 inches

16. Nick Modrzewski
The Rounded, Single-Eared Face of a Slippery Witness, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, acrylic paint, epoxy resin glue
20 x 20 x 6 cm
7 7/8 x 7 7/8 x 2 1/3 inches

17. Nick Modrzewski
A Well-Regulated Nose, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, resin, polyurethane pigment, epoxy resin glue
20 x 19 x 9 cm
7 7/8 x 7 5/8 x 3 1/2 inches

18. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of International Fibbery, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
20 x 17 x 19 cm
7 7/8 x 6 5/8 x 7 5/8 inches

19. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Fortified Stone, 2021
plaster, air dry clay, epoxy resin glue
17 x 23 x 6 cm
6 5/8 x 9 x 2 1/3 inches
NFS

20. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Local Fibbery, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
19 x 15 x 14 cm
7 5/8 x 6 7/8 x 5 1/2 inches

21. Nick Modrzewski
The Curled and Squashed-Nose Face of a Cross Examiner, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
20 x 19 x 9 cm
7 7/8 x 7 5/8 x 3 1/2 inches

22. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the Wronged Complainant, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, wax, hair, epoxy resin glue
21 x 17 x 9 cm
8 x 6 7/8 x 3 1/2 inches
NFS

23. Nick Modrzewski
The Half-Turned Nose of an Adversary, 2021
mouldable plastic, resin, polyurethane pigment, oil-based pigment, epoxy resin glue
23 x 19 x 13 cm
9 x 7 1/2 x 5 1/8 inches

24. Nick Modrzewski
Hairy-fronted Woollen Face for a Comfortable Defendant, 2021
mouldable plastic, oil-based pigment, wool, epoxy resin paint
22 x 18 x 5 cm
8 1/4 x 6 5/8 x 2 inches

25. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of a Small Gathering of Noses, 2021
mouldable plastic, wood, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
27 x 19 x 11 cm
10 1/4 x 7 5/8 x 4 1/4 inches

26. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the Solicitor's Hand Written Notes, 2021
mouldable plastic, pen, resin, granite and lead powder, epoxy resin glue
20 x 19 x 7 cm
7 7/8 x 7 5/8 x 2 2/3 inches

27. Nick Modrzewski
A Sage for the Statute of Limitations, 2021
mouldable plastic, coffee, brush hair, bondcrete, epoxy resin glue
20 x 22 x 8 cm
7 7/8 x 8 5/8 x 3 1/3 inches

28. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the Slopdrenched Fraudster, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, resin, polyurethane pigment, wig hair, epoxy resin glue
20 x 18 x 10 cm
7 7/8 x 6 6/8 x 4 inches

29. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of a Mahogany Dispute, 2021
mouldable plastic, resin, oil-based pigment, polyurethane pigment, wood, epoxy resin glue
20 x 19 x 17 cm
7 7/8 x 7 5/8 x 6 2/3 inches

30. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Judicial Uncertainty, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, wig, epoxy resin glue
21 x 23 x 10 cm
8 x 9 x 4 inches

31. Nick Modrzewski
Leather Tongued, Multi-Layered Face of an Onion Grower During Evidence-In-Chief, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, felt, polyurethane pigment, epoxy resin glue
23 x 15 x 9 cm
9 x 6 7/8 x 3 1/2 inches

32. Nick Modrzewski
The Partly Armoured, Growing Floral Design of a Courtroom Keeper, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
18 x 20 x 4 cm
7 x 8 x 1 1/2 inches

33. Nick Modrzewski
Judgement Debtor, 2021
mouldable plastic, resin, polyurethane pigment, epoxy resin glue
22 x 15 x 7 cm
8 5/8 x 6 7/8 x 3 inches

34. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the Wronged Complainant, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, oil-based pigment, paper, coffee, epoxy resin glue
20 x 22 x 9 cm
7 7/8 x 8 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches

35. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Unchallenged Scientific Testimony, 2021
mouldable plastic, oil-based pigment, plastic capsules, acrylic paint, water, epoxy resin glue
22 x 21 x 10 cm
7 7/8 x 8 x 4 inches

36. Nick Modrzewski
Un-eyed Face of Justice, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, fabric, epoxy resin glue
21 x 18 x 6 cm
8 x 7 x 2 1/3 inches

37. Nick Modrzewski
The God of Unreliability, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
23 x 21 x 8 cm
9 x 8 x 3 inches

38. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Allegd Misconduct, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
22 x 17 x 12 cm
8 1/4 x 6 7/8 x 5 inches
NFS

39. Nick Modrzewski
A Face of Credibility and Reliability, 2021
mouldable plastic, resin, polyurethane pigment, epoxy resin glue
23 x 21 x 8 cm
9 x 8 x 3 inches

40. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the Mortgagee, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, air dry clay, epoxy resin glue
20 x 18 x 9 cm
7 7/8 x 7 x 3 1/2 inches
NFS

41. Nick Modrzewski
A Glass-Faced Testimony, 2021
mouldable plastic, resin, polyurethane pigment, epoxy resin glue
22 x 15 x 10 cm
8 1/4 x 6 7/8 x 4 inches

42. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Melted Candles (After a Night of Mischievous Legislative Activity), 2021
mouldable plastic, oil-based pigment, candles, epoxy resin glue
22 x 23 x 11 cm
8 1/4 x 9 x 4 1/8 inches

43. Nick Modrzewski
Speechmaker, 2021
mouldable plastic, screw, epoxy resin glue
24 x 21 x 19 cm
9 1/2 x 8 x 7 5/8 inches

44. Nick Modrzewski
An Aged Solicitor, 2021
mouldable plastic, pen, resin, polyurethane iron pigment, epoxy resin glue
20 x 22 x 10 cm
7 7/8 x 8 1/4 x 4 inches

45. Nick Modrzewski
An Antique Solicitor, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
22 x 19 x 10 cm
8 1/4 x 7 5/8 x 4 inches

46. Nick Modrzewski
An Armoured Face of Vitiating Factors, 2021
mouldable plastic, resin, spray paint, polyurethane paint, plaster, epoxy resin glue
29 x 18 x 10 cm
11 3/8 x 7 x 4 inches

47. Nick Modrzewski
The Armoured Visage of a Litigation Funder, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
22 x 24 x 7 cm
8 1/4 x 91/8 x 2 3/4 inches

48. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Melted Candles (After Another Night of Mishievous Legislative Activity), 2021
mouldable plastic, acrylic paint, wax candles, epoxy resin glue
23 x 18 x 26 cm
9 x 7 x 10 1/4 inches

49. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Statutory Interpretation, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, paper, coffee, epoxy resin glue
22 x 19 x 12 cm
8 1/4 x 7 1/2 x 5 inches

50. Nick Modrzewski
The God of Representational Democracy, 2021
mouldable plastic, oil based pigment, trinket, glass balls, epoxy resin glue
20 x 21 x 13 cm
7 7/8 x 8 x 5 1/8 inches

51. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of the Honourable Justice Ortold, 2021
mouldable plastic, acrylic paint, fixative, wig, epoxy resin glue
34 x 20 x 17 cm
13 3/8 x 7 7/8 x 6 5/8 inches

52. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Jealous Dispositions, 2021
mouldable plastic, spray paint, epoxy resin glue
20 x 15 x 9 cm
7 7/8 x 6 7/8 x 3 1/2 inches

53. Nick Modrzewski
A Muzzle-Faced Estopped Party, 2021
mouldable plastic, rocks, sticks, bondcrete, resin, polyurethane resin, epoxy resin glue
20 x 18 x 13 cm
7 7/8 x 7 x 5 1/8 inches

54. Nick Modrzewski
The Face of Trumpeting Triumph, 2021
mouldable plastic, acrylic paint, epoxy resin glue
15 x 14 x 12 cm
6 7/8 x 6 1/2 x 5 inches

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Nick Modrzewski

Various Works 1-3

Further details see reference page

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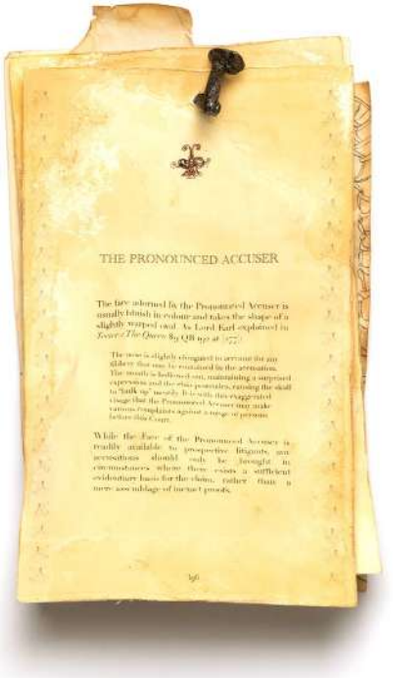

Nick Modrzewski

Legislators Switching Faces as the Debate the Nuances of The Faces, Heads and Miscellaneous Neck Parts Act, 2021

The Pronounced Accuser, 2021

The Judgement Creditors Embrace, 2021

digital print on aged Hahnemuhle bamboo 290gsm paper, coffee, mouldable plastic nail, spray paint

21 x 13 cm each

8 1/4 x 5 1/8 inches each

Edition 1 of 5

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Nick Modrzewski
Second Pathetic Axe, 2021
Third Pathetic Axe, 2021
mouldable plastic and spray paint
dimensions variable

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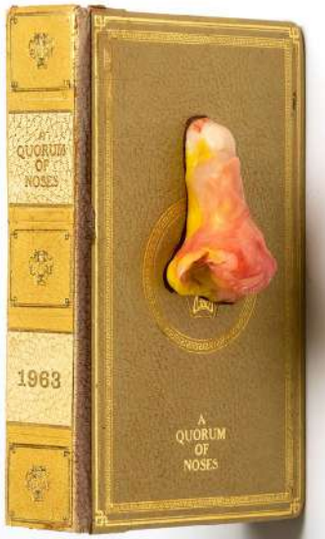

Nick Modrzewski
A Quorum of Noses, 2021
aged book, mouldable plastic, oil-based pigment, epoxy resin glue, gold foil, labels
18 x 12 x 9 cm
7 3/32 x 4 23 x 32 x 3 17/32 inches

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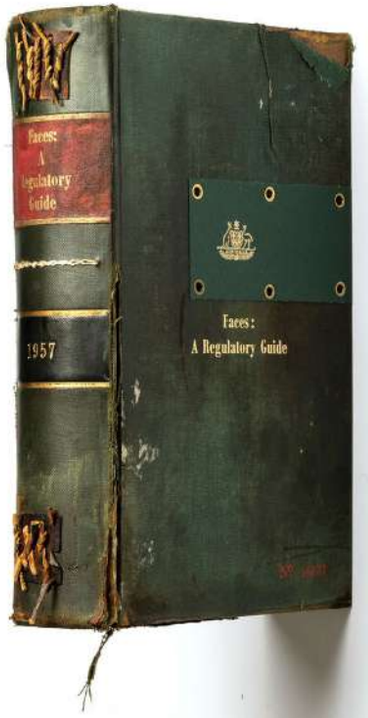

Nick Modrzewski
Faces: A Regulatory Guide, 2021
aged book, labels, gold foil, sewn spine
25 x 16 x 8 cm
9 27 x 32 x 6 9/32 x 3 5/32 inches

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Nick Modrzewski
Beckshire v Handleman, 2021
digital print on aged Hahnemuhle bamboo
290gsm paper, coffee, mouldable plastic nail
111.7 x 21 cm
46 11/32 x 8 1/4
Edition 1 of 5

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