Jungle Phillips
Tuesday 31 July to Saturday 25 August 2012

1. Min Singers Time Rise Attractions
2. Kander’s Wonderworld
3. Colin
4. Jappy
5. Tom
6. Kendee Lenny
7. Fish
8. Hapee Hap
9. Marilyn Monroe
10. Hopeland
11. Untitled
12. Jazzer
13. Kazzar
14. Ned Kelly
15. Kleppy
16. Pattee
17. Kekee Telly
18. Kindy
19. Totem Pole
20. Meddee
21. Jungle Girl
22. Seppy Keppy
23. Shashr Tears
24. Time of Tides
25. Groovy Girl
26. Jungle Man
27. Jeppe
28. The Shield, Courtesy of Artereal Gallery
29. Jaddee, Courtesy of Artereal Gallery
30. Helmet
31. Jacket
32. Klumdam
33. Tree
34. Untitled
35. Pelten Valimm
36. Kelly
37. Sindy Linny
38. Pippy
39. Untitled
40. Teepee
41. Jezzee
42. Love
43. Nauntree Kar
44. Nattar
45. Krashar
46. Karrar
47. Kappar
48. Cassee
49. Kippy
50. Jendy
51. Tappy
52. Teey
53. Jippy
54. Beetle Bug
55. V.W. Beetle
56. Jummar
57. Kedder
58. Kounty Kar
59. Windows of Time
60. Tizz
61. Kaddey
Peter ‘Jungle’ Phillips was born two months premature in Tasmania in 1956 and raised from the age of five by his father and grandmother after his parents divorced. He moved to St Kilda, Victoria as a young man, where the ‘Jungle’ tag was acquired (it is motorcycle gang slang for ‘scatterbrain’), and in the early 1990s he moved to Adelaide, South Australia, where he still lives today. Jungle loved art from a very early age, including making toys, bikes and go-carts from found materials, though his art education didn’t continue past high school. As with most people, artmaking slid into the background until it resurfaced in the aftermath of trauma. In 1978, he witnessed his brother’s suicide by gun. Someone advised him to work through the experience by drawing, which he continued to do within the fabric of a hard lifestyle marked by drug and alcohol dependency. It was the desire to escape all this that took him to Adelaide, where he began painting in earnest with the support of artist Tony Waite.

Jungle experienced a kind of epiphany in 1999, after he was the victim of a hit-and-run accident. At this point art became absolutely central in his life. ‘I became a prolific artist,’ he says, ‘producing 1,000 paintings a year.’ It is not so much the number of works that is important, though, as the expressionist collapsing together of art and life that his practice represents. His paintings are quite literally extensions of himself both psychologically and existentially. ‘I love to paint,’ he says, ‘and become the picture. I lose myself often when painting, which is all the time.’

There is a striking physicality to Jungle’s paintings and ‘cut-ups’ (the name he gives to works made from found pieces of board), which contributes to the quality of vision-made-flesh that characterises his images. This is his second Sydney show; the first at the Callan Park Gallery. This is a rare opportunity to see work from some of the earliest black-and-white paintings through some important career statements. It is also the first opportunity to see brand new work that has been made during Jungle’s residency at Sydney College of the Arts.

Colin Rhodes, July 2012