

THE DAILY PIC

Tracey Moffatt's "Other"

Hollywood's exotic visions



Tracey Moffatt's "Other"; Primitive Hollywood (Tyler Rollins Fine Art)

A still from a seven-minute video titled "Other," by Australian artist Tracey Moffatt, in [her show at Tyler Rollins Fine Art in New York](#). "Other" is the final item in a series called "Montages," in which Moffatt assembles tiny snippets of Hollywood cliché into a single reel. Earlier pieces have compiled clips of artists, of mothers and of lovers. For "Other," most of the clips show how the movies have imagined the encounter between the "civilized" West and the "savage" rest of the world. Moffatt has sampled everything from "King Kong" to "The King and I," touching down also on Peter O'Toole going native in "Lawrence of Arabia" and Depardieu as Columbus surprised by the New World in "1492". Most of the clips are so naive in their colonialism that they verge on being racist – or descend into actual racism. They are good for a laugh. But Moffatt also slyly includes other clips – of simple interracial love, for instance – that imply that the tentacles of colonialism reach deep into our culture.

I will be debating Moffatt's show, and three others, tomorrow night on [the Review Panel at the National Academy on Fifth Avenue](#).

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