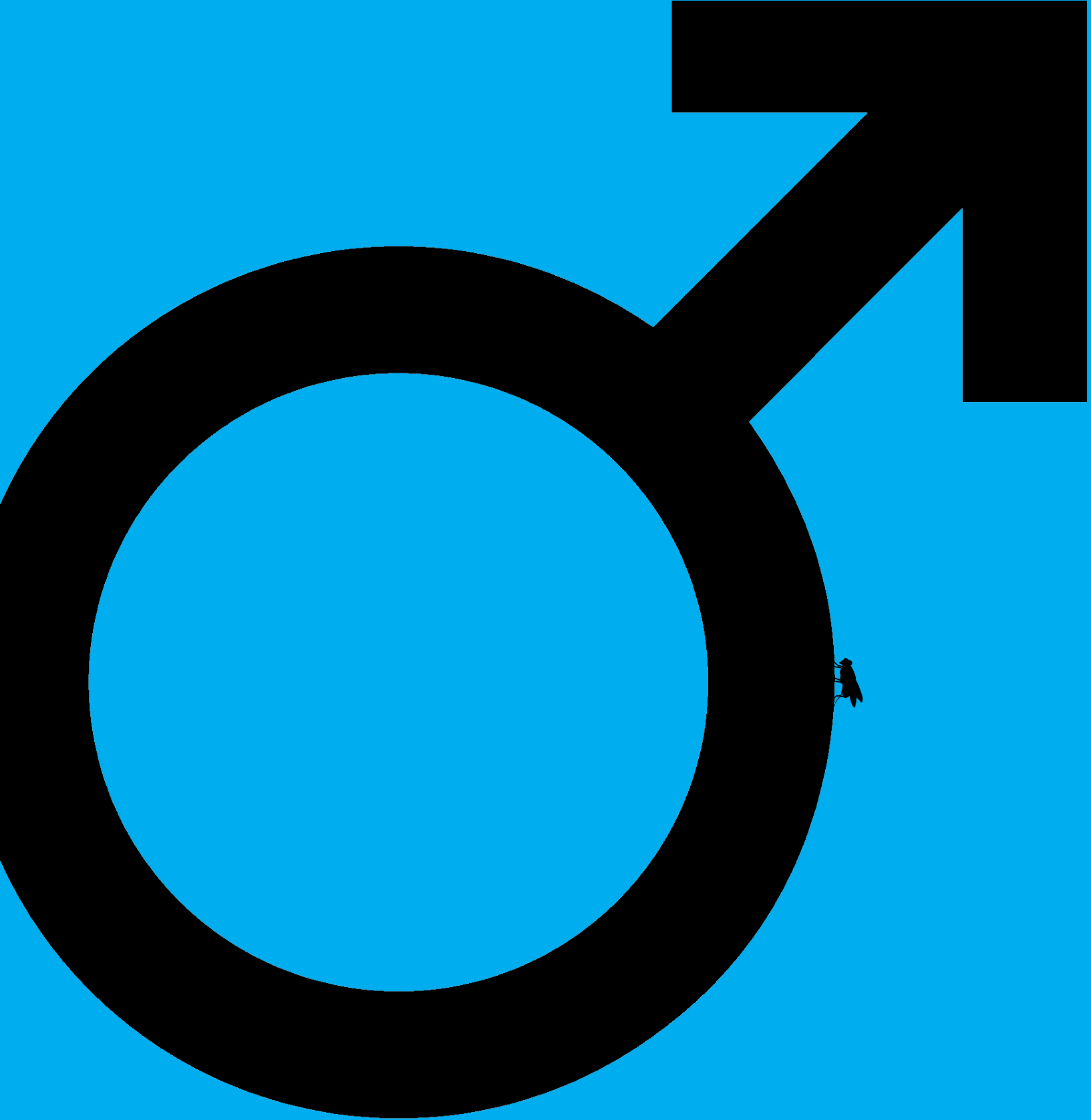




New work by Therese Ritchie

MAN O MANOSPHERE

Man O manosphere • Therese Ritchie
18–26 July 2026

Gallery Two Six
6 Catterthun St
Winnellie 0820
Northern Territory
Australia

Cotton Rag prints: Eprint
Hang: Simone Porrovecchio
Catalogue design: Therese Ritchie
Catalogue printed by: Eprint

Thank you:

David Hancock, Gallery Two Six
Stan, Neil and Jessie from Eprint
Simone Porrovecchio
Lisa Patamisi
Margie Cotter
Elliot Hughes
Adele Pedder
Rachel Groom
Sam Bowden
Tarzan JungleQueen Meryl McDonald
Darwin Fringe Festival 2026

**DARWIN
FRINGE
FESTIVAL**



Therese Ritchie, *Algorithm-maxxing*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.



Man O Man was an Australian television game show, broadcast on the Seven Network in 1994. The program was a male beauty pageant. Ten male competitors participated in a series of challenges in front of an all-female audience of 125 women who sat at tables using computers to vote for their favourite man.

Losing contestants were eliminated when female models, who worked on the show, pushed them into a swimming pool.

In 1984, when I was studying art I was told that I must be able to articulate the meaning behind my work. Every nuance was to be documented, as proof of process.

We were graded on our 'visual diaries', as if our creativity and our art-making—once deemed quantifiable, sequential or bureaucratic—might become more valuable.

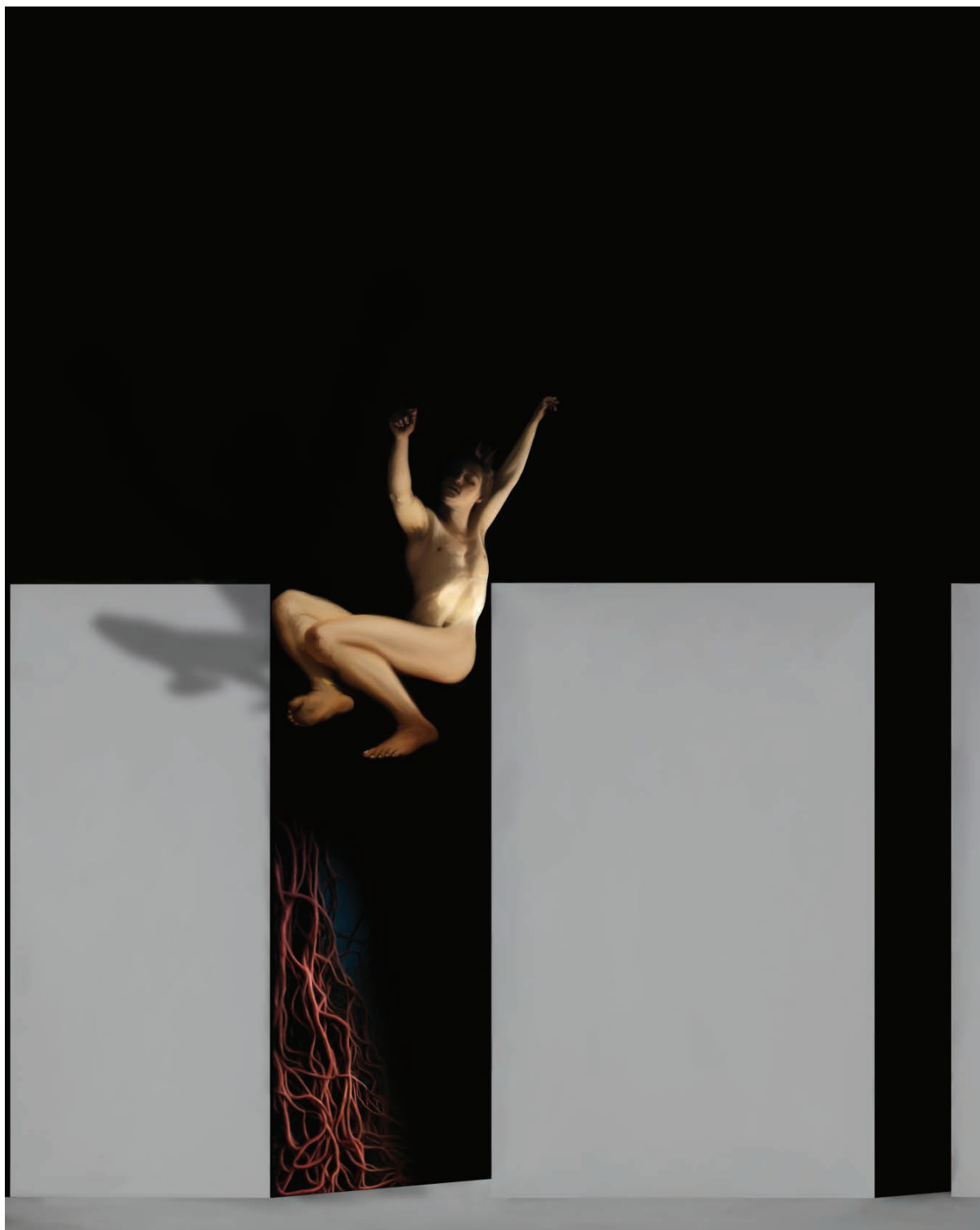
We were advised that it was the only way forward. How else would those art bureaucrats be able to award you their half-arsed grants? How else are you going to win that colouring-in competition or meaningless art award named after some rich white dude; compete with athletes, football stadiums and sports centres; or, override curators and gallerists who continually tell us where the good art hangs (but have never practiced art themselves)?

In 2026, you don't need to be able to write, you don't need technique, you don't need knowledge, you don't need a camera, you don't need drawing skills, you certainly don't need a process, and you don't need to wait. It's all thumbs and algorithms. They call it 'Intelligence'.

Man O Manosphere is the second part of *Sloppy how boys broke the world*. It is ME generated. Images were created and words were written simultaneously.

It made perfect sense at the time. Enjoy.

Therese Ritchie, Darwin, July 2026.



Therese Ritchie, *Framemogged*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.

MAN O MAN

During my 2025 show, *Sloppy how boys broke the world*, I was approached by several mothers who were concerned about their sons. They described boys who barely communicated, never left their rooms, or their screens.

They also expressed fear that their boys might become radicalised by the ‘manosphere’ (a virtual space consisting of a broad range of different groups, who believe that feminism, and women and girls, have destroyed society and their lives, their politics, their ability to make money or have sex).

Whether jihadists or white supremacists the manosphere idealises men as warriors and minders and by joining these extremist groups, men and boys feel respected and recognised, their masculinity unscathed. The concern with the manosphere is the male violence that it inspires, both online and offline, but masculinity does not equate with violence and the radicalisation of anyone requires an empty vessel, so what creates these empty vessels in the first place and what is so dangerous about these male complaints?

For decades, feminists have been warning us that misogyny is not an aberration; that nothing exists outside its field. The so-called “rising tide of misogyny” infers we are on land, separate from it. Nope, we all live in the cock forest.

The male-related violence we are seeing enacted within and outside the manosphere is not new, but it is turbocharged by the Internet and the fast-growing global sentiment of nihilism and far-right or neo-liberal politics. Men, who have been left behind, either by the illusion of their manhood; the rise of women’s economic and civil rights; love and romance; disparity; inequity; or redundancy, are questioning the meaning of what it is to be a man—which is not a bad thing—but rather than self-reflect, their resentment has prompted the ideology that for those that have lost hope, violence is the only way forward, fuelling a cycle of addictive revenge within a personal void.

Nihilism—radical or passive—questions and trivialises the bedrock of existing values. The manosphere may offer men an online community—a sense of connectedness or meaning—but its impact is transient because the manosphere cannot heal men’s nihilism.

Radical nihilism creates a futile world where fundamental value systems such as Christian virtues, democracy, equality, truth, accountability and reason, are questioned. These values do not disappear so much as they lose their anchorage, easily shifting to suit any meaning, becoming replaceable and therefore insignificant. Both radical and passive nihilism are violent, either to society—often women and girls—or to the men themselves in the form of suicide. Destruction and revenge is their outlet.

Destruction and revenge is also the theme central to the politics of the far-right. Loss of meaning and chaos goes hand-in-hand with neo-liberalism. Neo-liberalism has been assaulting society and social justice since Margaret Thatcher (Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979–90). In Australia, neo-liberalism intensified under the Coalition government of John Howard (Prime Minister from 1996–2007) who privatised state assets and deregulated the financial sector.

Over time, enshittification (the gradual deterioration of a service or product brought about by a reduction in the quality of service provided), disingenuity, political populism, and cronyism have become the norm. In 2025, the Northern Territory Chief Minister Lia Finnochiaro greeted Charles Darwin University lecturers on their Katherine campus with “nothing much happens here anyway”, by way of announcing that the government was turning their facility into a prison (because Territorians don’t want art, museums or education, they want prisons).

In February 2026, Lia Finnochiaro signed in the self-proclaimed, “bigoted, racist, homophobic, transphobic, elitist, prejudiced, [a] destroyer of the environment, [a] torturer of animals, discriminatory, biased, intolerant, chauvinistic, small-minded, old, grumpy and useless,” David Connolly, as the Northern Territory Administrator, a AUD\$377,000 per year, cake-eating residency and representative of the British monarchy.

To be fair and given the extent to which the Epstein files (a partially released collection of millions of documents, images, videos, and emails detailing the activities of American financier and convicted child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein) have disgraced the monarchy



Therese Ritchie, *The dog that hasn't barked yet*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.

that Connolly represents—in particular the dethroned Prince Andrew—I think Lia nailed it with her choice. The phrase “off with his head” has never made more sense.

It's about corruption and its ensuing disillusionment. The Epstein files not only revealed sexual crimes, but the robust social network where money, prestige, influence and dependency flourishes in a culture of pacts between economic and political elites, whose interests revolve around the preservation of their privileges. The fallout of the Epstein files also demonstrates, and continues to demonstrate, how some, in particular, Donald Trump are impervious to their connectivity to the child sex offender. (Trump's name is mentioned over one million times in the Epstein files). The QAnon conspiracy theorists of 2017, who heralded Trump as a saviour in a secret war against Satanic paedophiles in the Democratic Party and Hollywood were partially right. There is a hidden elite engaged in child trafficking, and Trump is in the mix, but he's no hero.

When tax-payer funded government services, created to manage health, social services, education, housing, labour, urban development, arts and the environment are committed to eliminating or monetising them; when Catholic priests molest thousands of children under the very noses of their superiors; when celebrities are exposed as rapists; princes and 'awarded' writers as paedophiles; when politics and society is dismantled, replaced by oligarchs who have reshaped capitalism to suit themselves; captured politicians; exploited and manipulated citizens for monetary gain—all the while, guzzling the proceeds of their offshore tax havens—we are left with a broken world, stripped of meaning. We are left with nihilism, a collective and personal crisis of faith.

With this comes the hate, the resentful waves of complaint and the rise of the hard-right. Neo-nazis in Germany, neo-fascists in Italy, white nationalists in Scandinavia, Trumpism in America, One Nation in Australia. Welcome to the new 'norm' of grievance politics, consequence-free speech and the populist tactic of identifying a threat to blame and drawing a clear line between us and them. Meshed with neo-liberalism, Internet-fuelled propaganda and misinformation, the world is hur-

tlung towards the hugest and most unstoppable disparity between the rich and poor. In the United States the richest 1% now own almost a third of the nation's wealth. In Australia, the highest 10% of households has an average of \$6.1 million or 46% of all wealth.

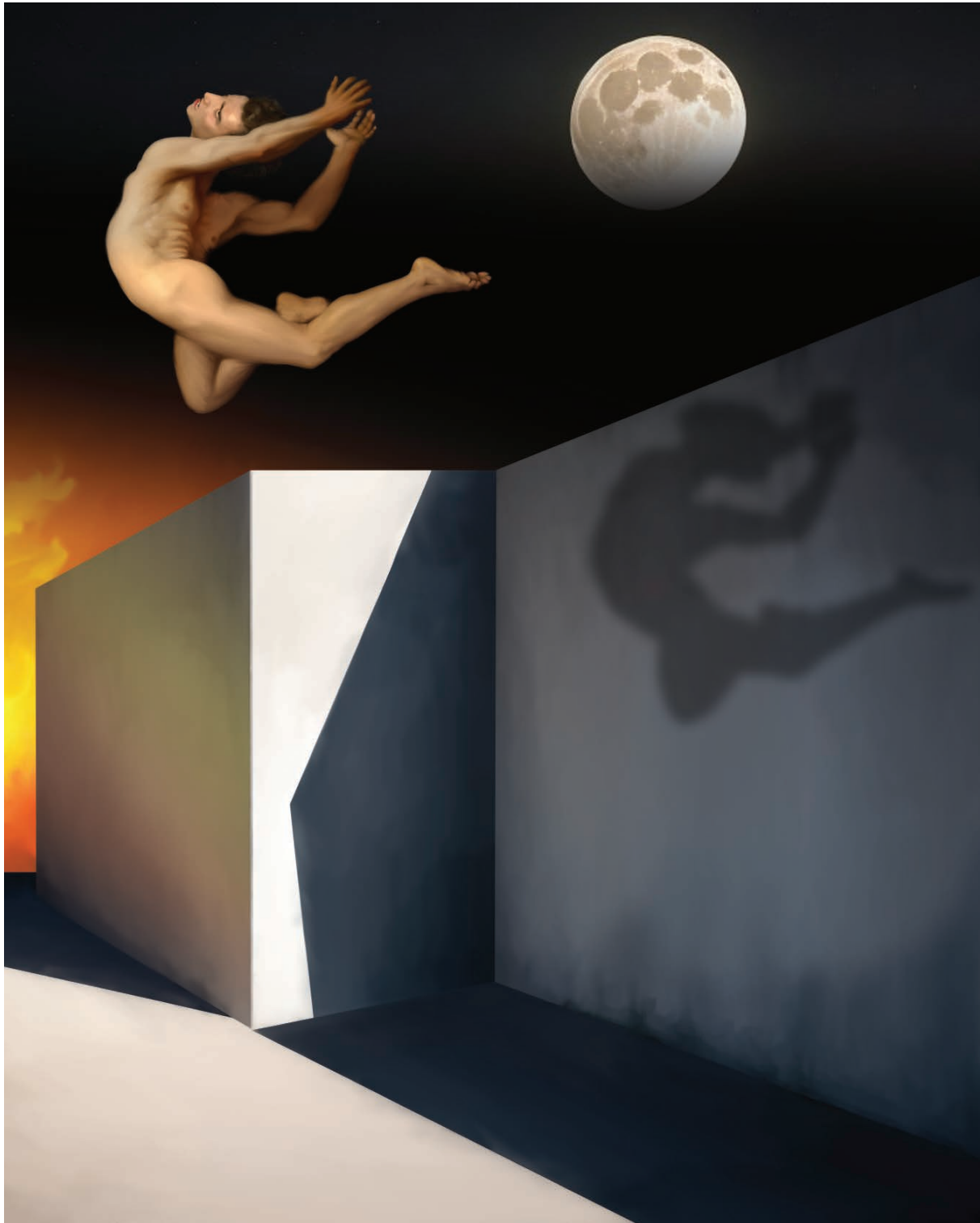
Neuroscience has proven that people locked in loops of wealth-centered thinking—private jets, private schools, gated communities, invite-only clubs and ultra-luxurious experiences—become selfish, arrogant, arseholes. And if extreme wealth changes the brain, so does poverty. Chronic poverty and insecurity erodes trust, increases threat sensitivity, reinforces “us vs. them” thinking and breeds rage.

The durability of our western values, democracy and our institutions have not been able to withstand the assault, and a lot of people—including boys and men of the manosphere—feel abandoned and “man O man” are they resentful. With the decline of 'God', a loss of faith in the systems that replaced God; the growing failures of capitalism to fulfil the 'dream'; the loss of the allure of love and relationships there comes the waves of hopelessness easily exploited by the wealthy and those in power.

Trump and MAGA (Make America Great Again) have pushed various toxic stereotypes about masculinity and what it means to be an 'alpha male', turbo-charging them throughout Trump's 2024 presidential campaign.

Trump has a long history of denigrating women and bragging about the size of his penis (thank God for South Park's rendition of Trump masturbating with tweezers and chopsticks). His obsession with exaggerated masculinity has fuelled men and boy's resentment and revealed a very deep insecurity about what masculinity truly means in the social and political spheres.

He would reflect on stage about how his advisers counselled him to change so he would be more appealing to women, but then jokingly dismiss their advice. During that same campaign, *Turning Point USA* founder Charlie Kirk said: “If you are a man in this country and you don't vote for Donald Trump, you're not a man.” Also claiming that women were 'manning up' to vote for Trump. Trump boasts of having high testosterone levels and



Therese Ritchie, *How do I ascend?*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.

conservative men see him as the pinnacle of masculinity. It is ironic that Trump and MAGA's obsession with penis size and virility exposes potential homo-eroticism.

Testosterone levels have also been a big part of the discussion in the manosphere. In these spaces, the global declining testosterone levels in men are blamed on the feminization of men in western society and men who are not viewed as 'manly men' are condemned as low-testosterone individuals or 'beta males'.

Trump and MAGA's world-view is predatory, and based on brute force. Young men, in their battle to define masculinity and seeing sexual prowess as evidence of power may have felt emancipated in voting for Trump, as it was a way of restoring patriarchal order.

Enter Braden Peters (AKA Clavicular) one of the Internet's most popular 'looksmaxxers' and manosphere influencers. A 'looksmaxxer' is a young man intent on optimising his physical attractiveness by extreme measures such as skin whitening, steroids, surgery, and taking a hammer to his jaw (bone smashing or 'hardmaxxing') in order to enlarge, or square it off. One of Clavicular's extreme physical enhancement methods includes stretching genital ligaments using weighted shopping bags while driving.

Clavicular came to prominence in 2025 on the streaming platform Kick (Australia's looksmaxxer is Androgenic, a bone smasher, who offers young men and boys his *Androgenic Protocol* for \$30 a month). Clavicular named himself after the collarbone, which is cherished within the INCEL and manosphere communities and his online academy (making over A\$100,000 per month) teaches boys how to 'ascend' by becoming more handsome.

"My name is Clavicular, I'm 20 years old. I believe in looksmaxxing—the idea of maximising physical attractiveness by any means necessary, in order to ascend. In the morning, if my jaw looks a little weak, I'll bone smash to strengthen it. My ratios are nearly golden now. Testosterone for muscle growth; desoxyn for appetite suppression; methylphenidate for healthmaxxing; peptides for anti-ageing and collagen production; melanotan II for a healthy glow; IGF 1, HGH, retatrudite for

leanness; dutasteride and minoxidil for hair maintenance. When it comes to ascension, if you're not looksmaxxing, you're not lifemaxxing and if you're not lifemaxxing, you're nothing. The wait is over ... Mog world order begins ... Welcome to the new era." (Clavicular on X March 11, 2026.)

"When discussing his sexual success, Clavicular regularly refers to women as 'targets', 'slayables' or 'foids' ('female humanoids'), while his followers (the 'Clan') are advised to "inch closer until your erection is her problem" or "guide her hand" (https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/feb/18/foid-looksmaxxer-manosphere-influencer-braden-peters-aka-clavicular)

To cultivate exclusivity and superiority, the INCEL and manosphere communities have inserted a slang that only those 'in the loop' could appreciate or understand. For example:

"Clavicular was mid jester gooning (*jester maxxing—being overly funny or entertaining to attract women, but gooning also alludes to masturbation*) when a group of Foids (*women, or female humanoids*) came and spiked his Cortisol levels (*added anxiety*). Is ignoring the Foids while munting (*munting is similar to mewing, which is a practice where you put your tongue to the roof of your mouth to improve your jawline and overall attractiveness*) and mogging (*emasculating other men through your superior attractiveness*) Moids (*derogatory term for men*) more useful than SMV (*Sexual Market Value*) chadfishing (*to catfish someone—typically a woman—by creating a fake online profile posing as an attractive man*) in the club?"

Basically Clavicular was being a dickhead when a woman scared him. Question: Is it better to ignore the woman while making jokes to emasculate the ugly men around him, or to pretend to be a man with a higher sexual market value in the club?

FFSWC? (*for fuck's sake who cares?*).

Paralleling this, Trump's regime has facilitated a tsunami of hate, resentment, nihilism and chaos. His foreign policy: "Nobody knows what I'm going to do"; on striking nuclear facilities in Iran: "I may do it, I may not do it", (he did do it, Operation *Midnight Hammer*, June 2025).



Therese Ritchie, *Don't try this at home*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.



Therese Ritchie, *Bone smashing is legit*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.



Therese Ritchie, *Crisis capitalism*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.

After the long arm of his American might snuck into Venezuela (January 2026), stole the president, his wife and the country's oil, he threatened the same for Greenland. Within ten years of him (2016) boasting that he could shoot someone in the street and still get elected, his militarised ICE agents fatally shot Renee Good in the face, in the streets of Minnesota. Following that, a new derogatory acronym AWFUL (Affluent White Female Urban Liberal) was spread by right-wing commentators, calling for such women (college-educated white women) to be overlooked. Elon Musk's X amplified posts criticising a 'certain kind of woman', blaming them for divorce and family breakdowns. Within weeks ICE agents in Minnesota had shot and killed another US citizen, a nurse, Alex Pretti.

Both Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Trump are not adverse to "throwing a dead cat on the table" to distract from their own issues—they know war overwhelms with its chaos. In March 2026, Trump and Netanyahu 'saved the Middle East' (again) by bombing Iran (*Operation Epic Fury* 28 February 2026). The US Department of War boasted its manfulness and killing capabilities in Iran, with the tweet: "Low cortisol. Locked in. Lethalitymaxxing". In that same month the US's homeland security department claimed it was "homelandmaxxing by removing illegal aliens".

The misogynist slang had slithered offline and into the real world. Proof that the INCEL community, the manosphere and the Trump administration are in sync with their ideals of a bone-smashing form of masculinity and unrestrained scorn for humanity, sensitivity and existing norms.

Aside from laying bare how utterly dependent the global economy is on fossil fuels, the bombing of Iran is another violent example of an international system in collapse. An existing core truth of world order is that no state can go to war in pursuit of its own national policy and the use of force in the global interests must be mandated by the UN Security Council. But the global response to the bombing—including Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese—has been barely audible. A far cry from Albanese's response in 2003 when then Prime Minister John Howard

decided to send Australia to war with Iraq: "I have news for the Prime Minister, the man who has nothing but a plan for war: the aftermath of a war needs to be considered. ... Any US led military action not sanctioned by the United Nations would be illegal under international law. There is no UN mandate here, we are not bringing peace, we are invading a sovereign country and making war. This is an unjust war without UN backing."

Trump stated that the Israel/US war with Iran would be over when he "felt it in his bones" (or clavicle). A gruelling four months later, he announced that for his 80th birthday (June 2026) he wanted 'world peace'. Whether it was because the war was unpopular, creating economic pain; that the oil tanks in Cushing Oklahoma were emptying out; or, that he wanted to make space for his birthday party with UFC (United Freedom Championship) on the White House front lawn, Trump announced his peace deal with Iran (the 39th peace declaration since the war began). " ... Many Presidents have tried to make Peace with Iran, and all have failed before me. The leaders of the Region, for the first time found a President who can help them achieve real Peace." *Truth Social* (15/6/26). On July 7, the US launched retaliatory strikes on Iran, ending the truce. And so it goes.

In their obliteration of shared truths, Trump and his enablers are the ultimate heralders of mayhem; the era of nothing matters or means anything, there are no consequences, no need to convince others, only a need to destroy. Revenge without end, because there is nothing else, only as Trump puts it, "his morals, his mind". GHU (*God help us*).

So, for those women who asked "What do I do about my son?" You know the drill. Stay brave, stay informed. Look for patterns or changes in language, create trust and communicate with love. Understanding the manosphere is not about hating men. Having said that, a more fitting question might be, "What would the world look like if there were a new diverse social movement. A globally organized activism—initiated and led by men—that challenged misogyny and the manosphere?"

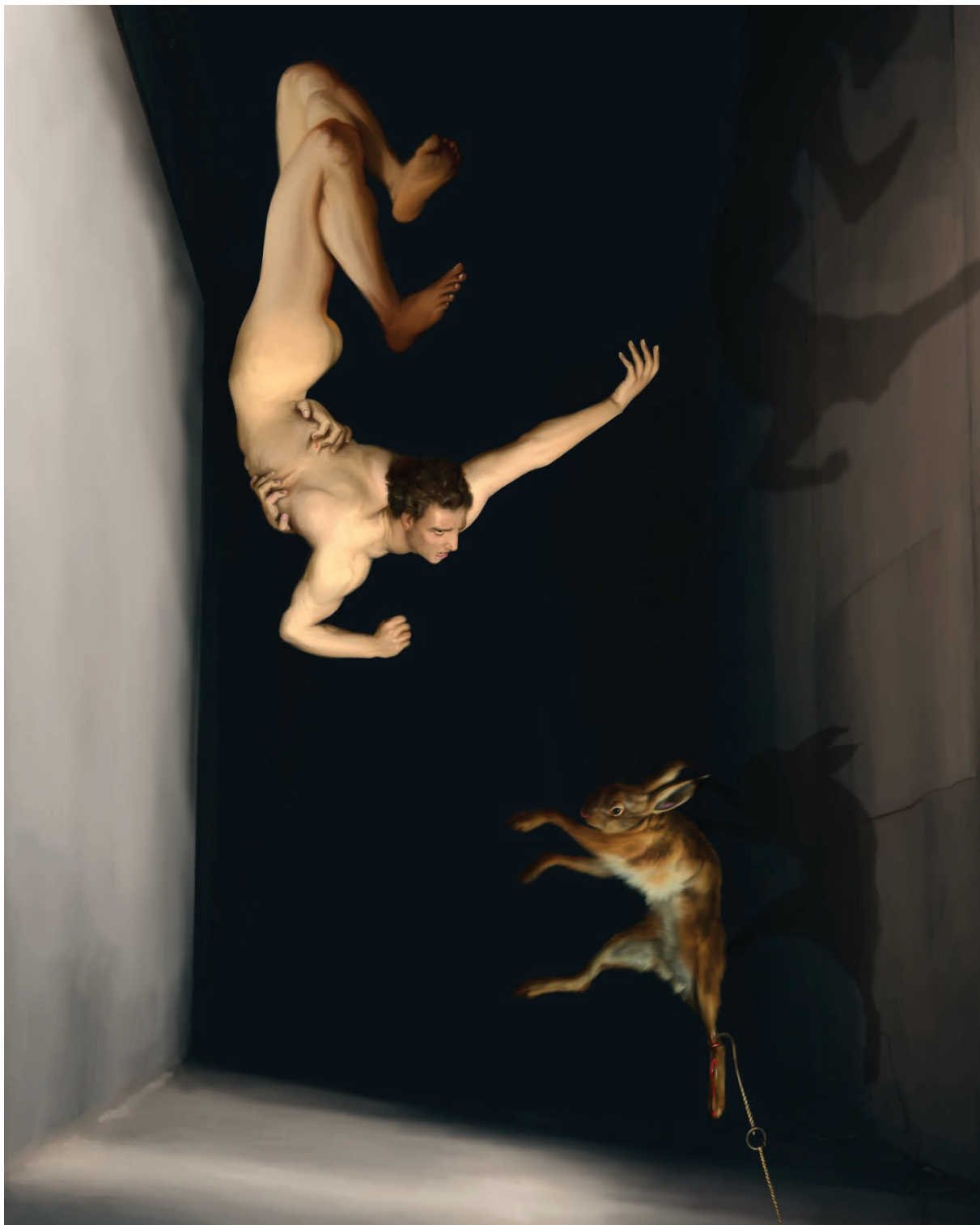
As the saying goes: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."



Therese Ritchie, *Everything is fine*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.



Therese Ritchie, *Methamphetamines for hollow cheeks*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.



Therese Ritchie, *Am I chad, or is it over?*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.

TUPPERWARE

When I trawl through synthetic images, I am surprised by how unmoved I am. I am drawn in at first, and I wonder: is it because they seem familiar? Or is it because I am confused by how something as inanimate as Tupperware—something that does not see images—is able to generate a pattern of pixels that pass for a picture?

I just can't read the work.

You know those movies that seem OK when you're scoffing popcorn in the dark but you've forgotten about them by the time you get to the car-park? Well it's like that but without the popcorn. And the movie. Like you're in the car-park wondering "How did I end up here?"

Making art is a very personal, intimate and conscious experience for me. It is how I communicate. I am not concerned if people like or dislike it, whether it is seen as 'good' or 'bad' art. My art is a living process and I would not want to skip a beat, or lose skills by handing over any of that responsibility to an algorithm.

Of course, there is a case for synthetically generated images, in some instances it can move or inspire, reflect contemporary society, and improve work-flow as there are no experiences of artist's block. Although this may be advantageous for mass production, as a practicing artist I have found the lulls in my output a very important part of growth.

But because these synthetic generators use and merge the work of other artist's copyrighted work to satisfy a user-command, I find it impossible to see past the pilfering and lack of originality.

There is reciprocity in an image that has been created by a human. A transaction. An insight into the maker. The image's ingredients, light, subject, colour, composition, texture, format are all human choices.

Whether you like, or understand the image or not, is beside the point, these choices are the creator's internal language. For me, machines that excrete images off the backs of human creativity have the internal language of a thief. They are exhausting, uninspired, short-lived and inbred.

So let's talk more about what, or who, is behind AI. Or the men behind it. Men—or more aptly the men who own big tech companies like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Sam Altman—call it artificial intelligence or AI. Men in sneakers and T shirts with hyperhidrosis traveling the world, speaking with leaders about the promise of AI—and the dangers—as if they are clergymen preaching a new religion; the knowledge bearers, the keepers of special secrets; the central players in some Asimov novel. When really they are just men turning human knowledge into a product that can be mined, priced and distributed. The truth is, their language—AI—artificial intelligence—is marketing hype, puffery. It's bullshit. You feed 'data' into a machine—you cannot 'train' it like a pet. It is not 'intelligent', it's a doppelganger, a copycat, a plagiarist. It is not 'Asimov artificial', it's more like a plastic bottle top. If you believe that a synthetic therapist can empathise or feel like a human, then you really do need counselling. Love this new bubble if you will, but call a spade a spade. These men are burning down the house and pretending to worry about the consequences. In March, just around the time Trump and Netanyahu started bombing Iran, Sam Altman announced that OpenAI had reached a new agreement with the United States Department of War over how its AI systems would be deployed across the military, (Altman is a doomsday prepper with his own billion-dollar bunker).

When we share stories about our life on social media platforms we are giving away control and power to those platforms and their algorithms. We are not forming community or deeper connections, instead, we are buying into the 'idea' of community; the idea that the next post will bring the connection we crave, or the change we need. It's like playing the pokies. When we allow platforms to mine our lives; to shift the meaning of our posts—our personal investments and creative energy—for the sake of their revenue, we will never flourish. Instead, we addict ourselves to a cycle of disappointment and estrangement.

These men have hoodwinked the world and the market with speculative fiction and the notion of advanced robots with human-like intelligence simply because they stand to accu-



Therese Ritchie, *Smash your eye socket*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.

mulate an insurmountable amount of money by stealing value from other people's creativity, personal data, or labour, and replacing quality services with bogus facsimiles; and by being the prophets of a possible apocalypse, dystopian future, or new religious empire, they forge themselves as saviours and king-makers, all the while, colonising the already colonised, leaching energy and water with their data centres and generating FOMO (*fear of missing out*) through fear-mongering.

You know how in those apocalypse or zombie movies, when things are falling apart, you see people looting, running out of shops with giant flat screen TVs? And you think, "Why? Why bother? What's there to watch?" Well that's us right now. Things are falling apart, and we are being looted. Looted by the rich, the presidents, politicians, the fossil fuel extraction companies, the big banks, the tech bros or the demi-gods of AI.

70% of the world is living in an autocracy. 80% of Australians don't trust political parties. Nurses pay more tax than SANTOS. The truth is, you pay more tax than SANTOS. Democracy is on the decline. We know it has been eroded through capitalism; that our fossil fuel industry is so intrinsically linked to our financial system that we cannot transition; that our capitalist system only survives on perpetual growth and development while killing most of life on earth and risking global collapse; greed; power; misogyny; the global town square being owned by 6 of the world's richest men who flaunt sophisticated disinformation campaigns that exploit social media algorithms, stoking fear, hatred, spreading lies and sowing distrust. We know all this and yet we still play along, telling ourselves that we are unable to disconnect from it.

City, tertiary-educated, higher-income and women voters in Australia are now backing Pauline Hanson's One Nation. They are no longer listening to the major parties. Movements like Pauline Hanson's One Nation are now the most popular parties in the UK, France, Germany, Italy, America and Austria. The political rules that usually apply do

not apply to these parties of dissent (if Prime Minister Albanese's party was gifted a million dollar plane from a billionaire it would be seen as unethical). Hanson has captured the media's attention through stunts and scandals, lowered the quality of political debate by normalising these scandals and then used them to re-frame her rhetoric as being the true voice for 'ordinary Australians'.

There has not been a single example in the western democratic world where this wave of dissent and populist politics has actually been stopped.

But populist politics only works if public attention is complicit with its lust for a juicy scandal or shifting the blame. A clown needs an audience.

And whilst it is true we have been morally failed by institutions, politicians, governments, big corporations and the wealthy 1%, if we punch down, we morally fail ourselves.

Being told top-down what we need is not autonomy. We abandon ourselves by handing over the responsibility to someone else and by believing that somehow, someone will eventually come and save us from the mess we have made. But no-one is coming.

Many other complex civilisations have arrived at the place where we find ourselves—where it has become so complicated that all resources go into keeping it upright. So any crisis, like the COVID pandemic, for instance, can tip it. Most of the civilisations that have already collapsed had a shelf-life of 250–300 years; our fossil fuel civilisation is around 270 years old. The difference between our civilisation and those of the past, however, is that they were isolated. Our system is global. It's all of us.





Therese Ritchie, *AI will probably most likely lead to the end of the world, but in the meantime, there'll be great companies*, 2026, digital print on cotton rag, 75cm x 60cm.

DINOSAURS

Dinosaurs. More imagined than real. Isn't it great that they actually existed? What's even better is that the earth is 4.5 billion years old. That she was a boiling ball of liquid rock; that the moon is a bit of the earth that slid off when a smaller planet hit her; that for 20 million years she was hammered with meteorites and inside those meteorites were crystals, and inside those crystals were minute droplets of water which over time pooled and cooled the earth until she was a ball of water (every drop of water today may be billions of years old or travelled millions of miles to reach us); and from a ball of water she transformed into a ball of ice. Her story is one of epic restlessness and she has been home to at least 15 million species, of which Homo Sapiens are just one.

Past extinction events have all made creative contributions to the history of life on earth. The end-Precambrian events made way for the modern animal groups in the Cambrian explosion; the end-Cambrian mass extinction triggered the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event, diversifying marine life that crept onto land; the end-Permian mass extinction gave rise to the Triassic Revolution, modernizing marine and terrestrial ecosystems and creating warm-blooded proto-dinosaurs and proto-mammals; and the end-Cretaceous mass extinction and the eradication of the big dinosaurs heralded a more peaceful planet, where plants, giant trees, mammals and birds had their chance to flourish. The point is, in retrospect, each extinction event happened so life could evolve.

When the dinosaurs got so big that nothing on this earth could challenge them, something 'not of this earth' remedied the situation, and swiftly. Dinosaurs lived for 180 million years, which is a good run. Homo Sapiens are only 300,000 years old, which seems like a long time but represents only 0.007% of the entire history of the planet. Given that we are the only species that can reason, it shouldn't be a stretch for us to work out that we are not that special.

Aside from human needs and desires orchestrating carnage throughout many ecosystems, human beings' lust for killing and our explod-

ing population remain unchecked: 1 billion in 1800; 2 billion in 1927; 4 billion in 1974; 8.3 billion in 2026. Humans have come full circle, fighting over and digging up the past to fuel the present and enrich the few—oil is 190-million-year old dead fish and plankton; coal and natural gas, 300 million-year-old decomposed plants and animals. Iron-rich rock, 3.5 billion year-old rust embedded in the ocean's seabed.

Climate change is now. The world's weather has never been more unstable. From Cyclone Fina to Narelle the Northern Territory has experienced 5 natural disasters in the 2025–26 wet season. 85% of roads across the Barkly have flooded. Katherine (where not much happens) experienced its highest flood since 1998, devastating residents, their businesses and homes. The average home insurance is now over \$4,000 a year.

All this devastation and yet the Northern Territory government is stubborn in its support of SANTOS's toxic Barossa gas project, Beetaloo Basin fracking, Inpex's filthy Ichthys gas plant and our taxpayer-funded proposed Middle Arm gas and petrochemical hub in Darwin Harbour. Stop the madness.

As humans carry on with their greedy, jealous and corrupt reasoning, killing each other, diverting rivers, shaving the tops off mountains, fracturing the earth's crust, cracking open the seabeds and plundering earth's womb, unstoppable until the very last drop of oil, deposit of iron, coal or natural gas has been exhumed; incurring great human and environmental costs by stealing land, water and cheap labour to create AI products and race to build dirty data centres, it reassures me to know that all the while, tectonic forces proceed slowly and invisibly, and that the earth will continue to shake and explode as it has done for billions of years and for billions more to come. Humans are tiny, with puny life spans and their machines, their inventions, their money, their perceived power is overestimated. Homo Sapiens are not exceptional, we are just another evolutionary branch, and like many evolutionary branches that have been permanently torn off after having their day in the sun, we are no different. We are not in control.



COLLAPSE

“While AI programs are being ‘trained’ and fed large amounts of stolen data over several months, data processors and data centres run 24/7. Our digital lives, and global reliance on cloud services has increased our demand for energy and water exponentially (millions of litres of water are pumped through data centres to keep them cool). As well as putting a strain on existing electricity grids, capturing rights to water over farmers and communities, and increasing green house emissions, the heavy metals in data centre e-waste is dumped in landfills throughout the world.” (*Sloppy how boys broke the world* catalogue)

As governments and technology firms race to dominate AI, entire regions and people’s lives are being reshaped around the infrastructure required to power it. In 2026 Amazon, Microsoft (OpenAI), Meta and Alphabet are projected to spend US\$630 billion (A\$879 billion) on data centres and AI chips.

These companies are the new ‘Captain Cook’, eyeing Australia as ‘fertile’ land for the taking. Looking to construct “data centre campuses” in every state and territory they have insinuated their supreme economies into the machinations of Canberra. Already there are over 250 data centres in Australia, including one in Darwin and a hyperscale data centre proposed for Murrumbidgee Station. The Northern Territory government is desperate to secure the Territory as Australia’s digital highway, entertaining 12 investors in early-stage “confidential” commercial discussions.

Suddenly it seems impossible not to be online or using AI. Or that is what we are told. Technology is the enabler. Resist.

Let’s be real. We are in trouble. Andrew Tate builds a following by abusing women; men film themselves raping sedated women and share it with other men online; the collective wealth of Australia’s billionaires has increased by \$25.67 billion over the past year—equivalent to almost \$50,000 per minute (*Oxfam*, June 2026); Jeff Bezos is exploding rockets into the atmosphere and yet his net worth would still take the average US worker 3.8 million years to earn on their own. Pauline

Hanson’s, Trumpish, 1.5 hour-long press club address (17 June 2026) thrives in an insurgent post-fact world (remember, Donald Trump was a joke until he wasn’t); Gina Rinehart gifts One Nation a ‘sexy’ \$1 million plane; One Nation—the party for “ordinary Australians doing it tough”—has also received \$2 million in donations from Angus and Sarah Aitken, Adam Giles (NT Chief Minister 2013–16) and Ian Plimer; Elon Musk became the world’s first trillionaire (June 2026) when his company SpaceX went public (but the fact that SpaceX owns Grok and Grok makes AI child porn is irrelevant); President Donald Trump’s cryptocurrency ventures earned him over A\$2 billion in 2025; he posts with the pathological certainty of a stalker, (8,800 times since his second term); pretending to be Jesus in his own echo chamber, controlling the news cycle by going at it all night so people wake up to his slop; and, there is a persistent pattern linking the timing of his White House Truth Social announcements to very lucrative trades.

Be wary, Australia is not immune. Money buys dis and misinformation and the wealth of the world are manipulating our democracy. Globalisation in 2026 is not about opening trade borders, it is about fascist ideologies—coming from extreme wealth—lassoing the frightened masses.

Something has to give.

Collapse may be a good thing. It invites us to simplify; to ask the more important questions: How am I a part of the problem? Will I die if I’m not online? What is left if everything I’m hanging onto falls away? Who do I want to be in this? How can I do things differently? What is one thing that really needs to change? What do I value? Truth still remains a very powerful weapon.

Congruence, balance, accord, agility; and perhaps, a form of peace will come, when we are able to ask ourselves the harder questions and face up to the truth. Who knows, we may even begin to have new ideas. Brave, new imaginings of how things might look if it all were different.

GLOSSARY

AWALT

“All women are like that;” used to stereotype women.

ALPHA MALE/BETA MALE

The hierarchy in the manosphere culture: “alphas” are dominant and desirable, while “betas” are weak and unsuccessful.

BECKY

Used to describe a woman who is less desirable than a “Stacy;” sometimes racialised or class coded. See also Stacy and Chad.

BLACK PILL

Nihilistic world view among incels that one’s romantic prospects are biologically determined; that “inferior” men have no chance of ever having sexual relationships with women. See also red pill/blue pill and incel.

BRIFFAULT’S LAW

A conspiracy theory that women use men for their personal gain. It is used to suggest women are selfish and deceptive beings and to justify anti-feminist attitudes.

CHAD

The archetype of an alpha male: a muscular, sexually successful man and the opposite of “incel” or “beta male.” Often depicted in memes and used in racist contexts. See also alpha male and Stacy.

COPE

Used to suggest someone “deal with it” or “cry about it.” Another example of a common word taking on a negative connotation in certain contexts, including some online communities.

CUCK

An insult that implies a man is weak or feminized; suggests a man has been sexually humiliated.

E-GIRL/ONLYFANS GIRL

Used to refer to women who earn income or attract attention through digital platforms; derogatory; reflects resentment of women’s presence online.

FALSE ALLEGATIONS MYTH

The idea that women’s claims of sexual assault are often fabricated.

FEMOID/FHO

“Female humanoid organism” is an insulting term meant to suggest women are not only less than men, but less than human.

FEMINIST AGENDA

While “feminist agenda” may refer to different or progressive ideas in other contexts, in the manosphere, the term is in reference to a conspiracy theory that feminists control media, education, and politics to oppress men.

FRAME/MAINTAINING FRAME

Emotional control and dominance over women; a popular concept in PUA and red pill communities.

FRAMEMOGGING

Outperforming or dominating someone.

GOONING

Masturbating (or playing with yourself) for days on end but staving off orgasm in the hopes of reaching a trance-like state.

GYMCEL

A subset of the incel movement that promotes bodybuilding to attract women and overcome celibacy. See also incel.

GYNOCENTRISM

The claim that society is dominated by women’s interests.

HAMSTER (RATIONALIZATION HAMSTER)

Derogatory metaphor describing women as irrational.

HIGH-VALUE MALE/MAN

See SMV. A reference to someone with superficial markers of “value,” including fitness and wealth.

HYPERAGENCY

The idea that women possess excessive social or sexual power in society and over men.

HYPERGAMY/HYPERGAMOUS

Used derogatorily to refer to women being obsessed with marrying “up” with men who are physically attractive and financially successful.

INCEL (INVOLUNTARY CELIBATE)

A person who believes that men are entitled to sex and that women purposefully deprive them of it; a core manosphere ideology. Extremist incel culture promotes rape and assault and brings together other ideologies, including racism and homophobia. Incels have been linked to acts of mass violence.

Attempting to increase sexual attractiveness, including through exercise and surgery. Looksmaxxing communities often subject men and boy’s photos to brutal comments.

JESTERMAXXING

Similar to Looksmaxxing but the focus is on being funny or hilarious, often taken to extremes by invading private and public spaces with loud or random jokes or impressions and staring people down for a reaction.

MALE SUPREMACISM

Ideology asserting men’s superiority over women; extremist misogyny.

MANOSPHERE

A loose network of communities that claim to address men’s struggles—dating, fitness or fatherhood—often promoting harmful advice and attitudes that endanger women and children.

MEN GOING THEIR OWN WAY (MGTOW)

Movement that suggests society is rigged against men—and that it is best to avoid women, and even mainstream society, altogether.

MEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST (MRA)/MEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT (MRM)

Individuals and the broader umbrella term for a main manosphere ideology that often takes an academic tone to claim that feminism and women's rights—to vote, to education, to leadership positions—have disadvantaged men. This claim that society is leaving men behind pre-dates the manosphere.

MEWING

An example of a medically unproven exercise promoted as a type of looksmaxing, in this case with the intention of building a more defined jawline.

MOGGING

Originally short for AMOG (“Alpha Male of the Group”), mogging is the act of physically outshining everyone else to prove dominance. It's less about “healthy living” and more about “winning” through looks.

NORMIE

A “normal” person outside of the manosphere community; considered ignorant or conformist.

PATRIARCHY DENIALISM

The belief that men are the oppressed gender and that patriarchy does not exist.

PICK-UP ARTIST (PUA)

Refers to individuals within a core manosphere ideology that teaches members how to coerce women into sex, as if a game, and mocks the idea of sexual consent.

RAGE BAIT

Online content deliberately designed to be frustrating, provocative or offensive in order to increase traffic and engagement.

RED PILL/BLUE PILL

Red pill ideology, or to be redpilled, means to wake up to a reality that the world favours women over men. In reference to the movie *The Matrix*, it suggests that people who disagree have taken the blue pill. See also black pill.

RED PILL RAGE/BLUE PILL RAGE

The feelings of anger and resentment that set in upon “waking up” to manosphere ideologies and injustices against men.

REVERSE DISCRIMINATION

The claim that feminism and gender equality efforts unfairly disadvantage men; similar to the claim that society is “misandrist,” or prejudiced against men.

SA

An acronym for “sexual assault” used to get around content guidelines on digital platforms.

SIGMA MALE

The “lone wolf” archetype who embodies independence and dominance.

SIMP

An insult targeting men viewed as excessively kind, deferential or supportive of women.

SMV (SEXUAL MARKET VALUE)

Ranking of individuals' worth based on their attractiveness in terms of physical appearance and status.

SOY BOY

A derogatory label for men seen as effeminate or progressive.

STACY

An idealized, highly attractive woman that is considered unattainable. The female counterpart to “Chad.” See also Becky and Chad.

UNALIVE

Used in reference to death, including murder or suicide, used to get around content guidelines on digital platforms.

WAGECUCK/CORPORATE SLAVE

A slur mocking men with conventional jobs; used to glorify “alpha” independence or entrepreneurship.

WHITE KNIGHTING

A disparaging term for men who defend women's rights or oppose misogyny.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/glossary/glossary-the-manosphere>

EMOJIS



(Flexed Biceps)

Strong, dominant man, linked to gym culture and the idea of being a 'high-status' man.



(Fire)

Used to praise someone for agreeing with manosphere beliefs or sharing an opinion that supports them.



(Red Circle)

Symbolises 'red pill' thinking—the idea that men need to 'wake up' to what they see as an unfair system working against them.



(Black Circle)

Represents 'black pill' beliefs, which say that men who aren't naturally attractive (so-called 'Chads') have no real chance in dating.



(Skull)

Used to show extreme hopelessness, especially in incel groups, suggesting they've given up on dating.



(Cold Face)

Shows emotional detachment, often linked to the idea that men should be tough and avoid showing feelings.

WOMEN AND DATING



(Crown)

Used to show dominance, often linked to the idea that 'men are kings.' Sometimes used to mock men seen as too submissive to women.



(Gorilla)

Represents extreme masculinity, sometimes used jokingly to suggest raw strength and dominance.



(Snake)

Used to insult men who support feminism or gender equality, calling them traitors.



(Money Bag)

Stands for the belief that wealth equals power and makes a man more attractive to women.



(Upside down face)

Used sarcastically to mock feminist views or men who don't follow manosphere beliefs.

GENDER AND RELATIONSHIPS



(Dress / High Heel)

Used to refer to women in a stereotypical or objectifying way.



(Cat Face / Cat)

Used as an insult towards women, sometimes implying they are lonely or undesirable.



(Wilted Flower)

Suggests a woman is 'past her prime,' often used to criticise women over 30 in discussions about dating and relationships.



(Baby Bottle)

Used to mock men who are seen as too emotional or dependent on women, often calling them 'weak' or 'beta males.'



(Unicorn)

The idea of a 'perfect' woman—someone who is submissive, young, and 'pure.'

MOCKING & INSULTS



(Clown Face)

Mocks men who are seen as overly supportive of women, feminism, or progressive ideas.



(Monkey Face)

Aimed at men who are considered weak or who follow mainstream beliefs.



(Clown Face and World)

Society has become ridiculous or 'broken' because of feminism and progressive values.

RED PILL AND INCEL TERMS



(Hot Pepper)

An attractive, manipulative, dangerous female.



(Puzzle Piece)

How to 'figure out' women or understand dating like it's a game or a code to crack.



(Rocket)

Rising status, wealth and power.



(Wolf)

'Lone wolf' masculinity—rejecting mainstream dating and focusing on independence.



(100)

Referring to the “80/20 rule,” a theory suggesting that 80% of women are attracted to only 20% of men. This imbalance justifies “tricking” women into relationships as normal dating approaches are futile for most men.



(Red Pill)

Can be associated with someone expressing they are an ‘incel’.



(Red Beans)

Stand-in for “beaning”—slang derived from obscure forum jokes or as a euphemism for male frustration or emasculation. It can signal membership to incel ideology.



(Apple)

Can be associated with someone expressing they are an ‘incel’.

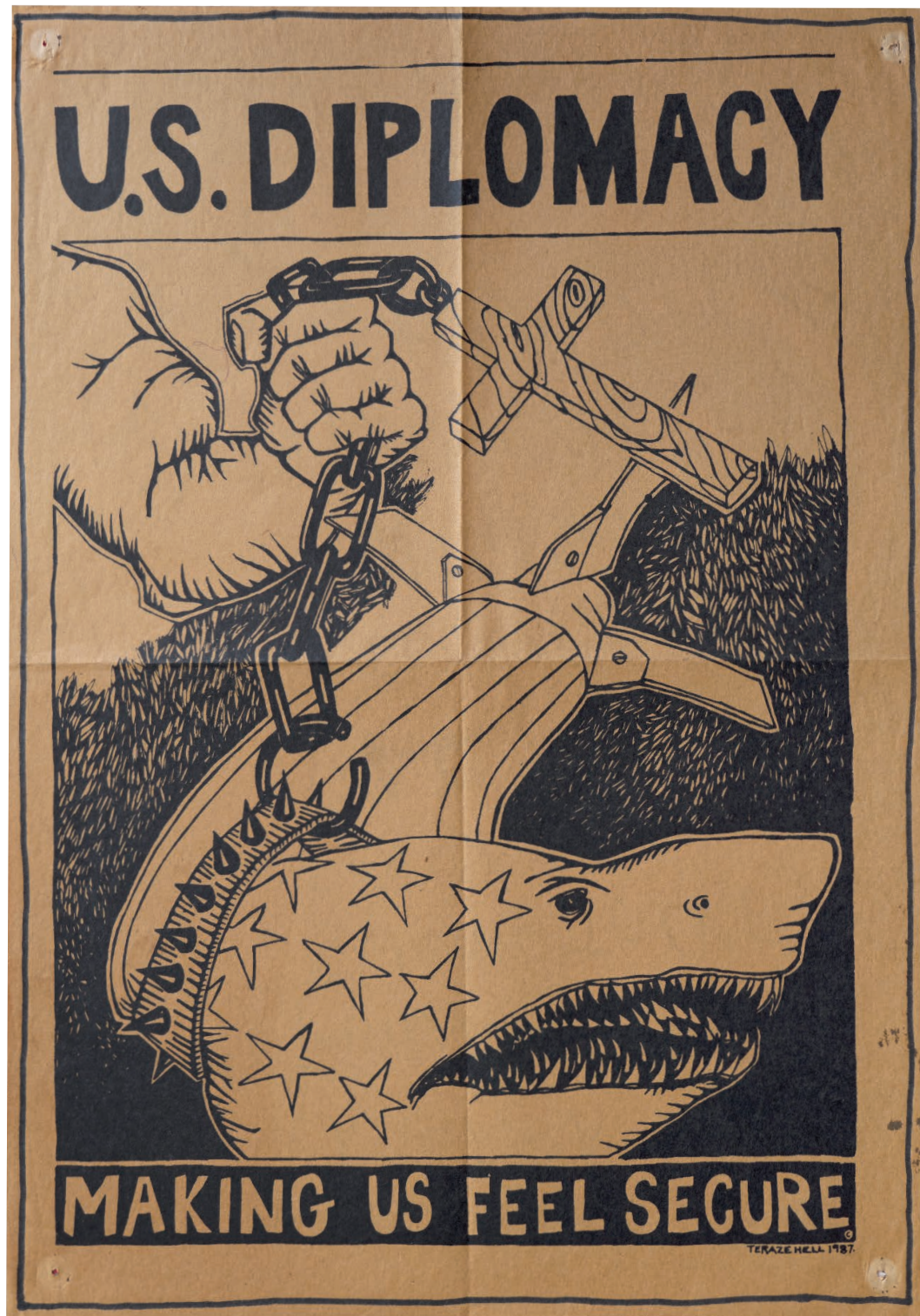


(Bills)

Can be associated with someone expressing they are an ‘incel’.

<https://ssslearning.co.uk/safeguarding-articles/manosphere-emojis>

AFTERWORD



Therese Ritchie, *U.S. diplomacy, making us feel secure*, 1987, screen print on butchers paper, 42cm x 29.7cm.

DON'T POST ABOUT THE WAR

Where President Trump sees Pete Hegseth (US Secretary of War) as a manosphere-type, good looking, "TV ready" White House staffer, Hegseth sees himself as a righteous Warrior Christian in a Christian Republic, forged by God with the task of enacting His divine plan and fulfilling a biblical prophecy from the New Testament. The second coming of Christ requires Jewish people to return to the Holy Land. Hegseth believes the US must protect the Jewish people (probably hoping to convert them to Christianity afterwards), because if the Arabs were to wipe out Israel, Jesus would not be arriving anywhere, anytime soon. Now that's just stupid.

Speaking of Jesus though, you've gotta hand it to Pope Leo XIV. Even though the Catholic Church and Trump do have one thing in common—they both cover up child-sex scandals (so beware the pedestal)—Leo's the only world leader who has stood up to Trump and he is not backing down anytime soon.



"They are negotiating with themselves."

Iran describing US President Trump's peace talks with Iran, March 2026.

"We negotiate with bombs."

Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of War on US President Trump's peace talks with Iran, March 2026.

"Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it!!! Open the Fuckin' Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell—JUST WATCH! Praise be to Allah."

Donald Trump, Truth Social (Easter Sunday post), April 5, 2026.

"We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people. Let those who have weapons lay them down. Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace."

Pope Leo XIV, Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

"Blessed is he who, in the name of camaraderie and duty, shepherd the lost through the valley of darkness, for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to capture and destroy my brother. And you will know my call sign is "Sandy One", when I lay my vengeance upon thee."

Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of War, at a Pentagon prayer session, quoting from Quentin Tarantino's 1994 movie, *Pulp Fiction*, but citing the Old Testament Book of Ezekiel, 5 April, 2026.

"The entire country could be taken out in one night, and that night might be tomorrow night. ... Because of the power of our military, every bridge in Iran will be decimated, every power plant in Iran will be out of business, burning, exploding and never to be used again. I hope I don't have to do it."

Donald Trump's remarks to reporters/Truth Social follow-up, April 6, 2026.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will. ... Maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen, WHO KNOWS? We will find out tonight, one of the most important moments in the long and complex history of the World."

Donald Trump, Truth Social, April 7, 2026.

"Today, as we all know, there was this threat against the entire people of Iran, and this is truly unacceptable. There are certainly issues here of international law, but even more than that, it is a moral question for the good of the (world's) people. I would invite citizens of all the countries involved to contact the authorities, political leaders, congressmen, to ask them to work for peace and to reject war always."

Pope Leo XIV, April 7, 2026.

"I don't want a Pope who thinks it's OK for Iran to have a Nuclear Weapon. I don't want a Pope who criticizes the President of the United States because I'm doing exactly what I was elected, IN A LANDSLIDE, to do, setting Record Low Numbers in Crime, and creating the Greatest Stock Market in History."

Donald Trump, Truth Social, April 9, 2026.

"God does not bless any conflict."

Pope Leo XIV, April 10, 2026.

"Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war!"

Pope Leo XIV, April 11, 2026.

"The Pope is a loser."

Donald Trump, Truth Social, April 14, 2026.

"The world is being ravaged by a handful of tyrants, yet it is held together by a multitude of supportive brothers and sisters ... Woe to those who manipulate religion and the very name of God for their own military, economic and political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth,"

Pope Leo XIV at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Africa, April 16, 2026.

"It has been my Honor to solve 9 Wars across the World, and this will be my 10th, so let's, GET IT DONE!"

Donald Trump, Truth Social, April 16, 2026.

"Peace is not something we must invent: it is something we must embrace by accepting our neighbour as a brother and as our sister."

Pope Leo XIV, April 17, 2026.

