

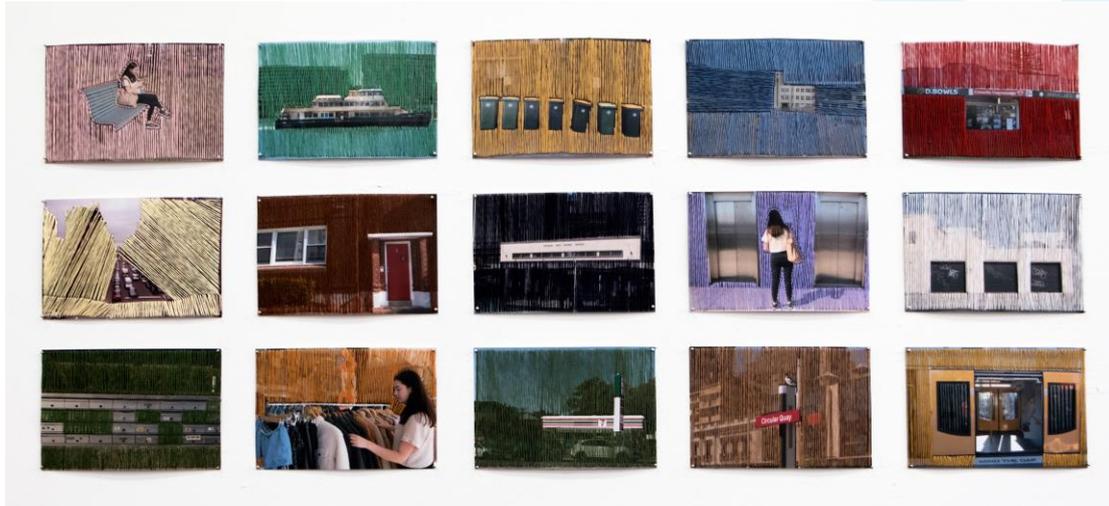


MEDIA RELEASE

Hazelhurst

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Media Release



Vital Signs: University of Wollongong graduates experiment with contemporary issues of grief, melancholy, politics and gender

Vital Signs is an annual exhibition at Hazelhurst Arts Centre which showcases the work of recent visual arts graduates from the University of Wollongong (UOW). The exhibition will open March 19.

The exhibition, and related internship and residency award, is a partnership between Hazelhurst and the University's School of the Arts, English and Media to provide support for early career artists from southern Sydney and the Illawarra region. For many of the artists this will be their first exhibition outside of the university space.

The 13 works, selected by Hazelhurst curator Carrie Kibbler, include a wide and experimental approach to art making, executed with skill and sophistication. *Vital Signs* explores contemporary issues with shifting emotional engagement including themes of family connection, gender, the everyday, politics, the Anthropocene, melancholy and grief.

The exhibition showcases sculpture, photography, painting, textile and media. The mediums intersect as artists experiment with new ideas, creating original and unique work as unpredictable as concrete canvases and screen-printing



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on Perspex. The works highlight how the artists' work within the unpredictable space of media, which is moving away from singular, discrete mediums.

Hazelhurst is also offering one artist the Hazelhurst Arts Centre Artist in Resident Prize - a two-week studio residency at the centre. The winner will be announced on the exhibition's opening night.

Each year, in addition to the Vital Signs exhibition and residency prize, Hazelhurst offers a curatorial internship. The program gives the selected graduate an opportunity to experience the hands-on process of producing the exhibition.

This year's intern, Emma Moser, sees the experience as a valuable step towards a desired career within visual arts. "Being able to create an exhibition from start to finish has been incredibly rewarding," she says, "Bringing so many incredible artworks together is such a satisfying responsibility."

Vital Signs will be opened by artist and lecturer Teo Treloar at 6pm Thursday 19 March in the Broadhurst Gallery.

Exhibiting artists: Evan Anderson, Eliza Carroll, Emma Collins, Catherine Dacosta, Wilma Edwards, Alannah Grasso, Alexiya Kramarenko, Emma Moser, Christopher Paskins, Carla Prospero, Lilly Rowan, Natalija Subotic, Sophie Taplin

Image captions:

Top: Catherine Dacosta, *Everyday/Beauty* (detail), 2019, cotton thread on photographic paper

Bottom left: Sophie Taplin, *Terminal Abandonment* (detail), 2019, archival inkjet print, dye-based inks

Bottom right: Christopher Paskins, *Façades* (detail), 2019, acrylic on concrete

20 March – 14 April (Closed Good Friday)

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, 782 Kingsway, Gymea NSW

10am-5pm

Free

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