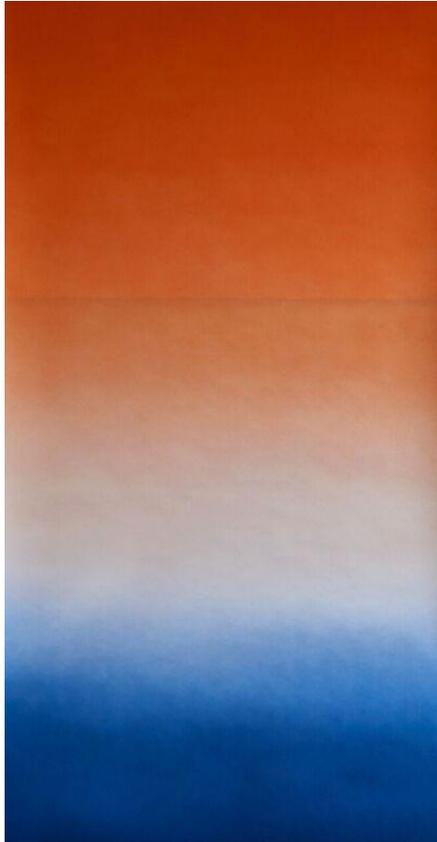




# MEDIA RELEASE

Hazelhurst

SUTHERLANDSHIRE  
ARTS  
CENTRE



## VANISHING POINT

An exhibition opening at Hazelhurst Arts Centre showcasing new work by five women artists – Consuelo Cavaniglia, Ellen Dahl, Yvette Hamilton, Taloi Havini and Salote Tawale - considers the island as a concept where opposing ideas meet. It is a separate entity that is isolated, detached yet contained, removed and potentially unreachable. The five artists consider this in connection to political and personal viewpoints

*Vanishing Point is an artist led exhibition said Belinda Hanrahan, Director Hazelhurst Arts Centre. This exhibition developed after the artists connected over their exploration of similar themes and approaches to their practices.*

*It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase the work of these five artists, who are making challenging work that is reflective of contemporary visual arts practice said Carrie Kibbler, Curator, Hazelhurst Arts Centre.*



# MEDIA RELEASE

The definitive edge of the island leads to questions of definition of borders and by extension definition of identities – personal, cultural, political. Existing as a haven from the ‘mainland’, and a sovereign territory of containment, the island is a construct of time and space that lives outside of the ‘real world’. But as literary references suggest (‘No Man is an Island’) might it just be an unreachable space or idea, like a mirage – just a trick of the light.

Each of the five artists references the photographic or utilizes the lens in production, and it is through this apparatus that the island is viewed. Through the telescopic capabilities of the lens, the artists draw close and pull back, oscillating their vision from detail to whole - from examinations of the socio/political island state, to distant explorations that address the island as a source for longing and illusion. From these varied viewpoints the works collectively map the island concept revealing compelling conversations about identity, vision and space.

## THE ARTISTS:

**Yvette Hamilton** is a lens-based artist whose practice takes an exploratory approach to vision and visuality, specifically in relation to the photographic. For *Vanishing Point* she has created a suite of three new works that all reflect on the idea of ‘phantom island’ – an island that has been mapped, but through mistake or subterfuge has subsequently been proven to not exist. In *Dead Reckoning I – III* the artist repeatedly attempts to draw, from memory, the outline of a series of personally significant islands, aiming to explore the role of error and failure within both navigation and memory. In the large light-based installation, *‘I Just Have This Feeling’*, semaphoric symbology act as quasi-navigational markings that attempt to chart a course through an unknown sea. And in the eponymous *Phantom Island* series, a collection of animated lightboxes aim to draw parallels between the idea of the self and the notion of a phantom island.

**Ellen Dahl** is a Sydney based, Norwegian born artist working across photography, video, sound and projection. Often with the landscape as an entry point, her practice traces the intersection of memory and identity with a physical, political or psychological sense of place. For *Vanishing Point* she has created a body of black/white photographic works that reflects on the island as the notion of the definitive edge, with its hard boundaries and fixed limits. Where one substance ends and another starts. Me and you. Us and them. A metaphor for the nation state. Yet the shoreline is corroding and new islands are born.

**Taloi Havini** works across ceramics, photography, video and mixed media installation. Taloi was raised in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville where islands are firmly part of Taloi’s consciousness. On a recent trip back to Bougainville she discovered a collection of severely deteriorated Kodachrome slides from her parent’s archive. Seeing them evoked ideas of island life in the tropics during the ‘60s and ‘70s, some depicting the very places where Taloi was raised in the 80s. For *Vanishing Point* Taloi has digitally scanned and transferred slides to wallpaper, titled *an imaginary line*, the suite of works consists of large-scale photographic images of islands, including one serving as a backdrop to a mounted underwater video titled, *over and over*. The silent video is a compilation of Taloi’s experiences skin diving including footage of coral spawning.

**Consuelo Cavaniglia** is a cross-disciplinary artist whose work focuses on how we see and understand



# MEDIA RELEASE

space. Her work often employs subtle visual illusions to unsettle our sense of space and suggest instability and uncertainty within the structures that we inhabit. The two untitled works she presents in *Vanishing Point* rely on illusion. They tie to narratives around the idea of the island that describe a place of desire, places that are not real, visions and mirages. Her large airbrushed work, *Untitled* (2017), references infinity screens – screens used in photographic shoots that locate people or objects in non-spaces -supposedly neutral spaces- or invented spaces, and spaces other than the one the subject is in.

**Salote Tawale** is a multidisciplinary artist working in performance installation. Cultural identity is a focus in her artwork. The inherent conflict of being from mixed heritage (Fiji and Australia) that simultaneously includes, and excludes, her from a dominant colonial discourse. At a point of constant dislocation (or more accurately) a state of translocation. Foregrounding the experience of a translocated Indigeneity, the condition of Tawale's practice is one that is removed from land and separated from traditional practices, and, consequently repositioned within immigrant histories. In ***Constant interruption, always changing, 2018***, through self-performance, photomedia and drawing, Tawale creates remnants from personal memories faded through time of her experiences in the village. This work speaks to diaspora identity, cultural exchanges devolved through the disappearance of customary practices and the passing of older generations and disappearance of information through the force of the colonial project.

#### Details:

##### ***Vanishing Point***

Hazelhurst Arts Centre

782 Kingsway, Gymea.

Opens 21 April – 11 June, 2018

10am – 5pm daily. Admission free

For further information please contact: Susanne Briggs [sbriggs@ssc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sbriggs@ssc.nsw.gov.au) or 0412 268 320

#### Captions:

**Consuelo Cavaniglia *Untitled 2017* (detail) airbrushed pigment ink on archival paper 256cm x 150cm Ellen Dahl  
Lost 1 + 11 (2017) archival pigment print on photo paper 130cm x 81cm.**