

GEORGE PATON GALLERIES & ARTS LAB
EXHIBITION DATES: 21 August to 1 September 2023
EXHIBITION CELEBRATION: 5-7pm Thursday 24 August



Mudfest: Transform

Mary Aung, MJ Bentley, Kuan-Ling Chen, Marcie Di Bartolomeo, Genevieve Doherty, Ambar Figuero, Maleea Hegarty, Yiran Hu, Jen Huang, Andrew Irvin, Anishaa Jeyakumar, Kien-Ling Liem, Grazia Marin, Akash Anil Nair, Juliana Neild, Linh Pham, Amanda Quah, Madeleine Salisbury, Hari Sinh, Tanay Sonthalia, Karen Spencer, Connie Wong, Sirui Yang and Alice Zhao

Coordinated by Amanda Quah



MUDfest is UMSU's biennial student-led arts festival which provides a unique opportunity for students from any background to showcase their creativity and meet other artistic collaborators along the way. This year, the George Paton Gallery will present a diverse range of works in response to the theme "Transform". Visit the space to see how students express their ideas about the ever-changing self, our rapidly morphing landscape, or even reshaping past and cultural narratives.

IMAGE: *Mudfest: Transform* Installation detail, August 2023

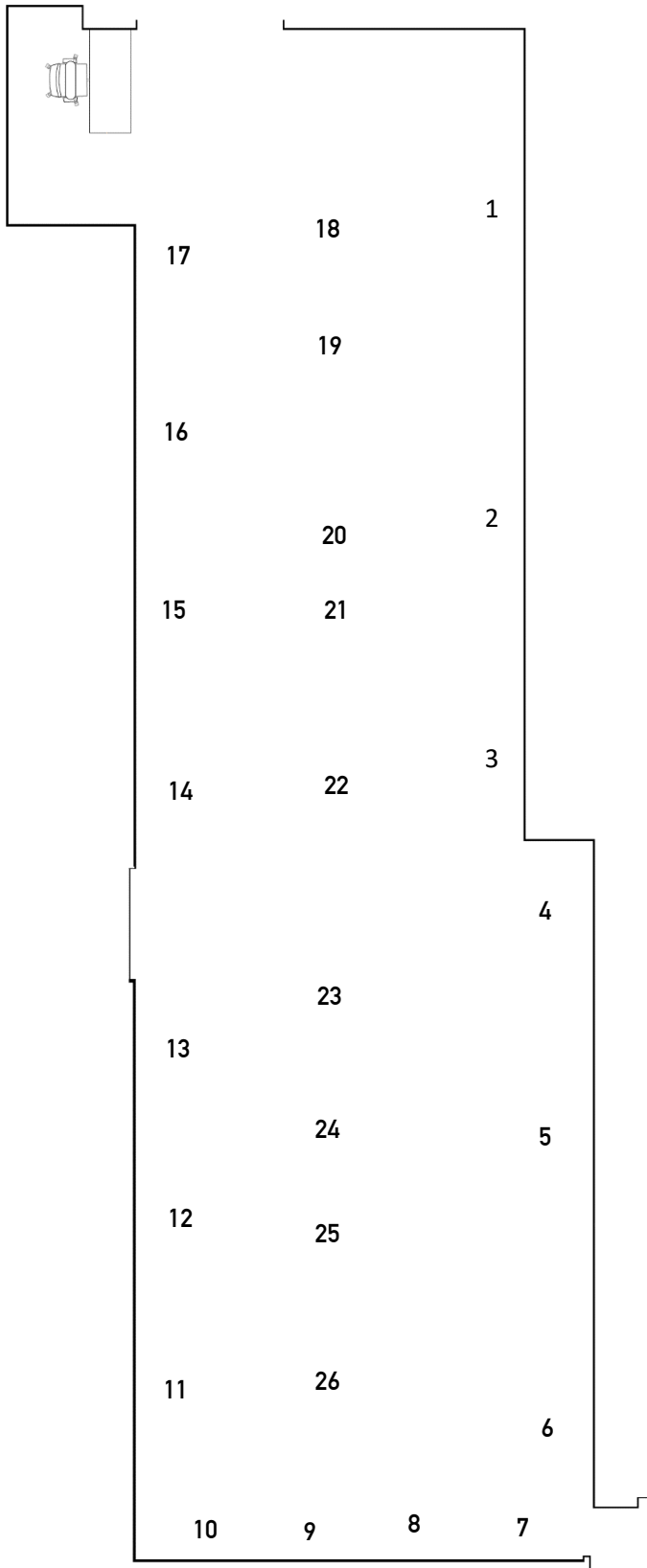
We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this show takes place, the Wurundjeri people. We acknowledge that this is stolen land, and that sovereignty has never been ceded. It always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

GEORGE PATON GALLERY

Level 1, Arts and Cultural Building, The University of Melbourne

11am-5pm Monday to Friday | umsu.unimelb.edu.au/gallery | gpg@union.unimelb.edu.au

**Mudfest: Transform
List of Works**



GEORGE PATON GALLERY

1. Grazia Marin
2. Linh Pham
3. Andrew Irvin
4. MJ Bentley
5. Connie Wong
6. Sirui Yang
7. C K Lin
8. Akash Anil Nair
9. Ambar Figuero
10. Anishaa Jeyakumar
11. Jen Huang
12. Jen Huang
13. Juliana Neild
14. Alice Zhao
15. Madeleine Salisbury
16. Tanay Sonthalia
17. Yiran Hu
18. Maleea Hegarty
19. Marcie Di Bartolomeo
20. Kien-Ling Liem
21. Kien-Ling Liem
22. Mary Aung
23. Genevieve Doherty
24. Hari Sinh
25. Amanda Quah

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26. April Guest (wall)
27. Karen Spencer (window)

GEORGE PATON GALLERY**1. Grazia Marin, *Reimagined***

Acrylic on canvas

There have been many interpretations of the meanings and effects of fairytales as they fascinate a broad spectrum of society. These abstract, figurative paintings revisit European fairy tales in which the failings of the parents put the main characters into dreadful situations. I wish to reopen discussion of the stories which may interest feminists of a younger generation and bring a focus on the powerless position of children, especially female children.

2. Linh Pham, *Street Arts*

Photo stills in video carousel

Street Arts are often known as paintings or murals that are displayed in public. Yet, I believe they existed in many forms that use the street as an element for the process of arts making. This series captured street performances by street artists in Melbourne CBD. Framed them while they are in the making of life, connection and arts for our people.

3. Andrew Irvin, *New Ocean*

Watercolour on paper, and giclee prints

The climate crisis looms, and we are forced to confront it using tools and taking action previously unfathomable. This collection seeks to depict a series of transformative ideas made manifest across the Pacific—the frontline in the war to safeguard the future of our civilization.

4. MJ Bentley, *7 Queens*

Prints of digital photographs and composites

A series of seven Melbourne drag queens and the worlds they inhabit expressed through digital photography and composites. Each photograph has a unique story or ethos. The series showcases various forms of existing drag from Melbourne. You can see Footscray queer culture in the drag of Sarah Jessica Carpark (@sarajessicacarpark) or Brunswick queer culture in the sexual & gothic Dettol (@jaxonaugustus). This series is ongoing work by MJ Bentley (@mj__images).

5. Connie Wong, *Silent Scream*

Oil and acrylic on canvas

My series reflects my concern for the rapid melting of glaciers, which brought about the question of what these glacier mountains would look like if I were to return to them in twenty years' time.

6. Sirui Yang, *Etherealism I: XENO Morphinae*

Acrylic on canvas

XENO Morphinae (2023), delves into the concept of community by presenting a captivating visual narrative. Inspired by the immense power of human connections and the significance of collective experiences, the painting explores the intricate relationship between nature and technology.

Within this piece, a mesmerising world unfolds, inhabited by a diverse array of exotic animals and creatures. From the depths of the forest, these beings emerge, transcending conventional boundaries. *XENO Morphinae* symbolises the evolving nature of community, where robotic animals coexist harmoniously with the creatures we encounter in our daily lives.

Etherealism II: Botanical Chimaera

Three titanium sculptures, *Butterfly, Duvalia, Featherhuman*

Titanium, silver, polypropylene, SLA resin, sterling silver

I have a strong passion for exploring how aesthetic forms in nature have inspired the development of my jewellery projects in creating its unique aura or atmosphere. As I want to evoke my unique feelings of vitality in nature. Every jewellery piece is like human beings and I try to build in their own personality through my experiments of colour and form.

7. CK Lin (Linda), *Empty Glass*

Acrylic on canvas, graphite on paper

Fragile?! haha...ha...ha...hmmmm. Well at least it's handled with care?

8. Akash Anil Nair, *Ordered Disorder*

Photographic prints

Chaos and Mental health. Truly a form of ordered disorder.

Make of it as you will, interpret your version of the chaos!

9. Ambar Figueroa, *sew ourselves*

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas.

This artwork symbolises the journey of mending our souls by stitching ourselves together, embracing constant transformation, and becoming a patchwork of strength despite pain and uncertainty. While we acknowledge the painful process, navigating tough times demands resilience to recognise, evolve, and transform ourselves. Concept and idea by Ambar (@nily_way)

10. Anishaa Jeyakumar, *grandfathers*

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas

11. Jen Huang, *Memories in Motion*

Photographic prints

12. Jen Huang, *Which one is AI generated?*

Photographic print

13. Juliana Neild, *Her Third Room*

Screen print, intaglio, linocut

In the form of a visual journal, this collection of print snippets reflects on discord between urban and natural environments, and the points of resistance found at their intersection. City chaos against the solace we find in a green space.

I also want to emphasise the expansive versatility of the print medium through adopting a variety of techniques and recycled materials (milk cartons, CDs).

14. Alice Zhao, *Eye*

Repurposed cardboard and plastic packages, tissue paper, watercolour on paper

My eyes have trouble focusing, which gives me blurred vision, but every time I try to explain, it sounds like a lie. "But you look normal, can't you just try to read this...", they said. And for a long time, I blamed myself for 'not trying hard enough to make my eyes work'.

With this piece, I want more people to know that impaired vision doesn't necessarily mean one is blind, but not being blind doesn't mean one is not struggling. There are different types of vision problems, and they are all real.

Shakespeare once wrote, "The eyes are the window to your soul".

Now, can you see, through the window I made, that the world is there but blurry.

Can you see, through my eyes, that the world is blurry but beautiful.

Amount of Emotion Released

Mixed media, paper and glue, oil pastel on paper

Left-handed people are disabled when met with those "righty" scissors; women were disabled in elections before they won the right to vote; human beings are disabled without equipment facing the ocean... One is more or less disabled, under certain circumstances, during certain periods of time. But they don't get it, and I don't get it, so I just keep drawing. It never matters what I draw, as long as the strokes release colour pigments, release the emotion, and heal my heart.

Hamster's Adventure – the Unintentional Impressionist

Oil pastel on paper

The hamster doesn't mean to be an impressionist. 'Why is way-finding so hard?' they wonder, while enjoying their journey

15. Madeleine Salisbury, *Just Right*

Prints on Tyvek

'*Just right*' OCD is a subset of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder in which compulsions are performed until the sufferer feels they are complete or... just right. This piece depicts how OCD of this nature affects how I perceive and interact with my environment, and how an invisible mental disorder can present in a very physical way.

16. Tanay Sonthalia, *Incredible India*

Coloured pencil on paper

Being from the land of diverse cultures united into a single nation—India. I want to represent a small glimpse of the rich history and art of my country through some of my artworks.

17. Yiran Hu, *Nurture*

Acrylic on canvas

The relationship between kids and parents is always awkward. Because they know each other's defects and weaknesses, this makes it look so easy to break up this close enemy, and we all have indeed done it before.

Standing in front of this painting, under the tender eyes of this mother tiger, we can recall those affectionate moment of family we once had, and rethink the warm and painful bond between us and people we love.

18. Maleea Hegarty, *Fish Head*

Printed photo album

A booklet containing images drawn from my own experiences growing up fishing. I want to examine how marginal identities disrupt narratives of white nationalism that are ascribed to fishing culture. I want to transform conceptions about fishing and reaffirm that these practices are a part of Pacific Islander and Indigenous cultures long before the white settlement of Australia.

19. Marcie Di Bartolomeo, *Creative Art Therapy*

Mixed media, 3D collages

I recently experienced a significant nosedive in my physical and mental health due to extensive burnout that required an extended hospital stay for almost 3 months. During this time I reignited my passion for art for the sake of making art in art therapy, in particular, I discovered a fun visual art style: 3D collaging. Using a glue gun - something I have never used before this hospital stay - I would construct various 3D fantastical objects: a witches hat, towers for a castle, and little abstract dioramas.

20 & 21. Kien-Ling Liem, *(re/de)construction*

Mixed media

Identity is fickle, and a sense of self is erratic. In this piece, I aimed to explore the ways personal identity can be taken apart and put together through this mixed media hanging textile. The authority of colonialism in flags are questioned, multiple selves are explored and the abstract idea of belonging is highlighted in this piece.

22. Mary Aung, *Burmese Culture Through Jewellery*

Polymer clay

It aims to show diversity of the University of Melbourne students and the talent its students hold. It will also introduce a culture that is close yet not explored.

23. Genevieve Doherty, *Char*

Midfire clay and glass beads

Like a mirror, the cycles of life and nature are reflected in each other. With a strong bond to the Earth, my work finds inspiration in mould, bones, and glaciers- symbols of steady, isolated growth. This series explores themes of change, and how new beginnings are not always easy.

24. Hari Sinh, *36,792,000 minutes*

Bronze, acrylic render, wood, travertine, image transfer, steel reinforcing bar

A series of sculptures highlighting the reciprocal influence of the internet, culture, and belief on the built environment. The world around us has not sprung forth from nothing - buildings aren't made to last forever. Things continue to transform based on the decisions of every participant within both virtual and real communities.

25. Amanda Quah, *The price is right?*

Second-hand garments, price tags, string and thread

Where do your clothes come from? How much of the amount on a price tag really goes to the ones who make the garments we see in stores? These pieces of clothing are fabricated based on the minimum wage for textile workers versus the living wage of the country they live in.

paint ourselves

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas

This painting explores the concept of self-expression, emphasising the need for patience. It prompts reflection on how often we seek our true colours, the ones that best suit our unique palette. Though the process of painting ourselves may seem messy, our existence is a singular canvas. Embracing and trusting our vivid transformation of colours, we discover the art of painting ourselves. Concept and idea by Ambar (@nily_way)

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26. April Guest, *Stochastic Determinism*

Sound installation

An interactive sound installation and digital instrument where users can sing or make noises into a microphone, which is processed by algorithms to change a continuously running piece of music. The installation is both a fun, novel way for people of any background to engage with music creation tools, as well as an exploration into the relationship between our bodies and technology.

27. Karen Spencer, *Free Little Art Gallery*

Upcycled doll house

'Take art, leave art, love art'. The *Free Little Art Gallery* is an inclusive space to share and appreciate art on a miniature scale. The interior of the gallery will be endlessly transforming as people add and remove artworks. It is a truly collaborative piece that everyone is invited to contribute to and benefit from throughout MUDFest.