

PRESS RELEASE

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OUTER SPACE

Outer Space exhibition to coincide with APT9

Opening event Monday 26 November 6pm

Media previews available from Tuesday 20 November

Exhibition open to public 24 November to 15 December

NEW OUTER SPACE EXHIBITION OPENING ALONGSIDE APT9: SEVEN AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS EXPLORE CULTURAL INHERITANCE, FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

Outer Space is launching ***Cross-mending***, a group exhibition of new artwork at its Montague Road warehouse, a stone's throw from GOMA, to coincide with the Asia Pacific Triennial opening celebrations.

The term 'cross-mending' refers to the archaeological process of piecing together fragments of objects that have been dispersed across a site. Through cross-mending, archaeologists can uncover information not only about the fragmented object, but about the history of a specific site.

The exhibition takes 'cross-mending' as its title to describe how we make meaning from the past; what we inherit and learn from those who have gone before us; how we honour and celebrate them; and how we go forward. The exhibition acknowledges and values a multiplicity of voices that speak to the past, present and future.

Cross-mending brings together new and recent works by **Robert Andrew, Christopher Bassi, Hannah Brontë, Jessica Enkera, Callum McGrath, Sancintya Mohini Simpson and Athena Thebus**.

Through painting, drawing, video and sculpture, the exhibition will explore ideas surrounding denied or forgotten family histories, the nature of identity, the role of women, female empowerment, maternal relationships, colonial history, queer history and migratory experiences.

Cross-mending is co-curated by **Lisa Bryan-Brown, Katherine Dionysius and Amy-Clare McCarthy**. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with intergenerational perspectives, featuring newly commissioned texts from well-known



Installation view of *POOFTA* by Callum McGrath, Metro Arts, Brisbane, 2018, courtesy of the artist.

Brisbane-based artist and QUT visual arts lecturer **Leah King-Smith**, and Brisbane-based emerging writer **Hilary Thurlow**.

Outer Space's most ambitious project to date, the exhibition will spread across both galleries, taking up the entire warehouse space in its West End venue, which is conveniently located on Montague Road, between GOMA and the newly relocated Milani Gallery.



Athena Thebus, *Deep Water Dream Girl* (video still) 2018, HD video, sound, 20:00 min, courtesy of the artist.

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EVENT DETAILS

Opening event: 6pm, Monday 26 November 2018

Exhibition dates: Saturday 24 November – Sunday 15 December 2018

Media previews available: from Tuesday 20 November 2018

Public talk: Saturday 15 December 2018

Where: Outer Space, 1/170 Montague Rd, West End, QLD, 4101

free // all welcome // no need to RSVP

opening hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 10am–2pm

Artists and co-curators are available for photographs and interviews upon request.
High-resolution images are available on request.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS IN *CROSS-MENDING*

Robert Andrew is a descendent of the Yawuru people from the Broome area in the Kimberley, Western Australia, and also has European and Filipino heritage. His practice investigates denied and forgotten personal and family histories. Split between old and new, he explores his identity and history with the use of contemporary technology. He often uses earth pigments, ochres, rocks and soil to build stories of relationship to land and culture and to mine historical, cultural, political and personal events that have been ignored, buried and distanced by the dominant paradigms of our western culture. Andrew is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Visual Arts at Griffith University. He has exhibited widely, with recent projects at Museum of Brisbane, Metro Arts, New England Regional Art Museum, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, and the Ian Potter Centre, NGV.

Christopher Bassi's practice weaves together multiple narratives that draw from the world around him including his mixed-racial Anglo/Torres Strait Islander heritage. Informed by the pictorial traditions of oil painting, his images set the stage for history and heritage to become the foundation of a personal cosmology that attempt to blur the limitations, and demonstrate the fluidity of the boundaries of cultural mixing. His practice examines the nature of liminality, transculturalism, globalisation, and philosophical reflections on the nature of identity. With a focus on the legacies of figurative painting, Bassi's work functions as a playful ontological inquiry between fact and fiction. Bassi graduated from the Queensland College of Art in 2017 and recently exhibited at Stable Art Space and Boxcopy Contemporary Art Space.

Hannah Brontë is a practising visual artist living and working in Meanjin (Brisbane). Employing video art, photography, costume design, weaving, textiles and installation, her vivid videos depict her imagined futures. Self-made textiles using microscopic, imagery of oestrogen combined with camouflage explore the idea of female militia and adorn many of the heroines within Brontë's video works. The artist creates all-consuming kaleidoscopic installations to transport her audiences through portals of magic laden with alternate pathways for the present and future. Fempress, Brontë's dance parties combining live hip hop acts with large scale art installations, have become immersive artworks. DJing at festivals all over Australia has seen Brontë combine her artwork with her music, slowly beginning the evolution of her imagined universes blurring and becoming reality.

Jessica Enkera investigates intersections between screen-based mass media, social infrastructures, and identities. Enkera analyses her personal ideas and experiences through a playful approach to soft sculpture, painting, photography and video. She appropriates and reimagines popular and personal imagery in order to unpack and examine her suspicion towards popular media and the limiting representations it often promotes. Enkera completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Art) at QUT in 2017. She has exhibited with artist-run initiatives Post Datum and Wreckers Artspace, and undertook a studio residency at Outer Space in 2018.

Informed by queer history and experiences, **Callum McGrath's** practice disrupts and negotiates different approaches to inheriting queer history. His work has been featured in various group and solo exhibitions including at Metro Arts, Institute of Modern Art Brisbane, West Space, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, and Bus Projects. He is a

founding co-director of Serious Queer Business. McGrath has obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Art) with first class Honours at the Queensland University of Technology and was awarded the Eyeline Prize for an Outstanding Visual Arts Graduate.

Sancintya Mohini Simpson's practice is informed by her Indian and Anglo-Celtic heritage, and the historical and lived experiences of her family and her communities. Through painting, photography, performance, video, prose and sound, her work shares narratives of migration, loss, and healing. As part of the Indian indentured labour diaspora, her practice seeks to acknowledge her familial history, uncovering the stories of women indentured in South Africa from 1860 to 1917. Simpson holds a Bachelor of Photography with Honours from the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University. Her work has most recently been exhibited at QUT Art Museum, Metro Arts, Blak Dot Gallery, Boxcopy, Jan Murphy Gallery, and Next Wave Festival.

Athena Thebus's practice spans sculpture, photography, video, and writing. Her practice harnesses the productive force of desire, and her works have an undercurrent of celestial Catholicism as influenced by her Filipina mother. This year, Thebus has presented new solo work at Next Wave Festival, Sugar Mountain Festival in collaboration with Marcus Whale, as well as a live stream performance work commissioned by Campbelltown Arts Centre NSW with collaborators Ainslie Templeton and Akil Ahamat. Based in Sydney, Thebus is a Scorpio with a Sagittarius rising and a Capricorn moon.

ABOUT OUTER SPACE

Outer Space Artist Run Initiative is a Brisbane-based not-for-profit contemporary art space that promotes education, career development and community engagement within the arts. Since its inception in 2016, Outer Space has endeavoured to promote and support diverse early career and emerging artists. With ongoing support from the Brisbane City Council, Outer Space has expanded to include gallery spaces, an affordable studio residency program and a multi-purpose space available for bookings.

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