

OTHER SUNS

CULT SCI-FI CINEMA & ART



Featuring local, national and international artists who embrace the science fictional imagination, *Other Suns* focuses on the less familiar underbellies of science fiction: the hybrid, the noisy, the forbidden, and the vernacular. Artists who explore the detritus of the future, the ecologies of other spaces, and the polymorphic technologies of tomorrow.

Other Suns probes the trajectory of science fiction from its counter culture New Wave outwards, moving in all directions simultaneously. The human imagination unveiled on digital screens, in

junkyard sculptures, and at all points in between. From terraformed suburbs to ancient landscapes, the pleasures of the limitless flesh to alternative manifestations of space travel. The universe and dreams, dreams and desires, the surrealism of science fiction and minds unleashed: *Other Suns* engages with the individual imagination as the key element in the science fiction vision.

Under other suns new worlds form.

Curated by Erin Coates (FAC) & Jack Sargeant (Revelation Perth International Film Festival)

Selected works in *Other Suns* are for sale. Please see Reception for details.

ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

NEIL ALDUM

Perth artist Neil Aldum has a deep interest in both science and art, having held roles in the water industry and in climate change policy. He works with predominantly raw industrial and agricultural materials, often using an unexpected combination of skills including weaving, woodworking, concrete casting and sewing. His work for *Other Suns* critically reflects on the 1969 manned moon landing, on the 50th anniversary of this event, and questions the notions of human technological advancement and science scepticism in a 'post-truth' world. Aldum has shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions in WA, including FAC's 2017 exhibition *In Cahoots: artist collaborate across Country*, now touring nationally.

ROY ANANDA

Roy Ananda's practice is driven by his long-term interest in speculative fiction and fan culture. Creating drawings, objects and installations, Ananda explores the intersection of art, science fiction and popular culture with humour and playfulness. His work *Blasphemous infinity* presents an impossible version of a Rubik's cube, in which the signature colours have been replaced with images from deep space. Another work, *Vader loop*, is a locked-groove vinyl record that plays an endless soundtrack of Darth Vader's iconic breathing. Ananda is based in Adelaide and presented a major new work in the 2018 *Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art* at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

DAN BOURKE

Dan Bourke is an artist based in Perth who works between studio, curatorial and publishing practices. Across all his work he uses a method of appropriating and subverting existing models to explore subjects and themes such as the nature, ethics, and the business of creative labour. His works often examine economies within the contemporary art world, forms of representation, and systems of taste and value. Bourke has co-founded a number of artist-run initiatives in Perth and also runs his own printing press project called Benchpress, with the aim of furthering the production and distribution of ideas in printed form. For *Other Suns*, Bourke has responded to the design of a series of vintage science fiction book covers from the personal collection of Jack Sargeant. Titled *2050*, this project draws parallels between the cautionary tales of science-fiction and our own rapidly approaching dystopian future through a small collection of 'hypebeast'-style apparel. www.danbourke.com

MATTHEW BRADLEY

Matthew Bradley's practice is driven by his exploration of the intrinsic properties of materials and the metaphysics of making. In 2015, he built a working furnace in his backyard and taught himself various casting techniques, using bronze, aluminium and copper alloy. He embarked on an ongoing project to create one hundred cast metal vessels, seven of which are included in *Other Suns*. The vessels evoke detritus from a failed space mission or perhaps artefacts from an alien civilisation. Bradley's vessels bare the marks and flaws of his self-taught casting process and while each is newly formed they appear aged, as though marked by an unfathomable history. Bradley's sculptural and performative practice implies both archaeology and engineering, reflecting processes in which works are discovered as much as they are made. Works from Bradley's *One Hundred Vessels* series were included in the major 2017 survey exhibition *The National*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. He lives and works in Adelaide. www.matthewbradleystudio.com

CLAIRE EVANS

Claire Evans is a writer, musician and screen artist based in Los Angeles. She is the singer and co-author of the pop group YATCH and the founding editor of Terraform, an online science fiction journal. She has also edited and written for Motherboard, VICE, Rhizome, The Guardian, WIRED, and Aeon. Evans is a member of the cyberfeminist collective Deep Lab, and author of the recent book *Broad Band: the untold Story of the Women who made the Internet*. In her early video artwork, Evan's used experimental and cut and paste techniques to focus on how gender and science are visualised in popular screen culture. For *Other Suns*, Evans has re-worked her early film *OK TO GO*, which assembles footage of wormholes taken from films and television series. *OK TO GO (REDUX)* is an apparently endless vortex of pulsing colours, abstract patterns and diverse graphic styles that reference the different eras and subgenres of the source video. www.clairelevans.com

OLIVER HULL

Oliver Hull's work examines the poetic and political interplay between images and natural landscapes through digital media, sculpture and installation. For *Other Suns*, Hull presents a large collection stones and rocks, painted to resemble the graphic, boldly contoured rocks represented in comics. *Rocks* appears like fragments of a DIY film set, rubble from a ruin, the moon or a fictional landscape. On closer inspection, the painted objects are actually natural rocks, of various types and from diverse locations, from the artist's ever-growing collection. Hull has exhibited extensively in artist run initiatives across Australia and in exhibitions in Europe. Hull lives and works in Naarm Melbourne on the unceded sovereign land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. www.oliverhull.com

SHALINI JARDIN

Shalini Jardin's watercolours and drawings are filled with the visceral details of human-hybrid lifeforms, reptilian metamorphosis and melding flesh and feathers. Using shards of colour, sinuous connecting lines and soft flows of watercolour, Jardin's images depict elements of different animals in a state of conjoining or pulling apart. Her ongoing fascination with visualising alternate possible trajectories of human evolution is rendered with delicate brush and line work. There is a flavour of surrealism, dreaming and the subconscious unleashed in her work, which is contrasted by the attention to anatomical detail and subtle references to the biological sciences. Jardin lives in Sydney and her work was included in the 2014 exhibition *The Conquest of Space*, curated by Andrew Frost at Galleries UNSW in Sydney.

SODA_JERK

Soda_Jerk are a two-person art collective who work at the intersection of documentary and speculative fiction. They are interested in the fundamental politics of images: how they circulate, whom they benefit, and how they can be censored or hijacked. Predominantly working with video, their footage-appropriation projects have also taken the form of cut-up texts, manifestos, screensavers and lecture performances. Their work in *Other Suns*, titled *Astro Black* (2007 – ongoing) is an episodic video cycle informed by Afrofuturism – a field of theory that examines the intersection of science fiction and social politics in Black Atlantic culture. Soda_Jerk formed in Sydney in 2002 and they have been based in New York City since 2012. www.sodajerk.com.au

ASTRO MORPHS

Astro Morphs are an audio visual collaboration initiated in 2017 by Perth duo Bianca Sharkey and James Doohan, operating under the pseudonyms Sox and Yow. Astro Morphs use live performance, music, animation and video to explore the possibilities of alternative evolutionary pathways and extra-terrestrial molecular ecology. Drawing on their backgrounds in visual art, science, dance and costume making, Astro Morphs' practice is a playful celebration of movement and biology. Their work in *Other Suns* is a video titled *Astro Morphs, Ascension*, which follows two polymorphic lifeforms into the future as they become part of a 'thriving biofilm'. Set against a backdrop of psychedelic colour fields, the video draws together flamboyant micro-organisms and the surreal macro-landscapes of other worlds. www.astromorphs.com

JESS DAY & JOANNE RICHARDSON

Jess Day and Joanne Richardson are Perth-based artists who share an interest in DIY aesthetics, fan culture and space exploration. They have recently begun collaborating and for *Other Suns* they have created *Never Better*; a space ship based on a geodesic half dome and which they describe as "the ship you've been missing". Their work eschews the historically male-dominated, technocratic and colonising paradigm of space travel and proposes an alternate mode for exploration that is based on notions of the *dérive* (to drift or wander) and the act of day dreaming. Day is a PhD student at Curtin University and the Pilot of the *Never Better*. Her practice investigates prepper culture, conspiracy theories, and divergent narratives. Richardson holds a PhD on the intricacies of alternate forms of aesthetic appreciation, aimed at generating more symbiotic relationships with art production. Richardson is the Navigator of the *Never Better*.

PENNY WALKER-KEEFE

Penny Walker-Keefe's artwork is informed by an ongoing investigation into science and space history: astrophysics, the Space Race, and the recently-formed Australian Space Agency. Utilizing low-fi techniques and found materials, Walker-Keefe creates videos, sculptural objects and images that take on the quality of 'astrocultural ephemera'. Her works celebrate fan culture, popular science and lay scientists, and examine how knowledge is communicated and shared. There is an optimistic and joyous sentiment to Walker-Keefe's work and she often performs in her own videos, under the guise of astronaut, scientist or musician. Walker-Keefe lives and works in Melbourne and is a recent graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music at the University of Melbourne.

BOYDEN WOODS

Boyden Woods is an emerging Noongar artist who was born in Wyalkatchem and now lives in Perth. His paintings use exaggerated hues and silhouetted forms to blur real and imagined landscapes. Woods style draws on the Carrolup tradition, which is based on paintings created by Aboriginal children of the Stolen Generations in the late 1940s at the Carrolup Native Settlement in Western Australia's Great Southern region. Learning from his mother's southwest landscape style, Woods started to paint in his teenage years. He says "Watching her paint had inspired me to pick up a paint brush, as I got better my mother and other people had told me that I paint just like my uncle Ralph Woods, R.I.P. I feel as if his style of painting had been passed down to me." Woods' artwork was shown in the *Revealed* exhibition in 2018 at Fremantle Arts Centre, and recently featured in *Danjoo - Interwoven*, at Midland Junction Arts Centre, an exhibition celebrating local Aboriginal culture, Country, language and visual arts practice in Western Australia.

LISA SAMMUT

Lisa Sammut is a Sydney-based artist who works in sculpture, light, video art and large-scale installation. Using a wide range of media, she creates otherworldly atmospheres and situations that seek to bring human sentiment and cosmic forces into a comprehensible relationship. With a focus on the non-human, her practice re-examines anthropocentric thought, looking to the cosmos as a uniting force for facilitating collective reflection and understanding. For *Other Suns* she is presenting the large installation *a monumental echo*, which comprises wooden monuments and props within an animated, primordial sea of stone. The work attempts to communicate with the 'otherworld', offering access points for mental transportation. Sammut has exhibited nationally in both group and solo exhibitions and completed her MFA by Research from UNSW Art & Design in 2018. www.lisasammut.com

SAM SCOGGINS

Sam Scoggins is a multi-media artist based in upstate New York, his short 16mm film, *The Unlimited Dream Company* (1983) combines narrative, documentary and experimentation to explore the work of J.G. Ballard via biography, literature, dreams and imagination. As scenes shift and colours transform, literary themes, the London suburbs, and Ballard's own voice merge into a flowing dreamlike work punctuated with a slow-portrait of the author's face and surreal science fiction images that emerge from the combination of Scoggins' imagination and Ballard's themes. *The Unlimited Dream Company's* masterstroke consists of Ballard engaging in a personality test in which the science fiction author is compelled to give 'yes / no' answers to a stream of deceptively simple questions, the results of which appear strangely honest. Rarely seen, *The Unlimited Dream Company* is a must-see for fans of the author, who may know Scoggins' work best through references to it in *Re/Search #8/9: J.G. Ballard*.

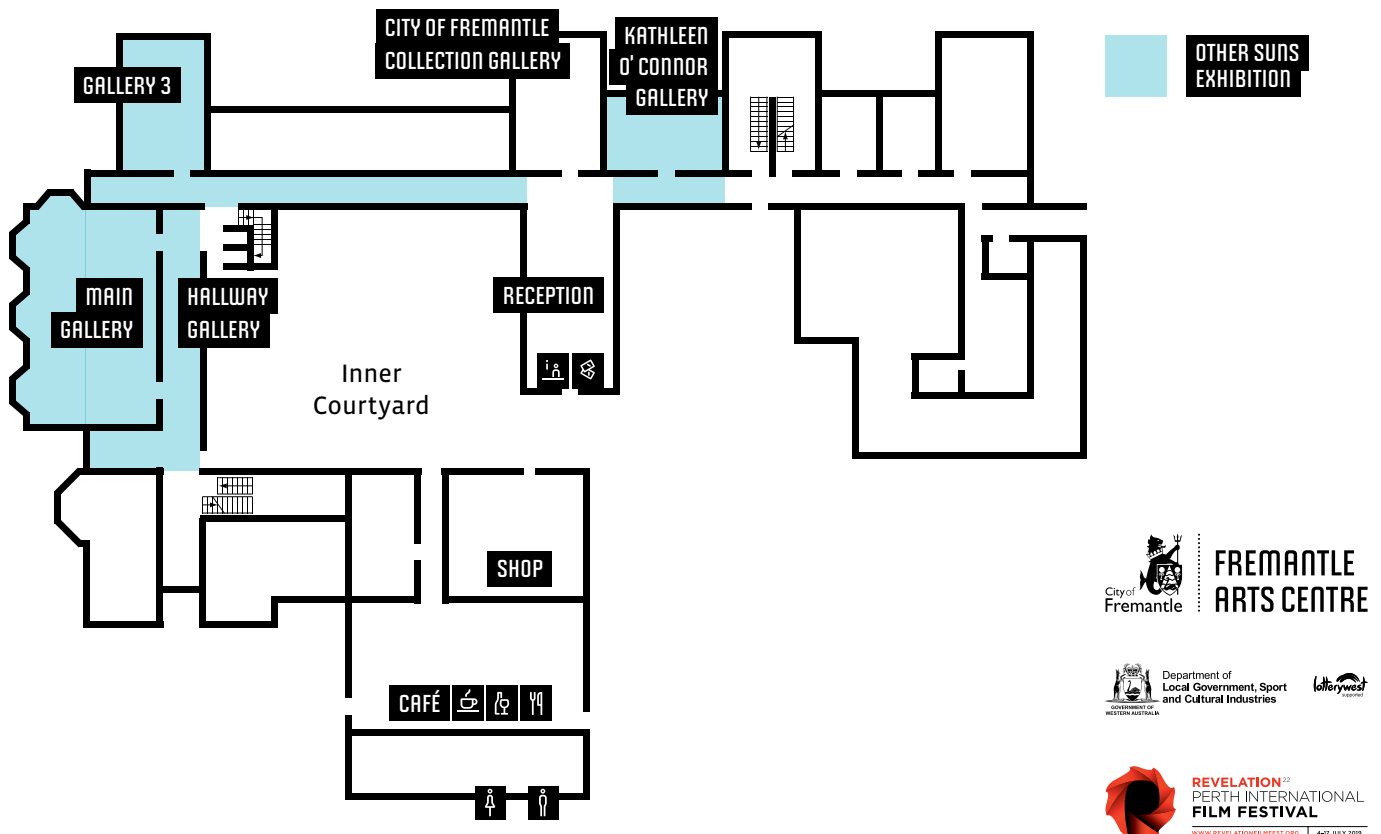
IAN HAIG

Melbourne based artist Ian Haig's works have been exhibited in galleries and video/media festivals around the world. *Untitled Syndrome* (2017) follows the artist's ongoing examination into bodies, biomorphic irruptions, potential pathologies, and technologies. Drawing on two-decades of work that includes video, sculpture, and drawing, Haig's multi-screen work creates a series of digital portraits which simultaneously recall the numerous visual representations of the self that are associated with modernity while also exploring contemporary image-making, from the immediacy of the selfie to the meticulous medical image. These portraits echo both First World War medical images of ex-service men suffering from extreme facial trauma and the mutating avatars of imagined online games. Contextualised as a series of videos in which the titular syndrome is clearly present Haig offers works in which the face-as-manifest-self, digital representation, internal physical structures of the body, and the body-in-the-world all combine; the borders between elements no longer clearly defined, the digital and physical are mixed to create new forms of portraiture. www.ianhaig.net

MARNE LUCAS & JACOB PANDER

USA artists Marne Lucas and Jacob Pander's collaborations include the multi-award winning science fiction cult film *The Operation* (1995), which introduced audiences to their shared interest in infrared camera technologies, bodies, sexuality, and quasi-cyber punk themes. Returning to these infrared technologies in *Incident Energy* (2013-14) the artists employ these technologies to explore the world and offer a creation myth that seems to have emerged from the future. Combining the inhuman-techno-surveillance gaze associated with infrared with an exploration of human bodies, movement, and the nature of existence in the technologically mediated future-present, *Incident Energy* is a remarkable multi-screen work that combines artistic, scientific, and philosophical concerns across multiple screens to create an evocative and powerful work.

Other Suns is accompanied by a limited edition risograph book, with essays and artist pages. For sale at Reception.



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Fremantle Arts Centre operates on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk Boodja people, of the Noongar Nations.