



COOL CHANGE CONTEMPORARY

MEDIA RELEASE

EXHIBITION PROGRAM 29 SEPTEMBER - 20 OCTOBER

OPENING NIGHT 28 SEPTEMBER 6-8PM

MATT BROWN: *WORLD SHOWCASE ADVENTURE*

Gallery 1

VOLIM: *VOLIM 02*

Gallery 2

ASH TOWER : *PROTOCOL*

Gallery 3

Cool Change Contemporary is proud to announce three new exhibitions opening at the end of September, featuring the work of both local and interstate artists.

Perth based artist Matt Brown presents *World Showcase Adventure* in Gallery 1; an analogue archive of visual data that has been retrieved during crusades to the digital realm. Acting as a platform, this taxonomy of images and text intends to examine the non-authoritative potential of multivalent informational systems.

In Gallery 2, local collaborative duo VOLIM (Lauren Jane Salt & Tia Tokic) present an exhibition of textiles, ceramics, and illustration that explore sustainable practices and the form of their materials.

Protocol is a solo exhibition by Adelaide based artist Ash Tower in Gallery 3 which probes the arbitrary boundaries that are constructed around scientific facts and practices.

A new artist-run-initiative in the Perth CBD, Cool Change Contemporary is a multi-gallery venue located within the historic Bon Marche Arcade building on Barrack Street. Cool Change Contemporary hosts a monthly program of exhibitions supported by regular performances, screenings, workshops and events.

For more information on any of the exhibitions or events included in this media release please contact Communications Manager, Jess Boyce
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Cool Change Contemporary acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional and rightful custodians of the land on which we operate.

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MATT BROWN: WORLD SHOWCASE ADVENTURE

Gallery 1 | 29 September - 20 October

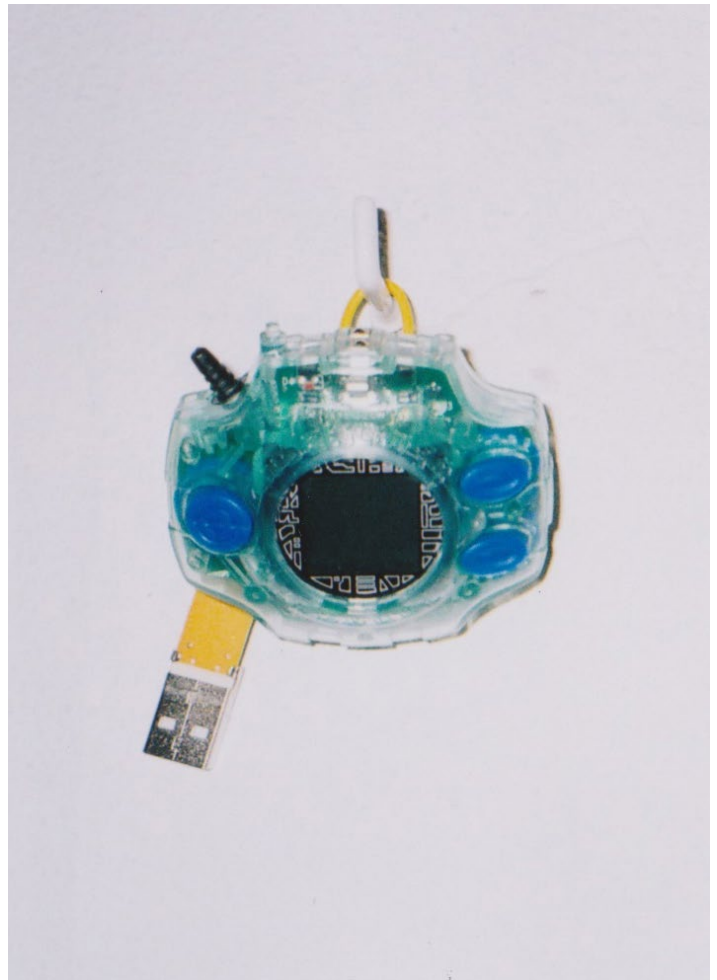
World Showcase Adventure examines the non-authoritative potential of multivalent informational systems. The exhibition includes a combination of both hand-rendered and printed materials which together form an encompassing installation and archive. This archive is a taxonomy of visual data; ambient pieces of image and text which have been retrieved from the digital plane and then stored as physical formats. The archive is not intended to communicate cohesive outcomes; rather, Brown is interested in exploring the ambiguity that such groupings of data can create, as well as the decisions that this polysemy then passes on to an audience.

Mimicking particulate forms of 21st century communication – words, images and phrases shoot at you from every surface and ricochet in a context free ether. The provenance of this data is unclear and unverifiable; much of it is manipulated or even stolen as is true of many things on the internet and other social communication networks today.

World Showcase Adventure is intended to be a collection and space which is able to endure incomprehension whilst confronting reality – an archive that cannot function, yet still offers something through the implication of the viewer within the space.

Matt Brown is an early career visual artist currently living and working in Perth. His practice involves research into analog formats of archive - intending to challenge normalised processes of the visually informative. Today, due to a democratization of data and knowledge, historically appropriate methods of archiving and presenting information have become somewhat strange and absurd. Brown's practice involves a process of applying these analog and absurd methods to subjects that cause them to be broken down and become poetic rather than informative and authoritative.

Brown graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art from Curtin University in 2017. He was the winner of the City of South Perth Emerging Artist Award in 2017 and has previously exhibited at Smart Casual (WA) and has an upcoming solo show at FELTspace (SA). He is currently an Artist in Residence at Fremantle Arts Centre.



Matt Brown, *Digi-RAZR*, 2018,
D2 Digivice and USB Adaption Cable. 7 x 6.5 x 3 cm.

VOLIM 02 explores the current mindset and works of collaborative duo Tia Tokic and Lauren Jane Salt who work together under the multidisciplinary label VOLIM. Despite their different backgrounds, the duo synchronize their philosophies of form and method by creating a continuous dialogue within their materials.

Twelve months of textile waste accumulated from small-scale manufacturing are presented by Tokic; her scraps reconstructed into wearable items to create a “zero waste” cycle. These garments ignore rules about grain-line and finishing, creating a unique silhouette that disguises the body and can be easily modified or repaired.

Lauren Jane Salt’s relationships with natural forms are shared in the gestures and impressions imbedded in her clayworks and botanical illustrations. Continuously inspired by plants, Salt wishes to bring the small intimate details within nature to an artificial environment respectfully. Taking only key elements of form to exhibit in each piece; whether it be the texture of the Morel Fungi replicated in her ceramics or a still of a leaf half ravaged by a caterpillar.



Image: VOLIM, *Spele*. Photo by Nick FitzPatrick

Lauren Jane Salt is a multidisciplinary artist based in Perth, Western Australia. In 2013 Salt completed her Floristry studies at Flowers Design School and TAFE; moving on to study Flower design in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany with Gregor Lersch. In 2016 Lauren won the Florist of The Future title for Western Australia in the National Interflora competition. Since then Salt has taken an interest in the form and texture of ceramics, completing an Advanced Ceramics degree at North Metropolitan TAFE in 2016.

Tia Tokic is a fashion designer based in Perth, Western Australia. In 2014 Tia graduated with Bachelor of Fashion Design from Curtin University, for which she was awarded the Innovation and Academic awards. Tia established *Volim* as a clothing label in 2008, and has since developed designs and methods to enforce her own ethics.

Tokic and Salt met in 2014 and joined to make *VOLIM* a collaborative label, which explores the many facets of form and sustainability. Since then they have exhibited in multiple group exhibitions and one solo exhibition *VOLIM 01* at Beyond Skate Gallery. In 2018 VOLIM co-directed and designed a play entitled *Bacterium* which featured in *A night of* at The Blue Room Theatre for Fringe World Festival.

Protocol examines different errors in scientific practice, and how these errors might be considered valuable despite their deviation from scientific protocol.

The exhibition comprises of two individual artworks, *Studies of Nature* and *Lab Hands*. *Studies of Nature* memorialises the scientific papers that have been retracted (withdrawn) from the journals of the Nature research group since 2014. The phenomenon of retracting papers can be stigmatised within scientific communities, where honest mistakes and quality assurance can be construed as fraudulent practice. Once retracted, a paper exists in 'no-man's land', where it is unfit for scientific use, but remains as an artefact of the authors' labour and craft. *Studies of Nature* commemorates these papers, valuing their labour and the small stories that exist within each artefact.



Image: Ash Tower, *Studies of Nature*, 2017, Honour board, lectern, bound book, dimensions variable.

Artist talk Saturday 29 September
2-3pm

Protocol appears as part of
Unhallowed Arts Festival presented
by SymbioticA.

Lab Hands is a collection of calcium silicate lab mats that have been marked through years of use and repeated experimentation at the hands of student scientists. The syllabus can be found in the mats themselves, with repeated colours of oxidised copper blue, rusted brown and Bunsen scorch marks forming drawings of the different mishaps and mishandlings. Together, *Lab Hands* and *Studies of Nature* describe different procedures (and deviations from procedures) in scientific practice. They both inhabit a tension between institutional authority and error, which is played out differently in each work. Each work, while distinct in its appearance, probes the arbitrary boundaries that are constructed around scientific facts and practices.

Ash Tower is an artist and researcher based in Adelaide, South Australia. His work examines systems of knowledge; means by which information is ordered and stored. By drawing on existing conventions that classify, consign and codify, Ash's work interrupts these systems, revealing the internal architecture of an otherwise closed, unseen system. He is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of South Australia in the sociology of scientific knowledge. His doctoral research focuses on laboratories in art/science work, particularly how the cultural practices of artistic and scientific communities are performed within laboratory space.