



MEDIA RELEASE | AUGUST 2019 EXHIBITION PROGRAM

TAMI XIANG: *PEASANTOGRAPHY – LUCKY 88*
Gallery 1

ESTHER MCDOWELL / YABINI KICKETT: *KALA KOORLINY – GOING HOME*
Gallery 2

TOM FREEMAN: *BRICK*
Gallery 3

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: LISA LIEBETRAU
Project Space

Opening Night: Friday, 2 August, 6-8pm.
Exhibition Continues: Saturday 3 August - Saturday 24 August.
Wednesday - Sunday 11AM - 5PM

In Gallery 1, Tami Xiang presents her latest project *Peasantography – Lucky 88*, a photographic series addressing the living situation of Chinese farmers in the countryside who receive 88 RMB for survival each month after reaching the age of 60 years old.

Yabini Kickett's exhibition, *Kala Koorliny – Going Home*, is an exploration of new mediums in her practice to carry country with her via clothing. Housed in Gallery 2, these explorations will be joined by a set of mixed media landscapes of Kata Mordo (Darling Scarp) connecting Wadjuk and Ballardong Boodja.

In Gallery 3, common house bricks have been transformed with various clays, glazes and found materials into playful and contemporary sculptures of relatable suburbia, locational history and handmade craft. Tom Freeman aims to push the boundaries of ceramic processes and embrace the potential of earthly materials.

This month's Artist in Residence is Lisa Liebetrau, who will be developing a suite of new site-responsive artworks that engage with the history, physical space and idiosyncrasies of the Bon Marche Arcade, the home of Cool Change Contemporary.

For more information on any of the exhibitions or events included in this media release please contact Paul Boyé hello@coolchange.net.au | 0498 393 088

Cool Change Contemporary acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional and rightful custodians of the land on which we operate.

Cool Change Contemporary
www.coolchange.net.au | hello@coolchange.net.au | 0484 500 838
1F, Bon Marche Arcade Building, 74-84 Barrack Street, Perth, WA, 6000
Instagram Facebook @coolchangecontemporary

Supported By:





Tami Xiang, *Peasantography Lucky 88*, 2019, Photographic print, 60x84cm.
 Image courtesy of the artist.

This project addresses the living situation of Chinese farmers in the countryside, who receive 88 RMB a month for survival after 60 years old. This artist invited a group of farmers from one village to buy whatever they would like to buy with 88 RMB and photographed them with the objects they purchased in front of a red background. This work highlights the divide between people from the countryside and those who live in urban areas, with the former not having the same access to public services such as pensions and medical services.

Tami Xiang is a Perth based Chinese-Australian artist and academic scholar. She has a Masters of Fine Arts from University of Western Australia (UWA) and she is currently undertaking a PhD by research at UWA. Tami's work has been exhibited in Australia, Mainland China, France, Taiwan and the U.S. Her work has been published by the New York Times (US), Eye of Photography (France) and Artlink (Australia).



Esther McDowell / Yabini Kickett
Kala Koorliny – Going Home
Gallery 2 | 3 - 24 August

As a Ballardong woman residing on Wadjuk country, Yabini Kickett has been tackling the issue of homesickness for places she either cannot visit freely or places that no longer exist due to farming, destruction of bushland, climate change and continual colonisation of Bibulmun country.

Over the past six-months, Yabini has been creating a collection of works as a means of bringing home with her. She has explored the creation of wearable art beginning in collection of materials from country and ending in three shift dresses. Alongside the clothing works, she has created a separate body of work centred on Kata Mordo (the Darling Scarp), the hills in which she and her family pass through to go home.



Esther McDowell, 2019. Dyed Linen with Marri leaves and rust. Image courtesy of the artist.

Esther / Yabini has been working as an independent artist after graduating from Duncraig Senior High School in 2015. As she is majorly self taught aside from her high school education, Esther primarily works in acrylic, gouache and general mixed media. In the past year however she found her practice expanding to textiles and printmaking.

Through her art, Esther shares her love for endemic flora and landscapes within Bibulmun country as well as various uses for certain plants and animals. She depicts stories, places and people important to her. A lot of her inspiration comes from local environments, her mother's home and the deep connection to country. In the coming years Esther aims to partake in more residencies, to further evolve her arts practice, as well as partake in more exhibitions.

Tom Freeman's exhibition, *Brick*, presents a series of ceramic sculptures using found commercial bricks that have been altered and added to with clays, glazes and various natural materials. Some works reference the local histories of these bricks while others are formal abstracted studies of brick features and architectural forms. Some works transform into bodily figures while others are pure experimentations in materials and processes.

The exhibition explores the varied uses of ceramics in society through pragmatism to poetry. With deliciously rough and muddy lumps of clay, Freeman embraces playful experimentation, trial and error, repeated disasters and the occasional mysterious creative win.

The exhibition works with and transforms the gallery space through investigations of the existing architecture and its material history. Including site-specific wall paintings and structural interventions, the viewer is enveloped in an immersive and far reaching exploration of bricks and their place in our society and history.



Tom Freeman, *Homemade handmade*, mixed stoneware clays and glazes on found brick, 2019, 14x23x23cm, photo by Bo Wong.

Tom Freeman was born in Margaret River, WA in 1985. He completed a BA Fine Art from Curtin University in 2007 and has maintained his painting and sculptural practice from his Fremantle studio. He's held solo exhibitions at Venn Gallery, Museum of Natural Mystery, and Paper Mountain, as well as group exhibitions at Fremantle Arts Centre, PICA, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, John Curtin Gallery, Art Gallery of South Australia, and many more.

Freeman's practice is primarily a fascination with materials and processes. His work evolves in a circular and generative way, with one work leading onto the next and on and on. This project has been assisted by Australia Council for the Arts and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Artist in Residence, Lisa Liebetrau is developing a suite of new site-responsive artworks that engage with the history, physical space and idiosyncrasies of the Bon Marché Arcade, the home of artist-run initiative (ARI) Cool Change Contemporary. These works will be informed by archival ephemera accessed from the State Library of Western Australia and the City of Perth History Centre along with Liebetrau's personal observations while in residence. She aims to investigate and uncover the former lives of the building, specifically its role as a part of the quality fashion and drapery department store the "Perth Bon Marché" to reimagine past narratives in a bid to form relationships with the present.

During the residency, Liebetrau aims to reflect on how the transitory nature of artist-run initiatives cultivate the opportunity for marginal spaces and neglected buildings to breathe new life into them and allow their past to gain new visibility.



Lisa Liebetrau is a multidisciplinary artist based in Perth, Western Australia. Liebetrau's practice investigates the architectural, historical and relational specificities of artist-run institutions through site-specific works that directly reference the site of exhibition. She often adopts an investigative approach and process to dig deeper, reconstruct and draw attention to the often overlooked narratives and distinctive histories that can be attributed to each built environment she encounters.

Since graduating in 2016 with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from Curtin University, Liebetrau has completed residencies at Another Project Space and Fremantle Arts Centre. In 2017, Liebetrau presented her first solo exhibition *A Temporary Arrangement* at Smart Casual and more recently was invited to produce a new site-specific work for the group show *BRB* earlier this year, also at Smart Casual in Fremantle.

Receipt for Sale of Items to Mrs Prinsep of Busselton, 1918.
 Courtesy of City of Perth Cultural Collections.