

WELCOME TO

VCA ACCESS 2019 —

An initiative of the VCA Foundation

Your pass to a behind the scenes look at Fine Art at the VCA and the best of Melbourne's contemporary art landscape.

Internationally recognised as a breeding ground for emerging artistic talent, the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) has powered the careers of many of Australia's most successful artists - from Arthur Boyd, Fred Williams, Sidney Nolan, Tom Roberts and John Brack through to Patricia Piccinini, Louise Hearman, Rick Amor, Bill Henson, Ricky Swallow, Sally Smart and Callum Morton.

VCA Access is an initiative of the VCA Foundation, created to allow more people to gain an intimate understanding - a behind the scenes look – at the contemporary workings of this dynamic institution. VCA ACCESS 2019 connects a select group of Melbourne art lovers with high potential VCA Fine Arts Masters students, prominent VCA alumni artists and their representing Galleries.

What do I get as a VCA ACCESS Member?

As a Member you will have ACCESS to:

- Five high potential 2nd year VCA Fine Arts Masters students. Throughout the year, you will come to know the students and their work well, observing them in a range of contexts. Selected by the Fine Art faculty following an application and interview process, the VCA ACCESS Masters students for 2019 are *Mohamed Ezz Abdelmonem, Jesse Bowling, Farnaz Dadfar, Lucia Rossi and Katie Stackhouse*.
- Five prominent VCA Alumni Melbourne based artists. These artists will be matched with one of the students and will mentor them throughout the year, providing career advice around navigating the complexities of establishing a commercial career – the 'how to' of local and international dealers, galleries and art fairs. The opportunity will also be yours to engage with these artists, observing their work, behind the scenes. For 2019, participating mentor artists are *Nadine Christensen, Emily Ferretti, Mira Gojak, John Meade and Esther Stewart*.
- Five galleries that represent your mentor artists, which will invite you to private walkthroughs and talks throughout the year. Our 2019 galleries will be announced early 2019 but will include *Sarah Scout Presents, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Murray White Room, Sutton Gallery, Sarah Cottier Gallery*.

In addition to developing relationships with students, artists and galleries, your membership will give you ACCESS into the VCA and its networks and partners (including the VCA's own Margaret Lawrence Gallery along with other institutions including TarraWarra Museum of Art, ACCA, Gertrude Contemporary and Heide MoMA and more).

In recognition of the increasing importance of Art Fairs in establishing commercial practice as well as the vibrancy and rising influence of the Indonesian contemporary art scene, we are excited to announce that we will be inviting the 2019 VCA Access students to participate in Art Jog Indonesia, Yogyakarta where they will have the opportunity to exhibit. As a Member, you will be invited to join us in August 2019 on a program giving you behind the scenes experiences of this International Art Fair with a series of private events and viewings.

Every three months you will be issued with a calendar of upcoming events that may include studio visits, gallery walks, private viewings, lectures, and performances. A show stopping sit down dinner event for all participating Members, guests, students, artists and galleries will be held in October as a ticketed event to celebrate our 2019 program and achievements. Our VCA Access website will also give you access to articles and events throughout the year.

How do I become a VCA Access Member?

To become a Member, we invite you to register on our website vcaaccess.com.au at \$500 per person. We are also offering discounted rates for art loving 18-25 year olds at \$250. Spread the word! Your financial support is gratefully received and will fund our VCA Access mentoring program.

For any queries, please contact
info@vcaaccess.com.au

When does VCA Access 2019 launch?

We will be in touch end of January with details of our kick off events for the year as well as a calendar of events for Feb- April 2019. Keep in touch for news too via our Instagram account [@vcaaccess](#) and our website vcaaccess.com.au

We hope you can join us on this journey of engagement, learning and fun. Please contact any of our Committee for further information or questions.

Warm regards,
Caroline Chernov (Chair), Jane Hayman and Rossie James

PARTICIPATING VCA MASTERS STUDENTS —

VCA ACCESS 2019

JESSE BOWLING

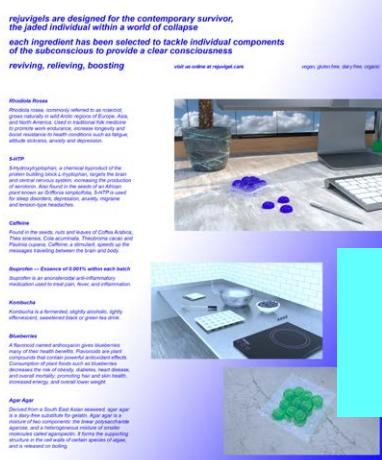
Originally from Aotearoa, New Zealand, Jesse Bowling is currently based in Melbourne where he is studying a Masters of Fine Art at the Victorian College of Art. He also holds an Honours degree in Fine Arts from Massey University College of Creative Arts in Wellington. By using multimedia installation, including digital media and product design, Jesse Bowling attempts to begin an enquiry into a techno-political contemporary lifestyle and the effects that consumerism has on both the individual participant and troubled environment from where these labour and material sources are extracted from. Bowling proposes that while in the Capitalocene epoch, consumerist intimacies with technologies are in many ways a method of survival, if not emancipation in these troubling times—even if these very technologies are always still bound within Capitalism itself.

Bowling co-founded artist run initiative MEANWHILE (NZ), and has recently exhibited at, KINGS ARI (VIC), Cool Change Contemporary (WA), Adam Art Gallery (NZ), Enjoy Public Art Gallery (NZ) and MEANWHILE (NZ). Originally from Aotearoa, New Zealand Bowling completed an Honours degree in Fine Arts from Massey University College of Creative Arts in Wellington.

He is currently based in Melbourne where he is studying a Masters of Fine Art at the Victorian College of Art.



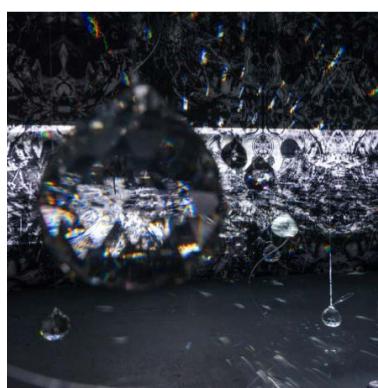
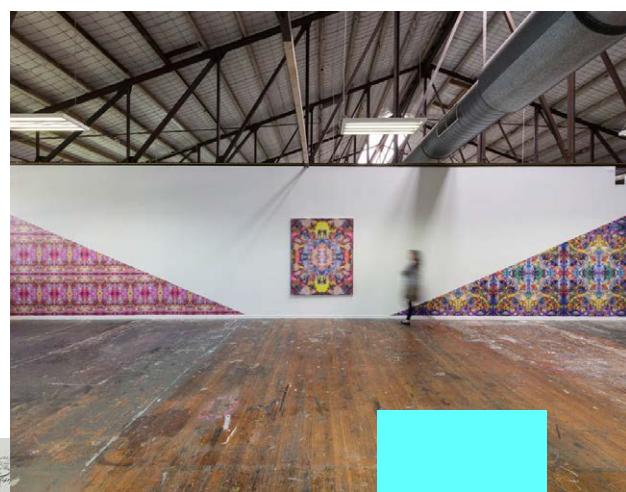
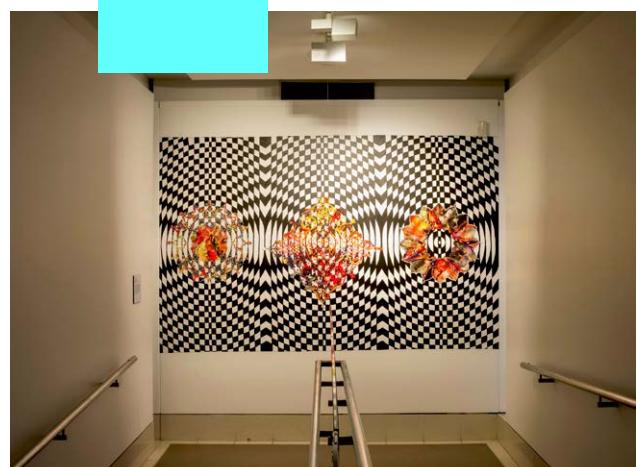
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FARNAZ DADFAR

Farnaz Dadfar is an Iranian-born Australian artist, based in Melbourne. Dadfar's installation comprises conceptual and metaphorical patterns with a potential capacity to unite cultures within a contemplative space that is open to all. It is here, she hopes, that people of all kinds might experience beauty together. Dadfar actively transforms the gallery space into a spiritual and transcendent environment reminiscent of Sufi sacred spaces in which literature, culture and art discourses met, co-existed in harmony to serve the symbiotic potentials of their differences. Combining video, crystal objects, text and digital photograph, Dadfar explores the play of light and shadow to implicate infinite extendable oriental and geometric motifs that visually consolidate as a whole. In doing so, she creates a speculative space in which human interactions becomes experiential – for as viewers move through the space they invariably cast shadows, in turn incorporating their bodies into the experience of the work.

She has exhibited widely in art galleries of Iran and Australia since 2004. She was selected as one of the top 30 Iranian Contemporary Artist for 'New Generation' 2006 in Homa Gallery Tehran; She has also been selected as one of the 30 finalists for 'the churchie' 2017 National Emerging Art Prize Australia. In 2017, Dadfar has been a recipient of Galloway Lawson prize from The University of Melbourne and awarded by ACCA – Australian Centre for Contemporary Art – for *Proud17* exhibition in Margaret Lawrence Gallery. Dadfar graduated Bachelor of Painting at The University of Science and Culture Tehran, and completed Graduate Certificate in Visual Arts and Master of Contemporary Art at The Victorian College of the Arts The University of Melbourne. She is currently returned as a research candidate in the Master of Fine Arts (visual art) in VCA program.



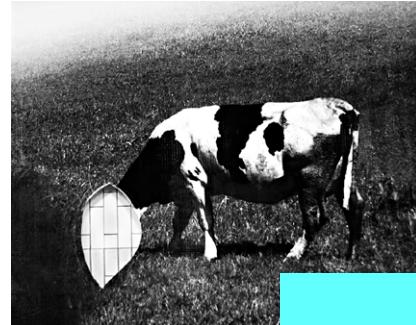
MOHAMED EZZ MONEM

Ezz Monem (born Mohamed Ezzeldin M. Abdelmonem; October 23, 1985) is an Egyptian artist living in Melbourne, Australia. Monem uses photography to explore the pluralism of reality. His images play with sensations of ambivalence and conflict, using different logics to give visual form to the multiplicity of identity in places, people and objects. From a different perspective or in a new assemblage, familiar people, places and objects become unfamiliar.

Through street photography, studio portraiture, image manipulation, and alternative printing processes, Ezz investigates diverse facets of his context, especially those in which he is personally immersed. His experiences in revolution and migration have shaped a heterogenous perspective that embraces duplicity, deception and distortion as subjects for visual inquiry.

He graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University in 2007, but his explorations in visual arts began years earlier. In 2003, he began to focus on photography besides his work as a software developer. His work has been shown in exhibitions and festivals in and outside of Egypt, where he received awards such as the Golden Award at the Emirates International Photography Competition (2009), the Golden Award from Sharjah Awards for Arab Photo (2011), and the Salon Award from the 24th Youth Salon in Egypt (2013).

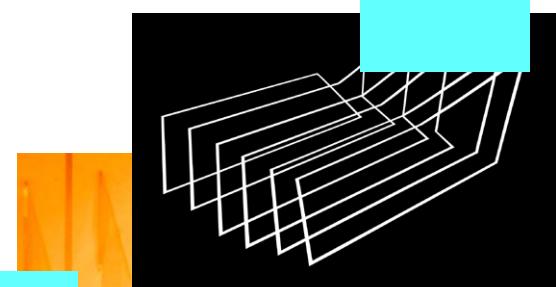
Ezz is currently completing a Masters Degree at the Victorian College of the Arts.



LUCIA ROSSI

Lucia's work questions our perception of reality and our sense of being located within a wider Universe. Using photography, video and site-specific installation, she is inspired and informed by natural phenomena, the macro and micro systems of measurement, mapping, and de/reconstruction of space. Many of her works incorporate visual illusion, such as her large wall paintings which merge an apparent two-dimensional picture plane image with three-dimensional space. Her current works incorporate the sun as subject with various contexts of the term 'frame-of-reference' to record and map an abstract notion of space and time.

Lucia graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art at the Tasmanian School of Art in 2003, she has been awarded two *Arts Tasmania Wilderness Residencies*, and several public art commissions for the *Tasmanian ArtSite Scheme*. From 2008 she spent two years in Paris in residency at the *Cité Internationale des Arts*. Lucia received the Victorian College of the Arts Fiona Myer Award in 2017 and the *Stuart Black Memorial Scholarship* in 2018. After fifteen years of practice between Tasmania and France, Lucia is currently completing a Masters Degree at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne.

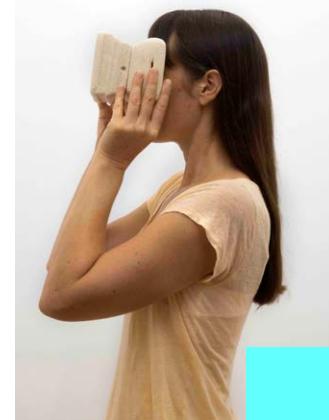


KATIE STACKHOUSE

Katie Stackhouse's work examines notions of time, landscape and contemporary human interaction with specific sites and natural environments. Recent sculptural and performance works refer to emerging experiential technologies, ceremony and materiality. Her work encompasses sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, photography, video and performance. Using stone and other minerals as a means to combine elements of the past with the present, Katie combines beeswax, gold, plaster and clay to give conceptual context to object and performance based work.

After completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts Katie studied at the Gerrit Rietveld Art Academy in the Netherlands. She has had several solo exhibitions and shown work in curated group exhibitions. Katie is the recipient of multiple grants through Regional Arts Australia and has completed a residency at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in the USA. Her work is included in private collections throughout Australia, Europe, Japan and the USA.

Katie is currently completing a Masters Degree at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne.



PARTICIPATING MENTOR ARTISTS

VCA ACCESS 2019

NADINE CHRISTENSEN

Represented by Sarah Scout Presents, Melbourne

Nadine Christensen's practice encompasses painting, installation and drawing and has comprised an ongoing investigation into natural phenomena. She draws on diverse sources including design and illustration, architecture, new and arcane technologies, science fiction, animation, tall stories and curiosities to engage the changing possibilities and conditions of light and perception. Christensen's work also explores the desire to map and understand our environment as well as the role of narrative and storytelling in the unfolding of information throughout contemporary culture. Recent work samples from small moments in her larger paintings and utilises aspects of external surfaces and everyday objects such as piles of dirt, tables, ropes and chains that occupy the juncture between the real and the imagined. Montage style paintings combine Christensen's highly recognisable gradational and flat colouring, 3D rendering and trompe l'oeil effects while the imagery itself veers from representational and identifiable elements toward pure abstraction.

Christensen completed degrees in Painting at Monash University (1993) and the Victorian College of the Arts (1997). She has held solo exhibitions at galleries in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra and has participated in group and collaborative exhibitions across Australia and internationally including Tokyo, Los Angeles, Tijuana, Paris and Venice. Her work was recently included in Parallel Lives, Australian Painting Today, at Tarra Warra Museum of Art and in Silenzi at the Prigioni de Palazzo Ducale in Venice.

See Nadine's CV [here](#)



Signal Decoy, 2018

Synthetic and cotton printed fabric, sapling, plywood, cast iron, polycotton rope, aluminium pulley mechanism. Dimensions variable

Photo credit: Andrew Curtis

EMILY FERRETTI

Represented by Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

Emily Ferretti is a Melbourne-based artist. Since graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2006, Ferretti has exhibited widely at artist-run and commercial spaces throughout Australia. She recently completed a residency at the prestigious Greene Street Studio in New York (awarded by the Australia Council for the Arts), and has also undertaken studio residencies at Gertrude Contemporary, the Australian Tapestry Workshop and at the Cite des Arts Internationale in Paris (awarded by the Art Gallery of New South Wales).

Her work is held in major collections including at Artbank, Monash University Museum of Art and in the Macquarie Group Collection, as well as in private collections in Australia and the UK.

See Emily's CV [here](#)



At the cinema (small), 2018

Oil on linen

61 x 46 cm

Sunshine on the shed, 2018

Oil on linen

200 x 153 cm



MIRA GOJAK

Represented by Murray White Room

Mira Gojak lives and works in Melbourne. She studied Science, Psychology and Zoology at the University of Adelaide. She talks about a kind of restlessness that took hold while on practical placement, which necessitated a change of tack – in 1989, she moved to Melbourne to study painting at the Victorian College (then located in Prahran), before completing a Bachelor of Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts in 1992.

Working across disciplines, Gojak's art is recognizable for its use of fluid line, both on paper and in sculpture. When approaching projects in 3D her work seeks to intuitively omit mass while retaining the form's thumbprint.

Mira has held numerous solo exhibitions, including *Transfer Stations*, Murray White Room, Melbourne, 2011; *Mira Gojak*, Switchback Gallery, Monash University, 2010; and *Another Ground*, Murray White Room, 2009.

See Mira's CV [here](#)



The Garden of Forking Paths
Installation view, Buxton Contemporary 2018
Photo credit: Christian Capurro

JOHN MEADE

Represented by Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

Combining rigorous geometry with soft organic forms, John Meade works in an intuitive way to materialise his ideas, creating tightly orchestrated pieces that explore the metaphysical, the surreal and the erotic.

Meade has exhibited his work throughout Australia and internationally since 1994, presenting over twenty-five solo exhibitions. He has received several significant public sculpture commissions, the most recent being the 2018 Southern Way McClelland Commission. His survey exhibition, curated by Zara Stanhope, *Objects to Live By: The Art of John Meade*, toured extensively throughout regional galleries in Australia in 2010–11. Other solo exhibitions include *Set Pieces*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne, 2016; *Autumn 2014*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne, 2014; *The Desultory Arabesque*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne, 2012; *New Weekly*, Ocular Lab, Melbourne, 2008; *Incident in the Museum 2: John Meade*, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2005; and *Propulsion*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2001.

Meade received the Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship in 2003 and, with support from Asialink, undertook a studio residency in India in 1998–99. He received a PhD from Monash University, Melbourne in 2018, and a Master of Studio Art from New York University, United States, in 2004.

See John's CV [here](#)



Set Pieces (detail), 2014 – 16
Installation view
Sutton Gallery, 2016

ESTHER STEWART

Represented by Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney

Esther Stewart (b.1988 Katherine, Australia. Lives and works Melbourne, Australia) creates paintings and installations that examine the endless possibilities offered by the visual language of architecture, design and geometry. In her hands, the axioms of Euclidian geometry result in new and utopian interiors that are both impenetrable and inviting. Stewart's practice makes use of paintings, carpets, flags, screens and sculptures in her construction of architectural experience, establishing a space between form and function, art and design. Stewart's hard-edged geometric abstractions invoke a complex genealogy of historical references, simultaneously calling upon the techniques of Islamic mosaic, Russian Suprematism and Constructivism, and Neo Geo & Memphis Group design from the 1980s. This extensive visual vocabulary is harnessed to describe a unique fictional space that references different ideas, times and cultures to construct new work. Working at the nexus of art and design, Stewart explores ways to reimagine, collapse and expand spaces through painting and architecture, while examining these historical influences and the social and political implications they offer. Recently, Stewart has collaborated with architects and craftspeople to extend the spatial and material possibilities within her practice.

In 2015, Italian designer Valentino engaged Stewart to collaborate on the translation of her paintings into the Autumn/Winter 2015-2016 menswear collection. This very successful collaboration illustrates Stewart's ability to push boundaries and play sophisticated games with the elastic relationship between art and design. In 2016, Stewart was commissioned to produce a new wall painting at Bendigo Hospital, which made use of her hard-edged painting compositions to re-contextualise the interior architecture of the building. Stewart subsequently completed another ambitious wall mural as part of a major residential redevelopment in Sydney in 2017.

Esther Stewart completed a Bachelor with First Class Honours at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne in 2010, where she now lectures in the School of Sculpture and Spatial Practice. She is represented by Sarah Cottier Gallery, and recently exhibited new work in a solo presentation at the Melbourne Art Fair 2018. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at galleries and art fairs, including at the Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne. In 2016, Stewart was the winner of the Sir John Sulman Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney.

See Esther's CV [here](#)



Lucy, Stage left, Presented at
Sarah Cottier Gallery Sydney

PARTICIPATING GALLERIES

VCA ACCESS 2019

MURRAY WHITE ROOM

Established in 2006, Murray White Room is run by gallery director, Murray White who has an eye for the unusual and this is reflected in his choice of artists.

Located at the end of Sargood Lane, off Exhibition Street and near the fashionable eateries of Flinders Lane. With a small, yet successful stable of artists, Murray White Room frequently exhibits at International Art Fairs.

The artists represented, and the exhibition program at the gallery, is informed by the Director's background as a museum curator and registrar.

For further and detailed information on all the represented artists, please contact the gallery.



[Website](#)

SARAH COTTIER GALLERY

Sarah Cottier Gallery is a contemporary art gallery based in Sydney, Australia. Since 1994, the gallery has represented a carefully selected group of local and international artists to present a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational programme. The gallery has participated in many national and international art fairs including Art Basel, Basel, and Arco, Madrid. Artists represented by the gallery have exhibited nationally and internationally in significant exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale, and Documenta, and have works held in major public and private collections, including all major public galleries in Australia. The gallery has operated in four different locations over its 25-year history, including Lennox Street, Newtown; Elizabeth Street, Redfern; Nield Avenue, Paddington; and now at Royleston Street, Paddington in the Trumper Park gallery district.



[Website](#)

SARAH SCOUT PRESENTS

Sarah Scout Presents is a private gallery, established in 2009, to represent and develop opportunities for a number of outstanding early to mid-career artists with critically engaged conceptual practices.

Sarah Scout Presents' primary focus is to present a program of challenging contemporary art and to represent its selected artists in a range of local and international situations.

In 2014 Sarah Scout Presents relocated to new premises at the Paris End of Collins Street in Melbourne's CBD. The suite of rooms in the Victor Horsley Chambers continues the gallery's interest in presenting challenging contemporary work in domestically-scaled settings.



[Website](#)

SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY

Sophie Gannon Gallery opened in 2006 and has been dedicated to exhibiting leading artists in Australian Contemporary Art for over 13 years. The gallery currently has a stable of 30 artists and designers from Australia and New Zealand, whose artistic practices span a variety of subjects and styles and range from young emerging artists to established senior artists who are well recognised as leaders in the Australian Art landscape. Sophie Gannon Gallery artists are represented in all major state gallery collections and feature regularly in significant art prizes, curated exhibitions and residencies.



[Website](#)

SUTTON GALLERY

Established in 1992, Sutton Gallery is committed to the presentation and promotion of serious contemporary art by a select and highly respected group of innovative artists whose practice takes on a challenging position within today's visual culture.

A monthly program of exhibitions by those artists features work across the whole spectrum of media – painting, sculpture, photography, installation, video and electronic media.

For further and detailed information on all the represented artists, please contact the gallery.



[Website](#)

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2019 SUPPORTERS



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INTERNATIONAL FINE WINES