

# MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate release

## ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

1 September 2016



### TERRY WILLIAMS: RHYTHMS OF THE HANDMADE

*The first survey exhibition of Terry Williams' work over a twenty-seven year career that spans drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture.*

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*Exhibition to be opened by  
Dr. Rebecca Coates, Director, Shepparton  
Art Museum (SAM)*

Image: Terry Williams  
*Not titled 2014*  
material, stuffing and wool  
47 x 34 x 29cm

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**EXHIBITION: 10 September to 15 October 2016**

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**Opening Saturday 10 September 3-5pm, *Rhythms of the Handmade* will showcase a survey exhibition by Terry Williams covering his twenty-seven year career that spans drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics and soft sculpture.**

Curated by Sim Luttin and James McDonald, *Rhythms of the Handmade* will include over 90 artworks and is supported by a full-colour Leonard Joel Series catalogue that features an essay by renowned artist Ricky Swallow.

Each year, Arts Project presents a major survey exhibition by a prominent, long standing artist from its Northcote studio. Terry Williams joined the studio at Arts Project Australia in 1989 and since then, he has shown extensively both nationally and internationally, making a significant contribution to the contemporary art landscape.

Exhibition co-curator Sim Luttin states, "In many ways, Terry Williams is a stalwart artist with an imposing presence. An enigma working within a complex art world, he is an artist who is truly dedicated to his practice and, although he is known most for his lively soft sculptures, this exhibition presents a diverse selection of work, beginning with collections of artist books, paintings and drawings of real and imagined figurative subjects".

"It's [Terry's] penchant for reimagining the world around him, recreating objects in surprising and incongruous textures, and with an impish disregard for convention, that gives Terry's work its mysterious beauty. So confident and self-assured is he in his ability to choose materials, play and experiment with form and function, that to watch him work is to know that soon enough, something truly idiosyncratic will come to life", says co-curator James McDonald.

*Rhythms of the Handmade* is made up of works from the artist's collection held at Arts Project that are available for sale, as well as from private collections across Australia. John Albrecht, Managing Director &

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Proprietor Leonard Joel, comments, “These surveys are not “preened” for pleasant public consumption and support. Rather, they are profoundly expressive, human and adventurous by nature”.

Bronwyn Johnson, President, Arts Project Australia observes “... [Terry] has developed a unique and imaginative practice – becoming internationally celebrated for his soft sculptures. Last year, US based Australian artist Ricky Swallow curated an exhibition of Terry’s work at White Columns (gallery) in New York. The exhibition was a sell-out and received widespread critical acclaim”.

*Rhythms of the Handmade* will be opened by Exhibition to be opened by Dr. Rebecca Coates, Director, Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) on Saturday 10 September 2016 from 3-5pm, and will run until Saturday 15 October 2016.

Terry Williams is available for interview. High-resolution images are available on request and Terry can be photographed with his work. *Terry Williams: Rhythms of the Handmade* will be featured at Arts Project Australia from Saturday 10 September – 15 October 2016 at 24 High St Northcote VIC 3070. The gallery is open Monday – Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm.

**Arts Project Australia** is a centre of excellence that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promoting their work and advocating for inclusion within contemporary art practice.

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### ABOUT TERRY WILLIAMS – SHORT BIO

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Born: Melbourne 1952

A prolific worker, Terry Williams’ art practice encompasses painting, drawing, watercolour, ceramics and more recently, soft sculptures, which are now synonymous with his current art practice. Two-dimensional artworks defined Williams’ practice from 1989 until the late 2000s, when all his efforts were initially focused on painting large works on paper and canvases before shifting to drawing imaginative, figurative-based small works on paper. These artworks reveal Williams’ ongoing fascination with UFOs, science fiction movies, industrial and domestic settings.

Williams did create a number of three-dimensional pieces at Arts Project in the earlier years— collaborative artworks like his cut out figures and paper maquettes—however, it wasn’t until the mid-late 2000s that Williams formally introduced sculpture. He began with collections of miniature ceramic objects, mostly direct interpretations of planes, trains and buildings, churches and monuments. Four years later, Williams shifted his practice to focus on constructing detailed soft sculptures that incorporated exaggerated, conspicuous stitching. This shift heralded a bold move away from 2D and ceramics that allowed Williams to cultivate unique configurations in soft sculpture, which has in-turn led to his distinctive style.

In his most recent work, Terry Williams’ exploration has advanced further, with his iconic industrial forms expanding to include anthropomorphic creatures and objects, as well as collections of work that directly relates to the body, such as masks, books and headwear.

Terry Williams (born 1952) has attended the Arts Project Australia studio program since 1989. He has had a number of solo exhibitions including a solo exhibition curated by Ricky Swallow at White Columns, New York (2015). He was a finalist in the Victorian Craft Award (2015), Craft, Melbourne and the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize (2011). He has been included in numerous group exhibitions including *Everyday imagining: new perspectives on Outsider art*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne (2014), *The Soft Knife*, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, NSW (2014), Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (each year from 1995 – 2014) *Renegades: Outsider Art*, National touring exhibition (2013 - 14) , *Halo and the Glory of Art*, (2011- 2012) *Pearls of Arts Project Australia: The Stuart Purves Collection*, National Touring exhibition (2007- 2009). His work is held in private collections throughout Australia and internationally.

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### QUICK REFERENCE DOCUMENT

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**VENUE:** Arts Project Australia, 24 High St Northcote VIC 3070 Australia  
**OPENING:** Saturday 10 September, from 3-5pm  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Rebecca Coates, Director, Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)  
**DATES:** 10 September – 15 October 2016  
**TIMES:** Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm  
**MORE INFO:** [Terry Williams: Rhythms of the Handmade](#), [www.artsproject.org.au](http://www.artsproject.org.au)  
**ENTRY:** FREE

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### KEY MESSAGES

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- *Rhythms of the Handmade* is a major survey exhibition by Melbourne artist Terry Williams;
  - *Rhythms of the Handmade* features work by Terry Williams spanning twenty-seven years;
  - *Rhythms of the Handmade* will feature over 90 artworks and is supported by a full-colour Leonard Joel Series catalogue that features an essay by international artist Ricky Swallow;
  - *Rhythms of the Handmade* will include painting, drawing, ceramics, soft sculpture;
  - *Rhythms of the Handmade* includes artwork from collections as well as artwork that is available for sale;
  - *Rhythms of the Handmade* is supported by Leonard Joel, Ellikon Printing and Art Guide Australia;
  - *Rhythms of the Handmade* showcases a survey show by one of its prominent artists each year;
  - *Arts Project Australia* is a centre of excellence that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promoting their work and advocating for inclusion within contemporary art practice.
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### MEDIA CONTACTS

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For further information, interviews or high-resolution images please contact:

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**Social Media:** @artsprojectaust, #artsprojectaustralia,  
**Facebook:** ArtsProject/gallery



Terry Williams *Not titled* 2014  
material, stuffing & Wool 90 x 58 x 13 cm TRW3D14-0032



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Installation details of Terry Williams – Soft Sculpture curated by Ricky Swallow at White Columns, New York in 2015  
Image courtesy White Columns, New York