

Image left: Will Murray, *Rivers of Gold*, 2017Image right: Samraing Chea, *Heavy traffic scene*, 2011, pencil on paper, 28 x 38 cm

## NEW EXHIBITIONS

MAY - JUNE The world around us & Our Life, Our World

Dates | 4 May - 8 June

Opening | Saturday 4 May, 3-5pm

**As part of CLIMARTE's highly anticipated ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE 2019 festival, Arts Project Australia is presenting two exhibitions that look at our changing climate from the minutiae of everyday life to the global implications of accelerating climate change and human development: *The world around us* and *Our Life, Our World*.**

Curated by Penelope Hunt, *The world around us* literally refers to a five-block radius around the Arts Project Australia studio. Each week as the seasons change and the weather alters, so changes the landscape and our perceptions of it.

Through the process of walking the same paths over a year, Arts Project studio artists will present work that focuses on and truly examines the fluctuations of their local environment, articulating their interests and concerns.

Through digital mediums, *The world around us* charts the process of walking the same paths surrounding the Merri Creek with cameras in hand for over a year. Arts Project artists working digitally will present images that focus on and truly examine the fluctuations in their local environment.

While photographic works by Will Murray and Georgia Smerling powerfully highlight the environmental challenges faced by our local world, artist Eden Menta focuses on the minutia to explore the extraordinary macro world of insects. In addition, the work of Miles Howard-Wilks captures the local Merri Creek, prompting a discussion on our changing landscape as it's captured and experienced.

"This exhibition is the fruition of a year-long project in which Arts Project studio artists have been paying acute attention to the changes in their local environment, by regularly leaving the studio and documenting Merri Creek and its surrounds," says curator Penelope Hunt.

"Rather than focusing on the global, the artists are focusing on the local. It's about engaging with our immediate environment at a small, local level, which can inspire at a larger scale"



Image left: Michael Camakaris, *Not titled*, 2018, collage, greylead pencil, paint pen, pen on paper, 38 x 28 cm  
Image right: George Aristovoulou, *Not titled*, 2018, greylead pencil and pencil on paper, 28 x 38 cm

Meanwhile ***Our Life, Our World*** explores environmental and social issues that we currently face in our local and global environments.

The multidisciplinary group exhibition features Arts Project studio artists, threading works ranging from representational photographs exploring our local environment to statements drifting between ironic and hopeful (think 'Global warming is finally over for ever and ever, yes everywhere' by Chris Mason), as well as impending speculation about the 'nuclear' family.

Curated by **Sim Luttin**, the show considers the effect of human development in relation to accelerating climate change.

"*Our Life, Our World* presents a collection of work that reflects common concerns about our changing planet," says curator Sim Luttin

"Through the telling lens of art, the Arts Project artists selected directly, indirectly and cynically draw viewers attention to what we have, what we've lost, as well as what we stand to lose if we don't look after our world - it's our life after all."

Arts Project Australia is a studio and gallery that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promoting their work and advocating for inclusion within contemporary art practice. In the last two years Arts Project artists have exhibited at a variety of external galleries including National Gallery of Victoria, Museum of Old and New Art, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Spring 1883, Gertrude Contemporary, West Space, Artspace and Darren Knight Gallery.

This exhibition is proudly supported by Art Guide Australia.

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS: further information, interviews or high-resolution images**

Curators are available for interviews upon request.

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**High-resolution images are available here (captions are in file names).**

**Website Facebook Instagram**