



James MacSporran
2 Pixels, 2019
gouache, ink,
paint pen
38.5 x 56 cm

SEP / OCT EXHIBITION ARTS PROJECT ARTISTS MEET PHILADELPHIA ARTISTS

Yo Melbourne We're from Philly!

Curated by Alex Baker, Director Fleisher/Ollman (Philadelphia)

Dates | 21 September - 19 October

Opening | Saturday 21 September, 3-5pm

Alex Baker, previously Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Victoria and now Director of Philadelphia's Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, is briefly returning to Melbourne in September 2019 for his first Australian exhibition since heading to the US, titled *Yo Melbourne We're from Philly!*

Energised by his experiences working with Arts Project Australia during his time in Melbourne, shortly after his return to the States, Alex Baker sought out artists from his hometown, Philadelphia, who work in disability studio programs for an exhibition he curated at Fleisher/Ollman in 2014.

Building on these relationships, Baker will present *Yo Melbourne We're from Philly!* at Arts Project, featuring artists selected from Philadelphia supported studios alongside artists from Arts Project, in what will be a celebration of cross-cultural dialogue and exciting juxtaposition.

While Baker chose not to organise the exhibition around an overarching thesis or subject, themes can be teased from this bounty of expression, including forays into infrastructure and the built environment, portraiture, observation and nature, landscape, perspectival oscillation, abstraction, text, ceramic whimsies and fantastical things.

The Philadelphia-based artists herald from several disability and behavioral health studio centers, including: IDEATE (**Dwayne Boone** and **Alonzo Humphrey**); Center for Creative Works (**Jenny Cox**, **Paige Donovan**, and **Natasha Plaza**); Artworks/Community Integrated Services (**Woodley White**); Creative Vision Factory (**Knicomma Frederick**, **Eliseo Gonzalez**, and **Geraldo Gonzalez**), and **Queen Nancy Bell**, who now works independently, but was formerly associated with Oasis, a now defunct art center.



Image left: Jenny Cox

Saw Red Cap Bag, 2016

Marker on paper, 18 x 24 in (45.7 x 61 cm)

Courtesy of the artist and Center for Creative Works, Wynnwood, Pennsylvania

Image right: Amani Tia

Not titled, 2018

Ink on paper, 25.5 x 20.5 cm

The Arts Project studio artists include **Michael Camakaris, Samraing Chea, James MacSporran, Jenny Ngo, Chris O'Brien, Georgia Szmerling, and Amani Tia.**

Baker, formerly Senior Curator, Contemporary Art at the **National Gallery of Victoria**, is now director of **Fleisher/Ollman**, Philadelphia, an internationally recognized gallery exploring the resonance of self-taught and contemporary art.

Each year Arts Project invites prominent curators to curate an exhibition that places Arts Project studio artists alongside Australian contemporary artists in the Northcote gallery space – *Yo Melbourne We're From Philly!* is Arts Project's second externally-curated show of 2019. The first externally curated exhibition was *FEM-affINITY*, curated by artist and academic Catherine Bell, which will tour Australia regionally and nationally in 2020 and 2021.

This exhibition is proudly supported by Leonard Joel, Limb Family Foundation and Art Guide Australia.

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Curator: Alex Baker, Director, Fleisher/Ollman, Philadelphia

MEDIA: further information, images, interviews (Alex Baker is available for interviews upon request):

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High-resolution images with captions can be found [here](#).