



## Arts Project Australia announces *Variations* curated by Michael Camakaris

Opening Saturday 1 October 2022 at  
Arts Project Australia's Collingwood Yards gallery

**Michael Camakaris curated *Variations* as part of the inaugural Blindside 2021 Artist Mentorship Initiative. Initially an online exhibition, we are now presenting a live version of the show at APA's Collingwood Yards gallery. The mentorship program engaged an early-career artist or curator with a disability to work on a self-devised project with advice from Blindside personnel.**

In Michael's own words, "the focus of *Variations* touches on the relationship between the disabled artist, their lived experience and their choice of artistic expression. I chose this particular theme to advocate for disabled artists, as they are generally under-represented, and often lack a say in how they are presented. Their work is rarely placed front and centre. Often their inclusion is a token gesture toward equality".

"As the exhibition curator, it is important for me to acknowledge that I too have disabilities, so the narrative voice is someone who is coming from a similar place. My aim is to not only present the work of disabled artists, but to also represent how the artists see themselves, thereby giving them agency, voice and empowerment. Art should reflect the spectrum of all of us and offer something which all viewers can identify with and gain inspiration from".

The exhibition features works by Arts Project Australia artists Mark Smith and Jordan Dymke alongside Darcey Bella Arnold (ReadingRoom) and Kieren Seymour (Neon Parc).

### Exhibition Curator & Artist

*Michael Camakaris is a multi-disciplinary artist from Arts Project Australia (APA), a creative social enterprise that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promotes their work, and advocates for their inclusion in contemporary art practice. Represented by Arts Project Australia.*

### Artists

*Mark Smith has worked in the Arts Project Studio since 2003. He held his first solo show Words Are... at Jarmbi Gallery in 2014, as well as featuring in group shows nationally including Spring 1883, Gertrude Glasshouse, The Substation and West Space. He is a regular contributor to Arts Projects Australia group exhibitions. Represented by Arts Project Australia.*

# ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

*Jordan Dymke is an emerging multidisciplinary artist. He has a figurative-based practice that focuses on painting and drawing from life, self-portraiture, as well as being motivated by imagery and photographs he collects from magazines and online. His self-portraiture 2D and sculptural works — especially those featuring his hands — are an evocative and expressive investigations of his body and identity. Represented by Arts Project Australia.*

*Kieren Seymour (born in London, UK) is a Melbourne-based artist. Since 2012, he has explored the relationship between the drawn image and its development into larger-scale media, photo, digital drawing, and painting. Seymour's images often reference narrative experiences on and around the body and social interactions. Represented by Neon Parc, Melbourne.*

*Darcey Bella Arnold lives and works in Naarm/Melbourne, Australia. Darcey completed a BFA, Drawing at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2007, and a BFA, Honours at Monash University in 2009. Darcey is a 2020 Gertrude Studio Artist, Gertrude Contemporary, and is represented by ReadingRoom, Melbourne.*

## Key Dates

### ***Exhibition Opening: Variations***

**Saturday, 1 October 2022, 3 - 5pm | Public event | Free**

Opened by Martina Copley (Gallery Coordinator, Blindside) and Michael Camakaris, (Exhibition Curator and Arts Project Australia artist). This event will be Auslan interpreted.

### ***Exhibition: Variations***

**1 - 30 October 2022 | Public | Free**

APA Collingwood Yards gallery, Melbourne

Location: Arts Project Australia, Level 1, Perry Street building  
Collingwood Yards, Johnson Street, Vic 3066

## **Accessibility at Collingwood Yards**

Collingwood Yards is committed to universal access. Wheelchair access to level one is via a lift in the Perry street building, which will take you up to the Arts Project Australia gallery. There are entrances to the Yards on Johnston St and Perry Street. Tactile signage is available on the right hand side of the lift shafts on each level. All stairs have tactile indicators. Please note the outdoor steps are steep and not recommended for people with visual impairment. Braille signage is available outside all toilets, close to all exit points and inside all lifts. An accessible parking bay is available for use by holders of a Disabled Persons permit. It is located near entrance [35C Johnston Street](#).

[Download  
Images](#)


## For further media information contact:

Michelle Odgers  
Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
Arts Project Australia  
[shell.odgers @artsproject.org.au](mailto:shell.odgers@artsproject.org.au)

Sim Luttin  
Senior Curator & Gallery Manager  
Arts Project Australia  
[sim.luttin@artsproject.org.au](mailto:sim.luttin@artsproject.org.au)  
0437 448 758

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### ABOUT US

**Arts Project Australia** is a creative social enterprise  
that supports artists with intellectual disabilities,  
promotes their work and advocates for their inclusion  
in contemporary art practice.

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