

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Participate in playful public programs with prominent Canberra artists at Tuggeranong Arts Centre in June

In early June, members from the community can celebrate with renowned Canberra artists Nicci Haynes and John Pratt on the final weekend of their current exhibitions *Incidental TV* and *Traverse* showing in the Tuggeranong Arts Centre galleries alongside Mark Dober's *On the Banks of the Murrumbidgee*.

On Friday 2 June, Pratt will lead a playful investigation of the figure as a structural and topographic presence. A highly regarded printmaker and former Graphic Investigation teacher at the Canberra School of Art, Pratt's creative practice and teaching knowledge has been developed over 4 decades. *Mapping the Figure: Life Drawing with John Pratt* is an opportunity to explore drawing as a means of understanding and conveying emotional and psychological states using a range of approaches that consider mark making, scale and composition. It is also an opportunity to celebrate Pratt's recent work in the exhibition *Traverse*, a collaboration with fellow printmaker Peter McLean.

The cartographic collage works in *Traverse* playfully explores the experiential subtext of a map as both an empirical and analytic portrayal of the landscape and a felt archive of emotional and psychological presence. "McLean's works are exploratory and lyrical, with figures and abstract shapes emerging from black monotype backgrounds and suspended tree trunks overlaid onto vintage maps [while] Pratt's observations are graphic and architectural in quality showing a body in free fall. A keenly seen silhouette of a male body is layered with text-based offcuts, mixed paper media and sampled industrial imagery," Ros Lemoh.

Nicci Haynes will celebrate the work in her latest exhibition *Incidental TV*, on Saturday 3 June with a screening of short experimental animations and augmented reality videos in the Tuggeranong theatre. Created by her students from the ANU school of Art, where Haynes continues to work in various capacities in the Printmedia and Drawing Workshop, the screenings will expand on the possibilities investigated in Haynes' installation work currently showing in Gallery 2.

*Incidental TV* is an installation of screens arranged casually in the Gallery, each displaying experimental short film or animation, they are a collection of time-based sequences of images assembled from drawings and objects. The idea for the exhibition, while based on the Haynes' interest in print, drawing, artists' books, awkward little videos and 'mad scientist' installations, came after the accidental finding of hordes of screens on a nature strip. This new iteration of her 'Peephole Cinema' series, shown at Belconnen Arts Centre in 2022, ANCA in 2020 Art not Apart and the Biennale of Australian Art in Ballarat 2018, is "...imbued with a DIY Punk ethos with an anti-consumerist sentiment. Clustered like a desolate urban nest, shopping trolleys are packed full of e-waste including cathode-ray and LED monitors and laptops.... This gathering of the leftovers is gritty (and) there is a quiet discordant symphonic buzz of flickering motors, continuing the conversation of electronic life in the room," Ros Lemoh.

Melbourne based artist Mark Dober also showing *On the Banks of the Murrumbidgee* at TAC now, presents three works made between 2021 to 2023 at various sites on the Murrumbidgee. His most recent work, *Pine Island Beach* - a large scale water colour measuring 168 x 380cm was created on site where the Murrumbidgee River flows past Tuggeranong in March this year.

The scale of Dober's work conveys a sense of immersion, of 'being there.' The changing time of day and weather present are organic - both in the artists seeing and nature's processes. *These works are not a photographic capture of a single moment, but a painting in situ of many passing moments over time that express the interplay of sunlight and shadow. The loose, layered and expressionistic brushstrokes beckon you close and push you to step back; moving from the intimate abstraction of a watered daub to standing afar to see the wobbling forms of slender trunked trees,*" Ros Lemoh.

**Screening of AR and Experimental Animation:** Saturday 3 June, 6pm. FREE, Registration essential. Join Nicci for a screen presentation of experimental animations and AR videos. Register [here](#)

**Mapping The Figure: Life Drawing with John Pratt:** Friday 2 June, 6pm. \$35/30(concession). Book [here](#)

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