

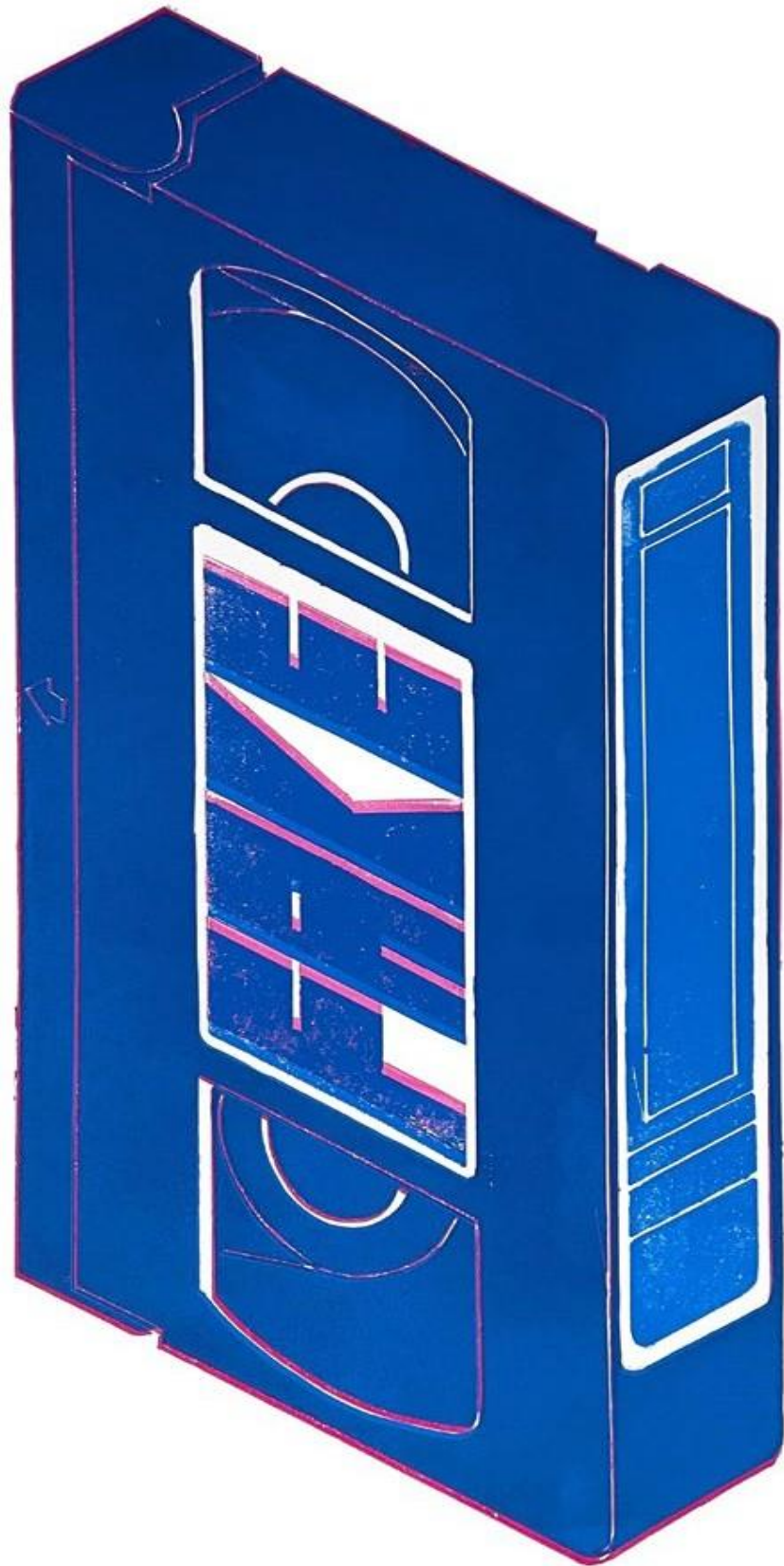
# *Dust Collectors*

## **Adam Bell, Shaun Hayes & Ellie Kaufmann**

**18 August – 21 October 2023**



Ellie Kaufmann, *Keep on Truckin'*, oil on plywood, 2023



Adam Bell, *VHS Fake*, 2023, linocut on paper

## Exhibition Statement

We know that art can be about looking and ways of seeing, of approaching the ineffable, for questioning hegemonies and subverting dominant paradigms, however we have arrived at the understanding that art is for collecting dust.

We are three artists that share a preoccupation and fascination, and a kind of nostalgia for artefacts of the twentieth century. B-grade video, rockin' rhythm and blues, weirdo comix, kool dragsters, chrome ornaments, mix tapes, petrol fumes, dagwood dogs, rat fink stickers, pink flamingos, green goblins, cap guns and plastic cactus. Obsolete, neglected, overlooked, used up trash. We are bricoleurs with VHS dreams.

Maybe it's nostalgia for a time past, a simpler, slower, gentler era, warm Sunday afternoons at the pool, or riding skateboards, or watching spaghetti westerns. But of course, that's nonsense. It's more a nostalgia for real novelty and the genuine surprise to find out about something cool and maybe for how technology and devices and media worked in a different way before the way we think turned hypertextual. A world without dark memes and dank memories.

Shaun's ceramics, while funny and nostalgic, also carry a serious intent. His concern for the volume of disposable stuff and discarded technology is coupled with a view of how these things carry their own sentiments and integrity as objects. In his practice he dismantles and combines his source pieces by moulding and assembling, glazing and firing, drawing on fine Chinese ceramic aesthetics and technique to transform trash into refined sculptural forms.

Shaun's work speaks of the clarity and purpose in the skill of their maker, and of the strange relationship between ceramic and plastic, each fragile and durable in different ways, one an ancient craft and the other a modern industrial invention. In these works, there is tension between being amused by the design and pattern found in the source material, while being horrified at the immense unstoppable volume of waste generated during everyday life. Shaun transforms this abject humour into more useless dust collectors.

Ellie's opulent oil paintings are drawn from her own domestic world and the neighbourhood she lives in. Ellie and her husband Bo share an impeccable taste in objects and aesthetics that express a sentimental joy that they find in everyday and sometimes mundane things. Their collection of fantastic trash includes antique toys, strange kitchen objects, forgotten tools, op-shop discoveries, funny stickers, wild records and vintage cars, some dragged out from the bush.

Set in loud interiors and wild front yards, her compact scenes transmit wonder and humour, with a dose of modern anxiety, resembling a pop surrealist vanitas or frames

from a road movie. However, she has not contrived or dreamed up these still lives and landscapes. With her distinct colour sense and brush work she renders authentic moments and montages.

Ellie is the star of this show, her works glow with a force field that is likely to make any dust particle think twice before settling on her work, or at least inspire the lucky art collector that takes one of her paintings home to keep them dust free and bright.

For this show I made a series of prints that are derived from the form of the VHS cassette, the blockbuster video medium of the twentieth century. Printed in only two colours, standard cyan and magenta, with the ink sometimes made translucent with a medium extender, my intention is a push towards pattern and abstraction, while resembling anaglyphs, the printed image that pops into 3D when wearing the red and blue spex.

It's unlikely that wearing the magic spectacles will invoke the three-dimensional experience, also because the objects are drawn in oblique projection, without perspective, using the obsolete tools of technical drawing, the set square and French curve.

Does anyone remember what VHS stands for? Vape Head Spin? Very High Society? What about all these other four-letter word words? Maybe they are slogans or labels meant to signify something profound about art, but they probably just reveal something about the artist: Fear, Fake, Fool.

These prints collected dust during the making because the press is set up in a backyard shed, hardly the sterile environment fit for fine art printmaking. Look closely and you'll see the dog hair that got rolled into the ink as well. How could one not hug and pat such a good boy even when inking up a lino block with bright, clean ink?

It seems ridiculous to do this, when a computer could help generate the work faster and with accuracy, but here the hand is important. And aside from anything else this is what brings our work together, trashy, wonky and dusty things made by our own hands.

We are very grateful for TAC hosting our Dust Collectors show. We chose this place because it's in the heart of capital territory suburbia, next to the Colonel's famous restaurant and near the home of the Happy Meal and down the street from the (formerly known as) Hyperdome.

Surrounded by retail palaces and assorted bureaus of public service, this is a very fine place for us to kick up some dust and put on an art show.

Adam Bell, August 2023



Shaun Hayes, *Ancient Technology (2)*, 2023, midfire glaze and clay

## About the Artists

### Adam Bell

Bell is a printmaker who lives and works in Canberra. He studied art in Wagga Wagga and is a current student of Art History at ANU. He performs in The King Hits.

### Ellie Kaufmann

Kaufmann studied at Newcastle Art School. She lives and works in Captain's Flat, which is now a prominent subject in her paintings and prints. Kaufmann exhibits and curates group shows regularly and won the Newcastle Emerging Artist painting prize in 2015 and 2016.

### Shaun Hayes

Hayes received a Bachelor of Arts (Visual), with honours majoring in Ceramics, from the Australian National University School of Art. He now lives and produces work in Captains Flat. Hayes is represented by Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, and was selected to represent them at the Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Carriageworks Sydney in September 2018 and Melbourne Design Fair in 2023.

## List of Works

### Adam Bell

No.	Title	Year	Medium	Price	
1-20	1. VHS Dust 2. VHS Fear 3. VHS Null 4. VHS Fame 5. VHS Bump 6. VHS Head 7. VHS Icon 8. VHS Face 9. VHS Cult 10. VHS Fake (1)	11. VHS Dust (1) 12. VHS Fool 13. VHS Data 14. VHS Form 15. VHS Cool 16. VHS Fact 17. VHS CTRL 18. VHS Fast 19. VHS Copy 20. VHS Fake (2)	2023	Linocut prints on Fabriano Rosapina paper	\$160 each

## Ellie Kaufmann

Works are set in handmade frames sculpted by the artist using found timbers.

No.	Title	Year	Medium	Price
21	Bad Ass	2023	Oils on ply	\$950
22	Salty	2023	Oils on ply	\$900
23	Filthy Fridge	2023	Oils on ply	\$850
24	Workers Club	2023	Oils on ply	\$800
25	Keep on Truckin'	2023	Oils on ply	\$1500
26	Call Me Country	2023	Oils on ply	\$750
27	10:15 Saturday Night	2023	Oils on ply	\$900
28	Beverly Hills	2023	Oils on ply	\$800
29	Dagwood District	2023	Oils on ply	\$950

## Shaun Hayes (represented by Stanley Street Gallery)

No.	Title	Year	Medium	Price
30	The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$660
31	Ancient Technology (2)	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$660
32	Gladiator	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$640
33	Cast Away	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$660
34	Blues Brother	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$640
35	Twister	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$650
36	Fifty Shades	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$640
37	Babar	2023	Midfire clay and glaze	\$650

**Public Program:**

Saturday 9 September

**Artist talk – Gallery 2**

1:30pm

**Dirt Bags Show – The Lodge**

2pm

Join the artists than their friends for artists talks followed by an afternoon of fuzzed out bubblegum garage rockin' tunes by Dirt Bag, the Lonely One from Captains Flat.

All welcome. Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.

Free



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