

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5 FEBRUARY 2020

MY FUNNY VALENTINE

*My funny valentine  
Sweet comic valentine  
You make me smile with my heart  
Your looks are laughable  
Unphotographable  
Yet you're my favourite work of art*

At 528 Hz, love is said to reach us through music.

Like the jazz standard interpreted, recorded and enriched (mainly) by numerous musicians (Fitzgerald, Sinatra, Baker), love too endures through art, contributing myth, nuance, and an evolution of form to the frequency (hopefully) of our spiritual connections.

'A love' can keep you making, generating. Expression manifested in clay, paint, and screen-based work, where the material and abstract meet.



Chris Mason, *Two nude obese built women holding a rose in each hand*, 2016, modelling material and acrylic paint, 20 x 18 x 12 cm. ©Copyright the artist. Represented by Arts Project Australia, Melbourne. Private collection, Sydney

Join us for *My Funny Valentine*, a group show curated by Louise Klerks in collaboration with Arts Project Australia, showcasing an eclectic group of Australian and New Zealand artists engaged with love in all its forms: adoration, obsession, its pull – the maddening of it all.

See Matt Arbuckle, Chris Bowes, Brigid Hanrahan, Henry Holder, Chris Mason, Esther Olsson and Daniel Pace in a spontaneous, heartfelt cuddle puddle.

Celebrate with us this 14<sup>th</sup> of February at Missing Persons' first short-duration show of 2020.

**Exhibition** 15 – 16 February 2020

**Launch** Friday 14 February, 6–8pm

**Hours** Saturday 12–6pm and Sunday 12–4pm

**Location** Missing Persons, Nicholas Building, Rooms 11-12, Level 4, 37 Swanston Street,  
Melbourne, VIC 3000

## About the artists

**Matt Arbuckle** is an artist from New Zealand working primarily in painting and installation. Arbuckle's practice focuses on the pictorial plane as a site to explore the overlapping space between physical and virtual environments and the interior terrain of our minds and emotions.

Arbuckle holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Arts) from Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland in 2009. Arbuckle has exhibited extensively in Australia and internationally. Selected solo exhibitions include *Commute to Compute*, Vermont Studio Centre, Vermont, USA (2018); *Low Cloud*, Parlour Projects, Hawks Bay, New Zealand (2018); *Melbourne Art Fair* with Tim Melville (2018); *Easy Fold*, Bus Projects (2017); *Beat Box Blues Harp*, Daine Singer (2017), *Eye Shots*, Paulnache Gallery, New Zealand (2016); *Wrestling Posters Cause Fights*, Fontanelle Gallery, Adelaide (2015).

Arbuckle's work is held in the Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki and James Wallace Arts Trust, New Zealand. In 2017 he was the recipient of the James Wallace Art fellowship to Vermont Studio Art Center. He is represented in New Zealand by Parlour Projects.

See more: <http://www.mattarbuckle.com/>

**Chris Bowes** is a Melbourne based multidisciplinary artist who uses photography, video and installation to explore the complex and evolving relationship humans have with technology by creating fractures between the physical and digital worlds.

Bowes was awarded Honours in Fine Art (First Class) from RMIT University in 2017 and a Bachelor of Photography from Queensland College of Art, Griffith University in 2015. His recent solo exhibitions include *Screen Time*, Counihan Gallery, Melbourne (2020); *Tessellate*, St Heliers Street Gallery, Melbourne (2019); *Man-Made*, Perth Centre for Photography, Perth (2017); *I Feel Like I Know You*, First Site Gallery, Melbourne (2017); *Leftovers*, Perth Centre for Photography, Perth (2015).

Bowes' work is held in numerous public collections including Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Queensland Centre for Photography, Macquarie Group, Yale University - Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the Asia-Pacific Photobook Archive.

Read on: <https://www.chrisbowes.com.au/>

**Brigid Hanrahan** is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice includes painting, drawing and ceramics. With a focus on the creation of fictional narratives, Hanrahan works with subject matter found mostly in domestic settings such as animals, gardens and people. Dancers also appear as a common theme throughout Hanrahan's work, in particular those from the Australian Ballet. Her figurative interpretations are delicate and expressive, often evoking a lyrical sense of movement and storytelling.

Brigid Hanrahan has been a regular studio artist at Arts Project Australia since 1999. She has been included in numerous group exhibitions including the *Melbourne Art Fair*, Melbourne (2000, 2002, 2008, 2012); *Pearls of Arts Project Australia: The Stuart Purves Collection*, National touring exhibition (2007-2009); *Home Sweet Home: Works from the Peter Fay Collection*, National Gallery of Australia Travelling exhibition (2005). Hanrahan's work is held in the National Gallery of Australia and Tallis Foundation collections.

See more: <https://www.artsproject.org.au/artist/brigid-hanrahan-4/>

**Henry Holder** is a Perth born artist who recently relocated to Melbourne from Sydney. Holder's multidisciplinary practice involves drawing, mixed media collage, and screen-printing. He uses found objects, digital manipulations, and clothing to explore the possibilities of image making.

Holder was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Printmaking) from the National Art School, Sydney in 2018. A selection of his group exhibitions include *TBA*, aMBUSH Gallery, Sydney (2019); *Nodding Puppets*, TekMinimal, Sydney (2018); *PACT Salon: Artifice x Interface*, PACT, Sydney (2018); *Moonlight Feminists*, Flow Studios, Sydney (2018) and '2000' A Sydney Exhibition, The Shop Gallery, Sydney (2017). Holder was a 2018 participant in the MCA Zine Fair at Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney.

Find out more: <https://www.henryholder.com/>

**Chris Mason** is an accomplished artist working across the disciplines of painting, drawing, sculpture and ceramics. His practice involves extensive research, generating ideas that span across a wide range of subject matter with particular focus on voluptuous female forms and animals such as snakes and fish. Idiosyncratic and humorous, Mason's works are often inspired by photographs and images collected by the artist.

Chris Mason has worked in the Arts Project Australia studio since 1997. His solo exhibitions include *Chris Mason Solo*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney (2014); *Michelle*, Arts Project Australia Gallery (2007); and *The Chris Mason Show*, Arts Project Australia Gallery (2002). Group exhibitions include *Spring1883*, The Hotel Windsor, Melbourne (2018); *Auto Body Works* (curated by Patrice Sharkey), Arts Project Australia Gallery, Melbourne (2018); *The Public Body*, Artspace, Woolloomooloo, Sydney (2017); *The Museum of Everything*, Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Tasmania (2017); *Summer on the blue seat*, West Space, Melbourne (2016); and *Outsiderism*, Fleisher Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, USA (2013). Mason's work is held in private and public collections including the National Gallery of Australia (NGA), State Library of Victoria and National Gallery of Victoria (NGV).

See more: <https://www.artsproject.org.au/artist/christopher-mason/>

**Esther Olsson** is a Melbourne artist who works predominantly in painting, drawing, installation and textiles. Her art practice is based upon her lived experiences, where personal narratives intersect with vibrant and graphic grid systems.

Olsson was awarded an Advanced Diploma of Graphic Design at Grenadi School of Design, Melbourne in 2014. Her recent solo exhibitions include *You will never step in the same river twice*, Backwoods Gallery (2020); *Rope a Dope*, Lamington Drive (2017); *Hoops*, Magic Johnson Gallery (2016) and *The Drawings of Esther Olsson*, Tinning Street Gallery (2014).

Olsson has completed private and public art commissions in Sydney and Melbourne including a Greville Street mural in the City of Stonnington in 2018. She has worked with clients such as Diesel (2017) and the National Gallery of Victoria (2016, 2017) to create interactive, site-specific public programs and events.

Find out more: <https://estherolsson.com/>

**Daniel Pace** is a Melbourne artist whose practice includes drawing, ceramic and digital art. He is an ardent fan of Disney and the films of Tim Burton, both of which inspire and inform his artwork. To view his work is to connect with a range of fantastical characters portrayed in much the same style as they were originally created, yet lovingly re-interpreted to reflect Pace's unique perspective.

Daniel Pace has been a studio artist at Arts Project Australia since 2010. He has been included in several group exhibitions including *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (2012, 2014), *SMALLWORKS Art Prize*, Brunswick Street Gallery, (2014) and *Connected*, No Vacancy Gallery (2012-2015).

See more: <https://www.artsproject.org.au/>

Missing Persons is a multi-arts space in Melbourne. Find out more at [www.missingpersons.me](http://www.missingpersons.me)  
Contact us for media enquiries, interviews or images: Louise Klerks on 0404 118 105  
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