



Melton Arts and Culture

# EXHIBITION PROGRAM

2021



# WELCOME

Welcome to Melton City Council's 2021 exhibition program, celebrating our resilience in the face of adversity, and drawing strength from our creativity and connection with each other.

In line with the community's vision for *Creative Melton 2030* we see culture and creativity as essential for community wellbeing and artistic enrichment. Never has it been more important to create access to cultural experiences as we face the short and long-term effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. In a changed political, social and economic landscape, artistic innovation and imagination is a stepping stone to recovering and conceptualising a new future.

This is abundantly clear in the work of local and visiting artists featured in our exhibition program, each of whom creatively respond to varied perspectives of our community. The 2021 program challenges our relationship with social media, explores personal and cultural experiences of COVID-19, celebrates the voices of our children and young people, recognises a variety of community groups and creates space for the powerful voices of First Nations and African diaspora artists.

The program is also focused on access to quality arts learning experiences for all ages, with summer exhibitions for children and young people and a host of incredible public programs connected with each exhibition throughout the year. Follow our arts facebook page [@imaginemelton](#); and sign up to our arts e-news to keep informed of our seasonal events and

activities. If COVID-19 restrictions continue to impact our services, be assured that alternative online programs will be made available.

I am personally excited to see such a diverse range of artists bring opportunities for inspiration and immersion to our rapidly evolving community. Highlights of this season include the stunning work of rising arts star Atong Atem who will stage a community project with local South Sudanese residents, the much-loved illustrations of children's book author and illustrator Shaun Tan, textile works by Sofie Dieu, as well as new work by local artists, including *Reclaim* exploring local artists' responses to the pandemic and, *Storylines and Skylines* an immersive exhibition designed by local children, facilitated by Playable Streets. Please enjoy all this program has to offer!



Cr Kathy Majdlik

Mayor, City of Melton

# CALL FOR EXHIBITIONS 2022

Artists, artist groups and curators are invited to submit applications for exhibitions and projects that can be developed and delivered between Jan – Dec 2022.

We welcome applications from artists who can demonstrate a committed arts practice, and who seek to explore a well-considered concept that is relevant to the community.

CS Gallery exhibits professional artists, and supports the display of experimental, participatory and innovative work. Melton Library and Learning Hub and Melton Civic Centre spaces support the development of emerging and local artists.

Applications will be accepted online from July to August 2021.

## COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS CALL OUT 2021

Our Community Collections program makes library and gallery display cases available for the exhibition of collected objects.

We are calling for applications from artists and cultural object collectors who wish to display items during the calendar year 2021. Objects may include, but are not limited to jewellery, ceramics, historical objects or hobby collections. Applications are accepted online, anytime.

For full information see: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)



## #SOCIALMEDIOLOGY

by Liam Herne

**9 December 2020 – 25 February 2021 • During opening hours • CS Gallery**

This retrospective exhibition by Liam Herne explores the human condition in relation to our online habits and the way we communicate with each other on social media. Presenting five years of drawing, sculpture, photography and digital art, Herne questions the connection between our behaviour in the digital realm and how we act in the real world. Memes, selfies, trending news, and technology's wide impact on culture are all unpacked in this varied exhibition.

Currently based in Brisbane, Liam Herne is originally from Watford, UK and predominately works with a mix of traditional processes and new media. He has exhibited in various locations around the world. Herne is also the coordinator of The Incubator, an exhibition focused on promoting the work of young artists in Brisbane.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

---

Image: Liam Herne, *LVPJ*, 2019, digital drawing on paper



## NEVER BE LATE FOR A PARADE

Illustrations by Shaun Tan

**1 December 2020 – 7 March 2021 • During Library opening hours  
Melton Library and Learning Hub**

Presented in partnership with Books Illustrated, this exhibition features a collection of prints of illustrations from Shaun Tan's best-known picture books including *The Arrival*, *The Red Tree*, *The Lost Thing* and the *Singing Bones*, and celebrates his unique approach to storytelling through this selection of brilliant images, as varied and fascinating as their narratives.

Shaun Tan currently works as an artist and author in Melbourne, and is best known for illustrated books that deal with social and historical subjects through dream-like imagery. Shaun has also worked as a theatre designer, a concept artist for animated films including Pixar's *WALL-E*, and directed the Academy Award-winning short film *The Lost Thing*. In 2011 he received the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, honouring his contribution to international children's literature.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

---

Image: © Shaun Tan, *Never be Late for a Parade*, limited edition print from original illustration in *Rules of Summer*, published by Hachette, 2013



## WATCHING FROM AFAR

Susumu Matsuura and Thomas C. Chung

**3 March – 29 April 2021 • During opening hours • CS Gallery**

Susumu Matsuura (Japan) and Thomas C. Chung (Australia) present an observational study of the cultural changes caused by COVID-19. Living in separate countries, they tackle the impact of social distancing in different contexts, both in their personal lives, and in the communities around them. Their work includes photographic prints, metal sculptures, animated video art and traditional printmaking with collage.

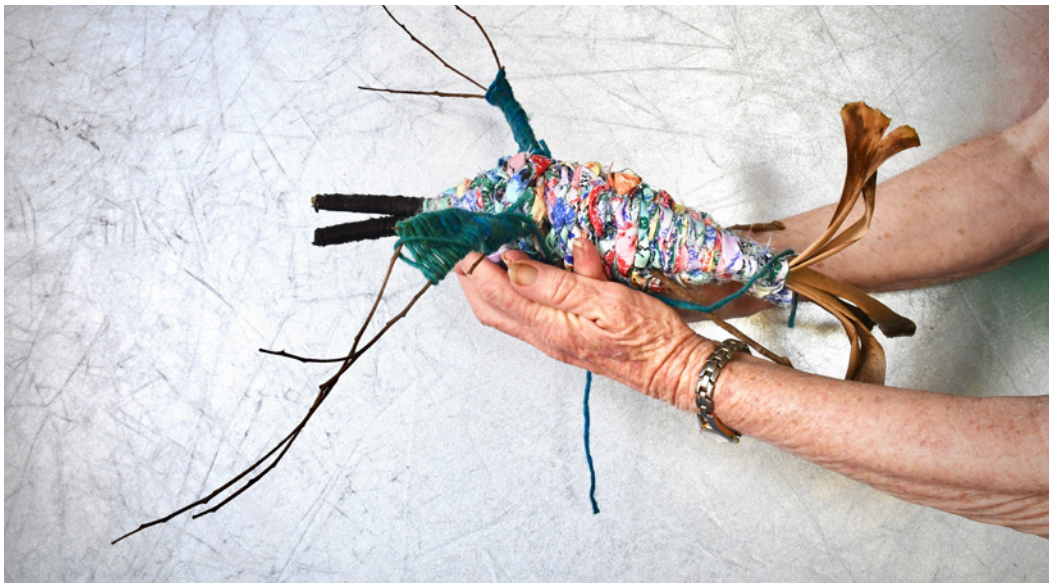
Susumu Matsuura specialises in silkscreen printmaking, has won several awards, and has exhibited work at JR Sapporo Station ART BOX, Japan; Tokyo Wonder Site, Japan; Gallery PRÁM, Czech Republic.

Thomas C. Chung specialises in conceptual art, and has exhibited work at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Australia; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Korea; National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Russia; YIA Basel Art Center, Switzerland.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

---

Image: Thomas C. Chung *"The Way It Once Was..." (I)* 2019, photographic print



## RECLAIM

### Group Exhibition

**16 March – 9 June 2021 • During Library opening hours  
Melton Library and Learning Hub**

This group exhibition curated by Karyn Leong features diverse artists in the Melton and Bacchus Marsh region who have charted their artistic response to COVID-19 as it sweeps the world, bringing new experiences of lockdown, isolation, lost plans, fearing for themselves and their family's health and feeling powerless. The exhibition explores how these adverse conditions inspired local artists to be creative and react to the pandemic positively, using their art to reclaim a sense of control over their own individuality and self-expression. The exhibition includes paintings, photography, illustrations, weaving, digital art, fibre-making and poetry.

Exhibiting artists: Kate Rozsa, Anne Cadzow, Elysium Spencer, Kelly Busuttill, Melissa Spencer, Judy Hudson, Karen Dodemaide, Lynne Still and Karyn Leong

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

Image: Anne Cadzow, *Bower Bird*, 2019, natural fibres and textiles





## REAL | LOCAL

by Atong Atem

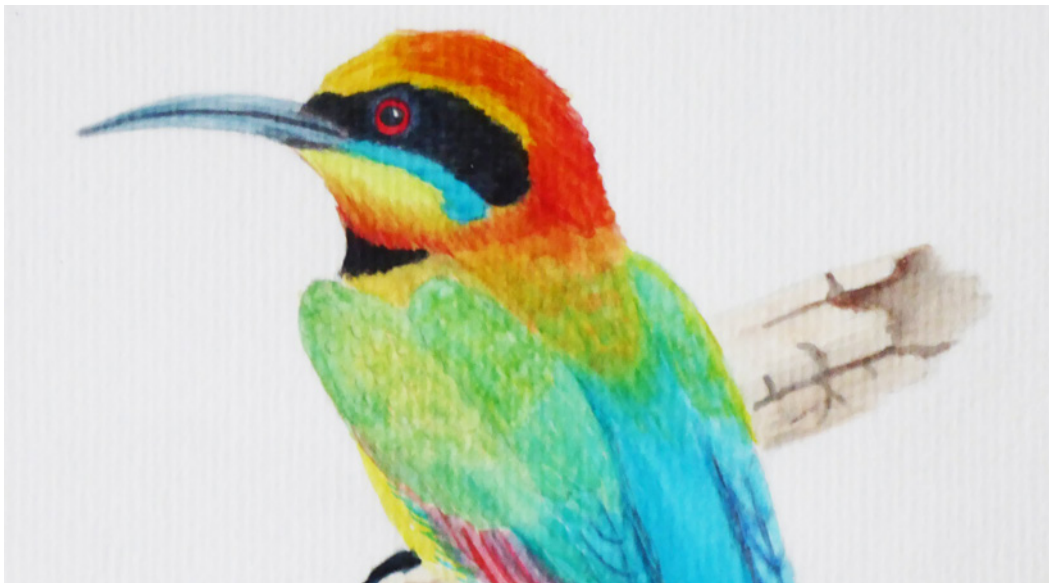
**5 May – 25 July 2021 • During opening hours • CS Gallery**

Award-winning artist, Atong Atem, shares contemporary photographic portraits alongside works from a collaborative project with local residents of South Sudanese heritage. Atem's photography and video work explore contemporary identity through portraiture, with a focus on de-colonising narratives in the African diaspora. She explores the ways we construct images to understand ourselves, our history and our surroundings. Her intimate portraits are vibrant and sentimental performances, which at the same time honour the authenticity of the individual, and record a moment in political and social time.

Atem has exhibited her work across Australia, including National Gallery of Victoria, MUMA Monash, Gertrude Contemporary, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art and Internationally at Red Hook Labs in New York, Vogue Fashion Fair in Milan and Unseen Amsterdam photography festival.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

Image: Atong Atem, *Three Women*, 2019, digital photograph on archival paper



## ANIMAL KINGDOM

By Allyson Watts, Jacqueline Le Souef and Glenys Nicholls

**19 June to 9 September • During Library opening hours  
Melton Library and Learning Hub**

This exhibition explores the diversity of the animal kingdom, from endangered species to human's best friends. Local artists Allyson Watts, Jacqueline Le Souef and Glenys Nicholls, exhibit watercolour, pastel and acrylic paintings which celebrate the enjoyment of observing the natural world. This exhibition aims to foster respect and a sense of connection with our furry and feathered friends.

Allyson Watts is an emerging artist who is part of the Melton U3A art group and has participated in four local exhibitions. Jacqueline Le Souef has displayed work in numerous exhibitions and has artworks in private collections in Ireland, UK, USA and Japan. Glenys Nicholls also participates in the U3A Melton Art Group and has previously exhibited in many locations around Victoria.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

---

Image: Allyson Watts, Rainbow Bee-Eater, 2017, watercolour on paper



## LONGING FOR HOME, WATER RITUAL

By Sofie Dieu

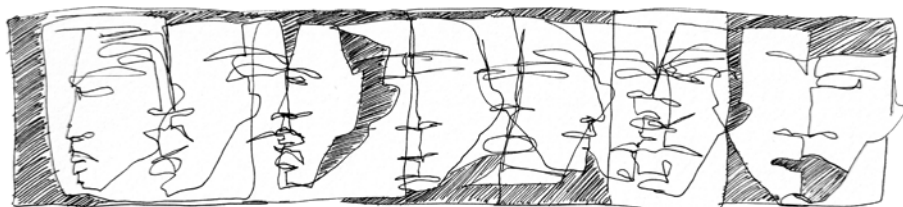
**3 August – 6 October • During opening hours • CS Gallery**

This installation explores the experience of first generation Australian women through their connection to the Australian bush. Framing women as the earth's ambassadors and as the active voices that shape society, Dieu worked with 50 migrant women living in suburban Melbourne. Together they embroidered symbols of water, flora, fauna, immigration and womanhood, creating over 60 embroideries. These formed a 3 meter diameter dress which is the centrepiece of this installation.

Sofie Dieu has degrees in Textile Design and Sculpture, and Visual Art and Contemporary Practice. She currently teaches design theory at Monash University. As an artist she has collaborated with leading mental health and refugee advocacy organisations, and received numerous residencies and Awards. Sofie originally created this exhibition in partnership with the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women Coalition.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

Image: Sofie Dieu, *Longing for Home (Dress – detail)* 2019, textile and embroidery



## STATE OF MIND

By Tasmina Majles

**15 September – 14 November • During Library opening hours  
Melton Library and Learning Hub**

Tasmina Majles turned her creative drawing practice to capture her personal experience of Covid-19. Finely drawn lines on paper chart her own experience of self-connection, transformation and wellbeing. Observing her own emotions, fears and struggles, her hand-drawn abstract depictions reflect the blurring events, internal spaces and personal thoughts both loud and soft that filled her daily life in isolation.

Tasmina K Majles is a Bangladeshi born visual artist living in Melbourne. Her art practice focuses on the intersection of figurative and abstract representation. She has completed Master of Creative Arts in Painting from Deakin University and her work has been exhibited at Box Hill Arts Centre and Phoenix Gallery, as well as in international shows organised by Edge: The Foundation and the United Nations.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

Image: Tasmina Majles, *Unseen Untold*, 2020, pen on paper



## SKYLINES AND STORYLINES

### Children's exhibition by Playable Streets

**26 October – 10 February • During opening hours • CS Gallery**

Involve your whole family in this vibrant exhibition designed by children who live in the City of Melton. Playable Streets has spent a year working with children from different pockets of the city to create art, audio stories and installations which uncover diverse experiences of growing up in a rapidly changing community. This exhibition is a celebration of local children's voices, and a chance for families to play inside an immersive world of pictures, sound and stories.

Playable Streets is an artist's collective who are re-imagining interactive art. At the heart of their work is the promotion of accessible and creative experiences that involve participants as co-designers in their artistic outcomes. Their broad range of multi-modal artworks have been experienced by thousands of people across Australia.

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

Image: *Playable Streets*, Image from Sounding Stories project, 2017

# LOCAL ILLUSTRATORS SHOWCASE

**24 November 2020 - 3 February 2021 • During Library opening hours  
Melton Library and Learning Hub**

We celebrate the creativity and initiative of self-published and independent children's illustrators and writers in our community with this double-bill exhibition at Melton Library over the summer holidays!

All bookings at: [melton.vic.gov.au](http://melton.vic.gov.au)

## MINDFUL BOOKS

**Sandra Harwood, Audrey Buttigieg Cardona  
and Margaret Thompson**

Sandra Harwood, author of *Creating Mindful Moments*, *Each Moment*, *Weedy Thoughts* and *School of Boring*, along with illustrators, Audrey Buttigieg Cardona and Margaret Thompson create mindful moments for children through stories, artworks and illustrations. Stories and illustrations help viewers discover their own unique way of being mindful, and explore some gentle and fun ways to practice self-care.

Sandra Harwood, a mindfulness specialist at St Christopher's Primary school, has authored four books promoting mindfulness. Audrey Buttigieg Cardona is a Visual Arts teacher at Christ The Priest in Caroline Springs who illustrated Sandra's fourth children's book. Margaret Thompson is the illustrator of Sandra's 3rd book, called *Weedy Thoughts*.



## BEWARE THE DOG

Stephanie Bell

'*Beware the Dog*' showcases the artwork behind the self-published children's book created by local husband and wife team Stephanie and Jeremy Bell. Inspired to show their own children the joy of reading, this couple made a quirky story about their dog Buddy, who despite his size thinks he is bigger and scarier than anyone else! Enjoy the story of this cheeky dog as it unfolds through Stephanie's original sketches, watercolours, and pastel and ink illustrations.

Image: Stephanie Bell, *Beware the Dog*, 2020, watercolour, coloured pencil, pastel and ink



Image: Audrey Buttigieg Cardona, *School of Boring*, 2020, watercolour on paper



## ME, MYSELF AND ISO

by Artists' Collective  
of Melton Inc

**7 February to 9 May 2021**  
**during opening hours**  
**Melton Civic Centre**

The Artists' Collective of Melton have used lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic as a time of self-reflection and creative development. Where others turned to gardening, DIY or home renovation, the group found solace by diving into their creative work, using painting, drawing, craft and other art methods to cope with the unfamiliar experience of being isolated from the community. This diverse exhibition celebrates the resilience of a local group who turned to creativity to protect their wellbeing and develop their skills.

Image: Harkiran Sandhu, *Awakened in Isolation* 2020, pencil and marker on paper



## ENCORE

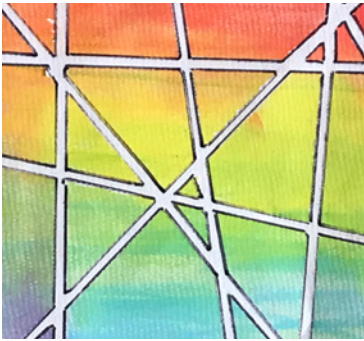
Lakeview Senior College  
student exhibition

**12 – 17 October 2021**  
**Gallery opening hours**  
**CS Gallery**

A vibrant and diverse exhibition of art, design and media work by year 12 students of Lakeview Senior College. Providing students with the opportunity to showcase work from their final year of art and design studies, this exhibition invites you to see the world from the fresh perspective of young artists.

Image: Tu My Huynh, 1959, 2020, Digital Print





## INNER SELF

Blake Jenner

**15 May 2021 – 22 August 2021**  
**during opening hours**  
**Melton Civic Centre**

Blake Jenner is a queer artist who explores his feelings, hopes and aspirations as part of the LGBTIQ+ community. This exhibition of printmaking, paintings, and drawings aims to raise awareness around issues for the LGBTIQ+ community in dealing with the health system and managing mental health. Blake's colourful and vibrant works seek to build understanding and compassion for gender diverse communities.

Image: Blake Jenner, *Rainbow Crosspaths*, 2019, oil pastel on watercolour paper



## YALIWANGA NGIYANI

Lucy Webster

**1 September 2021 –**  
**17 February 2022**  
**during opening hours**  
**Melton Civic Centre**

Local artist Lucy Webster explores traditional Aboriginal art styles in this exhibition designed to bring further awareness of Aboriginal culture to the community, and to encourage the Aboriginal community to share their knowledge and skills. Using a strong colour palette and a mix of contemporary and traditional painting techniques, Lucy explores plants and animals from her own ancestral stories.

Image: Lucy Webster, *Waraba (Turtle)*, 2020, acrylic on canvas



# VISITOR INFORMATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Exhibition venues:

## **CS Gallery**

Caroline Springs Library  
193 Caroline Springs Blvd, Caroline Springs  
Visit during Library opening hours

## **Melton Library and Learning Hub**

31 McKenzie St, Melton  
Visit during Library opening hours

## **Melton Civic Centre**

232 High St, Melton  
Visit during Civic Centre opening hours

---

## **Admission**

Entry is free to all exhibitions

## **Event and workshop bookings**

All bookings are available at [www.melton.vic.gov.au](http://www.melton.vic.gov.au) or phone 9747 5300.

## **Schools and groups**

We welcome visits by school and community groups. Please contact us if you would like to visit with a group and tour an exhibition. For bookings please contact [artsandculture@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsandculture@melton.vic.gov.au) or 9747 5300.

## **Accessibility**

This exhibition is wheelchair accessible across both venues. Interpretive services and Auslan services are available for tours upon request. For bookings please contact [artsandculture@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsandculture@melton.vic.gov.au) or 9747 5300.



---

## **Interpreting services**

We provide a free interpreting service for non-English speaking customers over the phone or in-person at any of our Customer Service Centres. For over the phone interpreting call 13 14 50 and ask to be put through to Melton City Council on 03 9747 7200.

## CONNECT WITH US



@imaginemelton



artsandculture@melton.vic.gov.au



9747 5300

---

We acknowledge that all our exhibitions are displayed on the traditional lands of the Bunurong, Wurundjeri and Wadawarrung peoples. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging.