

THIS IS NOT A SOLO SHOW

EXHIBITION OPENS ON JUNE 30 AND CONTINUES TO JULY 30

- + Artist discussion pre-exhibition opening :: Thursday June 30, 5:15pm-6pm
 - + After School ed :: Apply Yourself // professional development for arts students :: July 5, 5-8pm
 - + Creative Couples // conversation for This Is Not A Solo Show :: July 16, 1-3pm
 - + Double Vision Presents // Matthew P. Hopkins (Melb), Nicola Morton, Ghost Hobo :: July 23, 1-4pm
 - + Auf Wiedersehen: One day you're in and the next you are out // Discussion for The Delivery :: July 30, 1-3pm
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Works listed from left of entry:

Hospital Corners I, 2016. Pigment print on Premium photo paper. 80 x 53.4 cm. Edition of 3, \$900.

Hospital Corners II, 2016. Pigment print on Premium photo paper. 80 x 53.4 cm. Edition of 3, \$900.

Hospital Corners III, 2016. Pigment print on Premium photo paper. 80 x 53.4 cm. Edition of 3, \$900.

This Is Not A Solo Show, 2016. Cake expert Nicole Amdur. Chocolate cake, fondant icing, piping and cake stand.

Forward Planning, 2016. Faux fur, MDF, threaded rod, hex nut, eye nut, rope, pulleys, snap hooks, eye plates, cleat, poly/cotton thread, fill, hand hewn eucalypt timbers, acrylic paint and found stool. Dimensions variable, NFS.

The Special Pillow, 2016. Michelle Cawthorn, Black stain, polyester thread and feather pillow. 75 x 50 cm, NFS.

In Your Shadow I, 2016. Ceramic piece, organza and shelf. Dimensions variable. NFS.

Pole Dancer, 2016. Poly/cotton scarves, satin, pompom trim, faux fur, calico, timber batons, poly/cotton thread, wadding, hand hewn eucalypt timber, acrylic paint and stand. Dimensions variable, NFS.

Slow Down Chell, 2016. Peter Sharp, Single channel video. 20 second duration, NFS.

Side Window:

In Your Shadow II 2016. Ceramic piece, organza and shelf. Dimensions variable, \$400.

In Your Shadow III 2016. Ceramic piece and shelf. Dimensions variable, \$400.

Front Window:

In Your Shadow IV 2016. Ceramic piece, organza and shelf. Dimensions variable. NFS.

VERGE GALLERY



HOW WELL DO YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR PARTNER? A pre-show hen's-and-buck's quiz for artist couples. Ahead of the big night, we thought we'd find out just how well these two artists know one another.

What is Michelle's favourite thing about being an artist?

P: Working alone in her studio without anyone bothering her.

M: Time spent alone in my studio.

PETE'S SCORE: 100%

What is Pete's favourite thing about being an artist?

M: Time spent alone in his studio.

P: That it's ok to make something when you don't know what the outcome is going to be and that the object can have a life of its own out in the real world. And the idea that 'play' is real and useful.

MICHELLE'S SCORE: 0%

Which artist, living or dead, does Michelle most admire and why?

P: Louise Bourgeois and Paul Klee.

M: Paul Klee. I fell in love with his work when I was in Year 11 in high school and he has been my most enduring artistic influence.

PETE'S SCORE: 80%

Which artist, living or dead, does Pete most admire and why?

M: Francis Bacon is would be number one, followed by Thomas Nozkowski and Richard Deacon. Bacon was one of Pete's first art heroes and it's a little like falling in love.

P: I've always had an obsession with Francis Bacon because of his relentless pursuit of the 'unseen' underbelly of humanity...Also I have a man crush on a New York artist Tom Nozkowski – fantastic eccentric abstract paintings.

MICHELLE'S SCORE: 90%

What is Michelle's all-time favourite work of Pete's, and why?

P: Not sure, there is a painting in the Macquarie Bank collection from the whale series called Sounding that I know she really likes...but that was 12 years ago?!

M: Without question his beautiful painting Sounding (2005). There are a number of reasons...I was enamoured of his studio methodology and the way he used paint and glazes on such a large scale...I was, and still am, in love with the forms in this work; the inky blue-black ground against the blue and black shapes that seemingly float in the space...I also think that one of the reasons that this work is so important to me is that I fell in love with it not long after I fell in love with him. Macquarie Bank owns this work, but I truly wish it were still ours.

PETE'S SCORE: 80%

What is Pete's all-time favourite work of Michelle's, and why?

M: Boy (2014). He really loves this one and I'm not sure why. I think he likes its shape and form and the fact that I have repurposed his and my sons' shirts to make it. The overall form is meant to allude to the kind of awkward energy that boys exude as they grow from boys to men. And one of Pete's most endearing qualities is his boyish enthusiasm...

P: I love her small collages that combine collage and drawing, I keep swapping work for them. I think there is one called Kite in our bedroom that is a real corker. These works 'sandwich' the ideas of memory, realism and abstraction together in a visual way that I think is really clever!

MICHELLE'S SCORE: 0%

What does Michelle think is the best and worst thing about having a partner who is an artist?

P: The best thing would be long art discussions about certain ideas and the worst would be the doggedness I have for certain ideas that I cannot let go...

M: As per my answer for Pete, the best thing is sharing art with each other – talking about it, looking at it, arguing about it. [The worst thing] for me [is] that having a partner who is an established artist is a double-edged sword. He has certainly been a wonderful mentor over the years and I have learned a lot about teaching from him. I value his opinion because of his experience and I know that he only gives a compliment if it is truly deserved. He has an excellent eye and an extensive understanding of the nature of composition and materiality. The downside is that as an early career artist I am very cognizant of the long shadow that his career casts. Trying to forge a path that is my own has always been really important to me, and sometimes this is not easy when your partner is well established in the same field.

PETE'S SCORE: 50%

What does Pete think is the best and worst thing about having a partner who is an artist?

M: The best thing is sharing art with each other; it's such a major component of our life. We talk about art, look at art, argue about art, look at each other's art, encourage each other to buy art when perhaps we shouldn't...basically we get each other in this domain and bore the children senseless with our constant conversations about it. Best thing is I get what he does and he doesn't have to explain it to me. There is no worst thing...except perhaps exhibition lead in...

P: The best thing is that your 'better half' understands the madness of what it is to be an artist in Australia and how you have to scratch out a living and then find time to make your work. The worst thing is sometimes I just want peace and quiet and Chell can be a whirling dervish when it gets close to show time...

MICHELLE'S SCORE: 90%