

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



The work of 54 acclaimed contemporary artists comes together in this exciting exhibition to increase awareness of the campaign to stop AGL’s proposed gas import terminal from being approved at Crib Point and to raise urgently needed funds. These funds will help Save Westernport Inc protect Westernport from industrial development including mounting a legal challenge in partnership with Environment Victoria and the Victorian National Parks Association against AGL’s proposal.

‘I reached out to the broader art community and was struck by the incredibly generous response of artists. Many have personal connections to the Mornington Peninsula, and it has been heart-warming to hear their stories. Our community is passionate about this issue and the broader community is as well.’

– Penelope Gebhardt, Curator

Westernport is located approx. 60 km south east of Melbourne. Over the last 2 years the Westernport community has been united in a campaign to stop AGL’s proposed gas import terminal which, if approved, will have devastating impacts on the environment¹. Westernport is uniquely rich and diverse; it is listed as a wetland of international importance under the ‘Ramsar Convention on Wetlands’. It is home to a multitude of sea life and local and migratory birds including the critically endangered eastern curlew and curlew sandpiper². Furthermore, its tidal waters are home to vital carbon sequestering mangroves and seagrass meadows.

This exhibition presents a unique opportunity to take powerful collective action for the health and longevity of Westernport by making a donation or acquiring an artwork by a leading contemporary artist to help reach the fundraising target of 100K by November. Donations are welcome and can be made on the ‘Donate Now’ button on the website. 100% of proceeds will be donated to the cause.

Featured in the ‘In the Valley’ exhibition at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery last year, Capel Sound artist Rosie Weiss presents one of her powerful watercolour paintings in this show. Weiss is an avid collector of the often strikingly anthropomorphic plant-based fragments that are the subject of her work. The remnant in this painting is from Crib Point, which Weiss visited after first hearing about the proposed gas terminal.

‘This image of a dislodged plant fragment . . . is striding forward but burdened by a head bubble of pollution, as every living thing in Westernport Bay and out into Bass Strait would be contaminated by this floating industrial complex.’ – Rosie Weiss

¹ <https://environmentvictoria.org.au/campaign/stop-agls-dirty-gas-plan-for-our-bay/>

² https://www.water.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/85458/Western-Port-Ramsar-Site-Ecological-Character-Description-Addendum.pdf

Renowned artist Vera Möller has a scientific background in biology and microbiology and for many years has made work based on what she describes as the 'spectacular environment of Westernport' in her art practice. Möller's paintings and sculptural works bring the underwater world that so few of us ever see - to the surface. The artist transcribes her impressions of the extraordinary flora and fauna in beautiful patterns, luminescence, colour and form. Möller generously contributes a hauntingly beautiful oil painting to this exhibition, created specifically for this project.

The David Larwill Estate is generously supporting the cause with David Larwill's 'Man', a limited-edition bronze sculpture. Larwill was for many years a Mornington Peninsula local and is a highly acclaimed and much-loved artist known for his exuberant fresh style. Larwill was a founding member of the legendary artist's collective Roar Studios in Melbourne. Fiona Larwill, wife of the late artist states in reference to the AGL project:

'David was very passionate about the environment, helping with many causes over the years . . . Having grown up and then eventually living on the Peninsula this would have angered him and he would have fought to stop this'.

Co-hosted by Merricks General Wine Store and Silver Leaf Art Box, the exhibition will be available online from 3 October 2020.

Featuring:

Sue ANDERSON	Katherine HATTAM	Lisa ROET
Karina ARMSTRONG	Siri HAYES	Gareth SANSOM
Raymond ARNOLD	Christine HEALY	Gwen SCOTT
Tessa BLAZEY	Anna HOYLE	David SEQUEIRA
GW BOT	Kate HUDSON	Trisha SINGER
Andrew BROWNE	Raafat ISHAAK	James SMEATON
Eddy CARROLL	Martin KING	Tai SNAITH
Ewen COATES	David LARWILL	Valerie SPARKS
Brett COLQUHOUN	Minaal LAWN	Kylie STILLMAN
Warren COOKE	Hannah LEWIS	Emma STUART
Philip DAVEY	Peter MCCONCHIE	Mary TONKIN
Rox DE LUCA	Vera MÖLLER	Judith VAN HEEREN
Rachel DERUM	Sophie PEREZ	Anselm VAN ROOD
Juan FORD	Rosslynd PIGGOTT	Gidja WALKER
David FRAZER	TextaQUEEN	Rosie WEISS
Amos GEBHARDT	Vicki RANDELL	Christabel WIGLEY
Kate GORRINGE-SMITH	Geoffrey RICARDO	Neil WILLIAMS
Brent HARRIS	Cameron ROBBINS	John WOLSELEY

ENQUIRIES:

Penelope Gebhardt, Curator E: penelope@silverleaf-artbox.com.au Ph: 0422 132 525

ONLINE EXHIBITION:

www.silverleaf-artbox.com.au

Accompanying high res images:

- (1) Rosie Weiss, Crib Point, 2018 Chinese pigmented ink on Arches, 56 x 38 cm
- (2) Vera Möller, *carafina*, 2020, oil on linen, 55 x 45.6 cm Courtesy the artist and Sophie Gannon Gallery
- (3) David Larwill, Man, 2009, bronze, 32.5 x 23 x 5 cm, edition 6 & 1 A/P

