

## MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# HOLDING GROUND

23 APRIL – 14 MAY

#SAVEARTHURSSEAT #NOQUARRY

AN ONLINE GROUP  
EXHIBITION FUNDRAISER

Featuring 76 renowned  
contemporary artists  
Curated by Penelope Gebhardt

Benjamin ARMSTRONG  
Karina ARMSTRONG  
Rosalind ATKINS  
Tessa BLAZEY  
Louise BLYTON  
GW BOT  
Ben CARROLL  
Eddy CARROLL  
Warren COOKE  
Steve COX  
Baden CROFT  
Philip DAVEY  
Yvette DE LACY  
Michelle DE LA COEUR  
Rox DE LUCA  
Rachel DERUM  
Graeme DRENDEL  
Lesley DUXBURY  
Kate ELLIS  
Sarah FAULKNER  
Kevin FOLEY  
Belinda FOX  
David FRAZER  
Amos GEBHARDT  
James GEURTS  
Bronwen GIBBS

Marion HARPER  
Siri HAYES  
Euan HENG  
Sarah HEYWARD  
Emma HOMFRAY  
Kate HUDSON  
Alix HUNTER  
Jennifer JOSEPH  
Sally JOUBERT  
Martin KING  
Barbie KJAR  
David LARWILL  
Minaal LAWN  
Hannah LEWIS  
Maria LIEBERMAN  
Jordan MARANI  
Rick MATEAR  
Roma MCLAUGHLIN  
Joanne MOTT  
Harry NANKIN  
John R NEESON  
Jim PAVLIDIS  
Emily PWERLE  
Vicki RANDELL  
Jennifer RIDDLE  
Kate ROHDE

David ROSETZKY  
Ebony RUSSELL  
Natalie RYAN  
Pip RYAN  
Gwen SCOTT  
Tiel SEIVL-KEEVERS  
Liz SHREEVE  
Catherine Hull SINCLAIR  
Ken SMITH  
Tai SNAITH  
Matthew STANTON  
Sarah TOMASETTI  
Kate TUCKER  
Judith VAN HEEREN  
vayu  
Rosie WEISS  
Dianna WELLS  
Katie WEST  
Stephen WICKHAM  
Christabel WIGLEY  
Deborah WILLIAMS  
Neil WILLIAMS  
John WOLSELEY  
Greg WOOD

## HOLDING GROUND FOR ARTHURS SEAT

The work of 76 leading contemporary artists comes together in HOLDING GROUND, an online art exhibition fundraiser to help stop a massive quarry being blasted into Arthurs Seat / Wonga on the traditional lands of the Boon Wurrung people on Mornington Peninsula.

A charitable organisation, the Ross Trust, and the company it owns, Hillview Quarries, plan to initiate the biggest mine the Peninsula has ever seen. It would be located on the north face of Arthurs Seat / Wonga and would destroy precious remnant old-growth bushland that is home to koalas and 27 threatened or endangered species.

HOLDING GROUND will run from 23 April to 14 May. Curated by Penelope Gebhardt, it features an exciting selection of local, Melbourne and interstate artists working across mediums including sculpture, painting, drawing, jewellery, ceramics, textiles, photography, digital art and printmaking. The works are related thematically to ideas of connection, identity and the natural world.

Organisers aim to raise \$100,000 with all proceeds going to support the community campaign Save Arthurs Seat, including increasing efforts to convince the Ross Trust / Hillview Quarries to withdraw their proposal. If the EES (Environmental Effects Statement) is released, the funds raised will be used to employ experts to assess the EES and provide legal representation at the hearings.

Ms Gebhardt said “It’s very exciting to bring art to the centre of the fight to Save Arthurs Seat, the support and generosity of the participating artists is inspiring. HOLDING GROUND aims to help shine a light on the Ross Trust’s plans, and what we all stand to lose if the quarry goes ahead.”

“The exhibition provides people with a powerful opportunity to purchase art work by renowned contemporary artists and at the same time help save a precious part of our state,” she said.

HOLDING GROUND features a pair of bronze sculptures from the Estate of David Larwill. Dog and bird sit companionably together in quiet contemplation of their place in the world. Larwill is a highly acclaimed and much-loved artist known for his exuberant and whimsical style. He was a founding member of the legendary artist’s collective Roar Studios in Melbourne.

Fiona Larwill, wife of David said, "Having lived for many years on the Mornington Peninsula with my husband who was so passionate about the environment, the possibility of a quarry being built on pristine bushland is extremely distressing. Please help us stop this!"

Recently returned to Australia from The Hague, Belinda Fox's major work *What goes around II* is another highlight of the show. This piece was a finalist in the 2021 Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery's National Works on Paper Prize. Here the artist uses the digital print medium to create a macro experience of her work - it's much larger than her comparatively small drawings. Fox's choice of medium speaks to the concepts she explores about seeking balance in an untethered world where desire and reality are distorted in the digital realm. Embedded in this beautiful and perpetually breaking wave are swirling undercurrents and abstract forms.

Mornington Peninsula based artist Rosie Weiss is known for her portraits of plant remnants. Items that are often overlooked or disregarded are carefully collected by Weiss and become central subjects of her work. These are not botanical depictions of a scientific nature, but rather an exploration of the character, individuality and minutiae of the subject, inextricably linked with the artist's being and sensing in that moment. *Green's Bush* depicts a plant fragment Weiss found in the area. Green's Bush forms part of a significant wildlife corridor that spans Mornington Peninsula and it joins the proposed quarry site on its southern boundary. If the plans go ahead this significant biolink will be broken.

Weiss says, "The plant fragment appears to be under the microscope, or perhaps floating inside a human head like shape, it is animated and speaking to us, I hope you can hear it."

HOLDING GROUND is brought to you by Silver Leaf Art Box, Merricks General Wine Store and Montalto.

**ONLINE EXHIBITION:** [www.silverleaf-artbox.com.com](http://www.silverleaf-artbox.com.com)

Viewing of artworks can be arranged by appointment

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:** E: [info@silverleaf-artbox.com.au](mailto:info@silverleaf-artbox.com.au) Ph: +61 422 132 525

## Background

- The Ross Trust's proposed granite quarry would be located just 800m from Red Hill Consolidated School and 850m from Monterosso Early Learning Centre. It is also close to a pre-school, other schools, homes and businesses.
- There is a growing community backlash against the proposed quarry. More than 55,000 people have signed a petition against the planned quarry to date.
- A recent State Government report (2019) identified 15 sites in Victoria for granite extraction to meet the needs of the State, and Mornington Peninsula is not one of them. Furthermore, these sites do not require large-scale clearing of native bushland.
- More than 75 local organisations and individuals signed an open letter, published in The Age newspaper on March 19, calling on the Ross Trust to withdraw its plans to open a new quarry on Arthurs Seat. Some of these include Environment Victoria, Friends of the Earth, Landcare, The Australian Wildlife Protection Council and the Australian Conservation Foundation. A number of major Mornington Peninsula tourism operators and a host of leaders from the philanthropic, business and environmental community also signed.
- Some major environmental groups who have received funding from the Ross Trust have suspended their relationship with the Trust including the Australian Conservation Foundation, Environmental Justice Australia and the Knox Environment Society.
- The Knox Environment Society, has returned its full \$40,000 grant to the Ross Trust in protest over the planned quarry and donated \$1,000 to the Save Arthurs Seat community campaign opposing the proposed quarry.

