

## Collide + Divide | Fire Country 19 May – 2 July 2022



Image 1: Works by David Liu + Mirjana Dobson, Bailey Donovan + Erin Daniell, Alexandra Hirst + Daria Fox + Eloise White, Polly Dymond + Duncan Young and Sam Gold + Fran Sykes from Collide + Divide. Photo: Michael Haines

Image 2: Fire Country by Rebecca Selleck and James Tylor from Fire Country. Photo: Rebecca Selleck

**Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre is proud to showcase two new exhibitions: Collide + Divide and Fire Country.**

*“These two exhibitions are exemplars of excellence in contemporary craft and design practice. The timely work of artists by Rebecca Selleck and James Taylor thoughtfully reflects on our relationship with fire in Australia, while Collide + Divide showcases experimental work from emerging artists of the Jam Factory - one of Australia's premiere craft and design institutions.*

Jodie Cunningham, CEO + Artistic Director, Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre

### **Collide + Divide**

Works by David Liu + Mirjana Dobson | Bailey Donovan + Erin Daniell | Alexandra Hirst + Daria Fox + Eloise White | Polly Dymond + Duncan Young | Sam Gold + Francesca Sykes

Collide + Divide is a discipline-bending object-based body of work made from eleven emerging Jam Factory associates. In applying for a group show, the eleven 2021 associates have been put into four groups where interdisciplinary skill sharing is at the heart of the work, merging both contemporary art and craftsmanship.

Jam Factory is at the center of craft and design in South Australia and this exhibition seeks to explore the opportunities of a cross-discipline collaboration between the four Jam Factory studios of glass, ceramics, jewellery and furniture. The group's curatorial narrative speaks to bodies holding bodies: The makers body as a tool creating objects/bodies which can be held or objects that can hold another

body, or the body of the material. Each group looks at their perspective of that narrative and in turn interrogates both the materials, forms and processes, through their own lens of their shared disciplines.

The task of each associate is to gain access to new insights and materiality as they undertake this cross disciplinary focus. Collide + Divide is an opportunity to embrace the unique location of the Jam Factory, one of the few arts centers in the world to house four separate studios for craft excellence under one roof.

## Fire Country

Works by Rebecca Selleck and James Taylor

Fire Country is a furniture and photography installation addressing the physical and cultural significance of fire in Australia. It draws the burnt landscape into the domestic space, revealing its intrinsic beauty as part of key environmental mechanisms. These works are representative of our contemporary relationship with fire and potential for better engagement in the future.

Comprising a living room and dining setting, the furniture pieces are made from Australian Eucalypt timber species burnt to carbon black, sealed with animal fats, and inlaid with polished bronze casts of new leaf shoots and post-fire fungi. The surrounding gallery hang of black and white imagery on burnt timber frames features photographs taken from various ecosystems in NSW, ACT and SA that have experienced catastrophic fires in recent years.

Fire Country attempts to embrace fire in Australia as a part of our collective culture. Referencing the symbiotic relationship that fire has with our continent's landscapes, the work captures the intrinsic beauty of this interplay through the iconic Eucalypt. Through this series of furniture and photography we want to offer not just sorrow for what we've lost, but also hope for our future.



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