

CONFLUENCE | BEEING

7 July – 27 August 2022



Image 1: Valerie Kirk AM + Harriet Schwarzrock, Geoscience Australia – 2021 Photographer: Davey Barber

Image 2: Julie Bartholomew, Prototype for *Habitat 3*, 2022, earthenware, terra sigillata, Photographer: Ashley Mackevicius

Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre is proud to showcase two new exhibitions:

CONFLUENCE and BEEING

Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre is delighted to present the outcomes of another wonderful year of our Artists-in-Residence program, a rich collaboration with ACT Parks & Conservation and, our research partner in 2021, Geo Science Australia. Confluence by Valerie Kirk OAM and Harriet Schwarzrock is an in-depth body of work created from their time as our chosen 2021 Artists in Residence. BEEING By Dr Julie Bartholomew and Mahala Hill is a show that aims to engage audiences and encourage critical discourse around the significance of bees and threats to biodiversity

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

CONFLUENCE

Valerie Kirk AM | Harriet Schwarzrock

The annual Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre Artist-in-residence program supports local and national artists to each undertake a residency at Gudgenby Ready-Cut Cottage in the

Namadgi National Park, and a two-week research component within a national cultural institution in Canberra. The resulting exhibition CONFLUENCE embodies the essence of the Artist-in-Residency program showcasing the profound impact of sustained immersion in the collections of Geo Science Australia and the environment of Namadgi National Park on the work of both artists. Exploring new ideas, research, and material the residency gave space and time for the artists to experiment, explore, and develop a deeper relationship with the landscape, their practice, and themselves – invigorating their creative spirits and generating new artistic direction.

Presented in partnership with ACT Parks & Conservation Service and Geoscience Australia.

BEEING

Dr. Julie Bartholomew | Mahala Hill

This exhibition features the work of established craft-based artist Dr. Julie Bartholomew and early-career contemporary ceramic artist Mahala Hill. The title of this exhibition is aspirational because it refers to the continuing survival of bees, being pollinators and being in existence. Populations of bees are on the decline on a global scale. They are severely impacted particularly in Australia since the Black Summer fires. The loss of billions of insects is little understood, and there are consequences for humans because bees are major pollinators and sustain biodiversity.

Being aims to bring greater visibility to bees through the craft practices of these artists. Both artists aim to utilise the aesthetic power of craft practice to engage audiences and encourage critical discourse around the significance of bees and threats to biodiversity.

Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional custodians of the ACT and surrounding areas. We honour and respect their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region. We aim to respect cultural heritage, customs and beliefs of all Indigenous people.



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