

## TRANSPOSITIONAL

HANS ARKEVELD AND JOAN JOHNSON

8 OCTOBER 2022 – 26 FEBRUARY 2023

*Transpositional*, curated by Judith Hugo and presented at Mundaring Arts Centre, celebrates the interdisciplinary arts practice of partners in life, artists Hans Arkeveld and Joan Johnson. With arts careers spanning decades, this presentation features a selection of sculptural and two-dimensional works that highlight significant recurring personal and societal themes. The 40 artforms selected feature archetypal and new works, linked by their exploration of the iconic, historically loaded symbol – the wheel.

For this show, the wheel is the vehicle by which Arkeveld and Johnson's ideas have been transposed from one to the other, enabling subtle shifts in their resultant artistic output. Both artists are first generation migrants, practicing actively in Western Australia since the '60s and the '80's respectively, as independent artists. Their work often responds to dichotomic cycles - life and death, freedom and suppression, innovation and destruction. Heavily laden with environmental and political messages, their technically accomplished artforms invite the audience to wryly question human nature.

Hans Arkeveld is a painter, sculptor, draughtsman and printer. He works from his studio in Hovea, and from his lab at the UWA School of Anatomy.

Born in Scheveningen, Holland, Arkeveld migrated to Australia with his family in 1952, living in migrant camps in Victoria and Western Australia before settling in Collie, WA. At age 13, he left school and worked as a builder's apprentice and then as a beekeeper. Later studying ticket writing and typewriting at Perth Technical College and in 1963 enrolling in Commercial Art, he ended up with a Diploma in Fine Art (Painting). This was followed in 1968 by an Associateship in Fine Art (Sculpture) and in 1980, a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) majoring in Printmaking at WAIT (now Curtin University, WA).

The 1960s saw an explosion of creative energy in the arts and Hans was inspired by this energy and the "big city". He was fascinated by the collection of bones and fossils in the WA Museum and, through Nola Farman, connected with the Department of Anatomy at UWA where he has been artist-in-residence for several decades.



Hans Arkeveld, *Studio Guardians*, 2022,  
wood, clay, paint, 28 x 27 x 12.5 cm.

Since the 1960's, Arkeveld has taught drawing and sculpture in art schools, including UWA's Department of Architecture and Fine Art and their workshops held in India and Sri Lanka. He has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally, with five major solo exhibitions and over 200 group shows to date. Solo presentations include *'Images of a Cage Maker'* (1980), Art Gallery of Western Australia; *'Transmigrant'* (1992), Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, UWA; *'Transient'* (2004) Gallery Central, North Metropolitan TAFE, which toured nationally; *'Mie Ayam'* (2016), Darlington Arts Festival; and *'Homo Eclectic'* (2020) Mundaring Arts Centre.

Joan Johnson identifies as an interdisciplinary artist who examines relationships and human impact on the world around us, mostly through installations that employ moving parts, complex visual tricks and lighting.

Born in South Africa, Johnson migrated to Australia in the early 1980's. Her studies at Carine TAFE and Claremont School of Art taught her the craftsmanship that she required to make art. Then, further studies at Curtin University gave her the perception of 'concept' in art, and Art Therapy Studies at Edith Cowan University gave her introspection. She began looking back at life in South Africa and rationalising things from another perspective – mainly the discourse of black versus white. In turn, she used and united different physical and psychological dichotomies – e.g., light/shadow; male/female; good/evil; static/mobile; figure/ground; compassion/intolerance etc. Her drawings are often monochromatic and her sculptures employ the use of light with the transparency of clear acrylic or resin, and aluminium.



Joan Johnson, *Waste Can Be Beautiful*, 2022, aluminium cans, wood, paint, 23 x 43 x 20 cm.

Thanks to the support of a Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries grant, the *Transpositional* public program includes a series of artist and curatorial talks and tours for school and arts groups. A drawing workshop with renowned WA artist Ben Joel will respond to the works on display as participants investigate the interface between human form and machine.

*Transpositional* is on show at the Mundaring Arts Centre from 8 October – 24 December 2022, then continues 24 January – 26 February 2023.

For media enquiries please contact Ella McDonald, Communications Manager  
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Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries

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Mundaring Arts Centre is temporarily closed Tue until 25 Oct 2022, and 25 Dec 2022 - 23 Jan 2023

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