



Can we fixate? Yes we can!

21 SEP - 16 NOV 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Act-Belong-Commit Elevate Arts

WHAT A TOOL

A cross-community project presented at Mundaring Arts Centre, Midland Junction Arts Centre and surrounding community locations.

Our relationships with tools are obvious, subtle and complex. We love and fear them; they are the means by which we improve and change our lives.

Mundaring Arts Centre presents *What a Tool*, a cross-community project involving local arts and cultural organisations working together to engage new audiences to investigate and celebrate our relationships with tools - past, present and future. The project includes exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations and events with a vast array of historical tools, heritage crafts and new inventions to ignite a love for the creations we make to solve the task at hand.

West Australian artists have responded to the themes of *What a Tool*, with three separate exhibitions across the Mundaring and Midland Junction Arts Centres and community displays at Boya Community Centre, Mundaring District Museum and St John of God Hospital Midland. The project also sees Mundaring Arts Centre engage with a variety of community organisations and business from across the Eastern region to present a wide range of events, workshops and demonstrations.

EXHIBITIONS

Instrumental: The distinct pleasures of tools

Mundaring Arts Centre | Gallery 1 & 2 | 22 September – 4 November

Re-Imagined Railyard

Midland Junction Arts Centre | East Gallery | 7 October – 16 November

Remembering Tomorrow | Studio Payoka

Midland Junction Arts Centre | West Gallery & the Store | 7 October – 16 November

EVENTS

Instrumental artist & curator talk

Mundaring Arts Centre | Sunday 23 September 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Join curator Jude van der Merwe and exhibiting artists Tony Windberg, Phil Gamblen and Denise Pepper as they discuss their practice and the artworks they have created for '*Instrumental: The Distinct Pleasures of Tools*'.

What a Tool Open Days

Mundaring Hall and surrounds | Sunday 30 September 11am - 3pm

Midland Junction Arts Centre | Sunday 7 October 11 - 2pm

To celebrate the *What a Tool* cross-community project, two open days will be presented at Mundaring Hall and Midland Junction Arts Centre showcasing local businesses, artists, organisations and their industry's tools. There will be something for everyone with tool displays, artisan demonstrations, local history, workshops, food, interactive activities and more.

Visitors will be able to explore the many uses and applications of various tools, join in a workshop, watch artists transform the mundane to the magical using industry specific tools and explore how far technology has taken us. Some highlights across the two events include a metal forgery demonstration, virtual reality painting, a large scale ceramics demonstration plus a range of workshops listed below.

WORKSHOPS

D.I.Y Earrings with Bethamy Linton | Mundaring Hall | 30 September
Cuttlebone Cast Treasure with Sarah Elson | Mundaring Hall | 30 September
Freestyle creations using wood with Tracey Laird | Midland Junction Arts Centre | 7 October
Robot Invasion Woodworking with Tracey Laird | Midland Junction Arts Centre | 7 October
Paper, Scissors, Rock Printmaking Workshop with Monique Bosshard-Curby | MJAC | 7 October
New Inventions Sculpture Workshop with Neil Elliot | Midland Junction Arts Centre | 16-17 October

COMMUNITY EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

In collaboration with Mundaring Arts Centre, local businesses and organisations are hosting exhibitions, displays and events for the *What a Tool* project. Mundaring & Hills Historical Society present an exhibition of the objects that have shaped the region at the Mundaring District Museum, St John of God Midland will be featuring a display of medical tools and Mundaring Camera Club will present a suite of photographic images at the Boya Community Centre. The Shire of Mundaring Libraries and the KSP Writer's Centre are also joining forces to present a poetry competition exploring the '*tools you can't live without*', as well as workshops and readings with local writers. A number of additional local business are also featuring their tools of the trade in a series of unique window displays.

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Mundaring Arts Centre presented exhibitions are detailed on the following pages.

For a full project overview and event dates please visit the Mundaring Arts Centre website *What a Tool* project page: <http://www.mundaringartscentre.com.au/what-a-tool-2018/>

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www.mundaringartscentre.com.au

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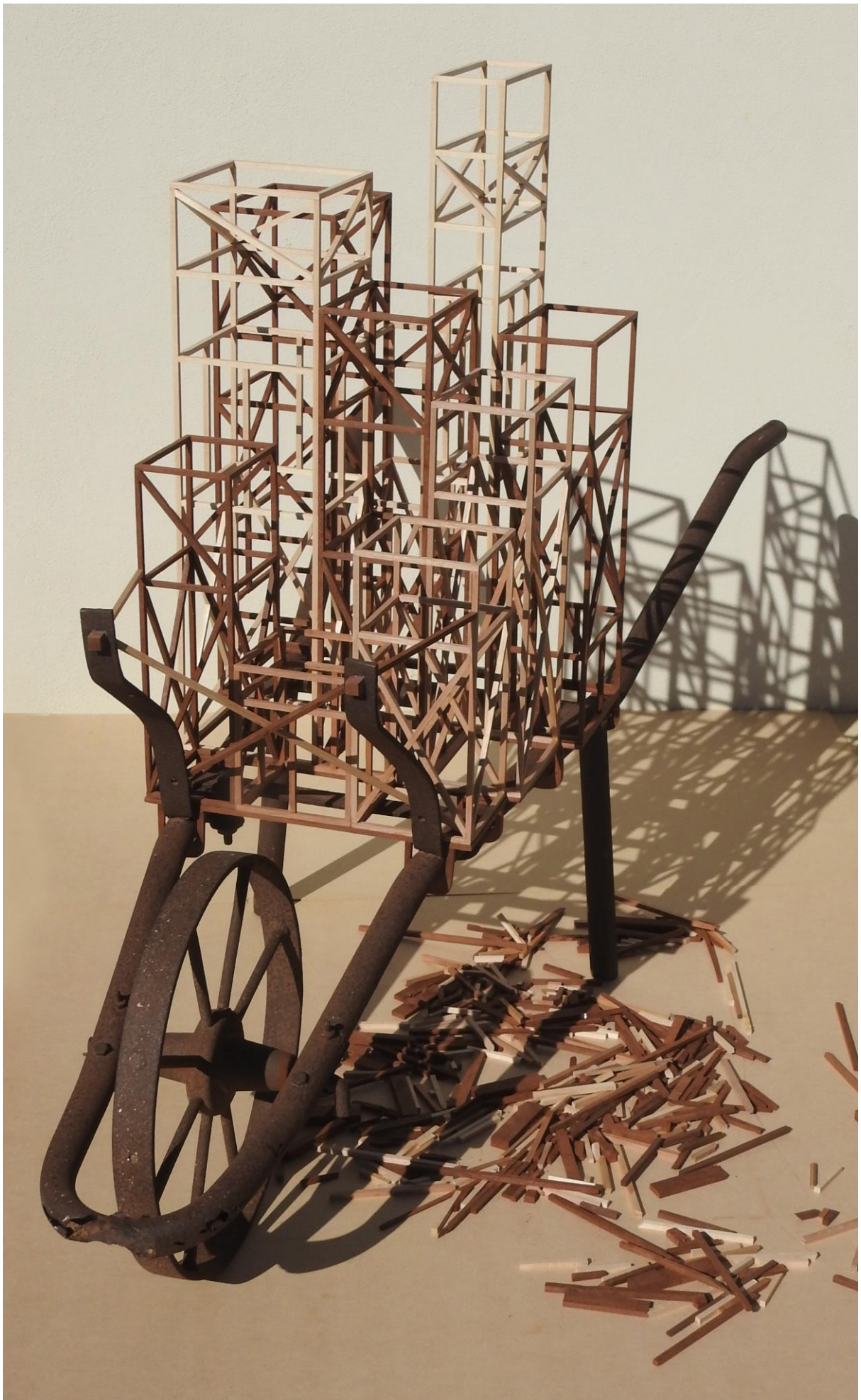
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MUNDARING & BOYA LIBRARIES, MUNDARING CAMERA CLUB, MUNDARING SHARING, RIDING FOR THE DISABLED, MOUNT HELENA RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS, HAND TOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY, MACHINERY PRESERVATION SOCIETY, STUDIO PAYOKA, EASTERN HILLS SAWS & MOWERS, REPCO, ARBORTECH.



Angela McHarrie, *Out of the Shadows*, 2018, Vintage wheelbarrow frame, various timbers, 111 cm x 62 cm x 167 cm



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INSTRUMENTAL: THE DISTINCT PLEASURES OF TOOLS

MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE | GALLERY 1 & 2

OPENING CELEBRATION

Friday 21 September 7pm

VIEWING TIMES 22 September – 4 November

Tue – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun 11am – 3pm

For Instrumental: the distinct pleasures of tools, curator Jude van der Merwe has invited twelve, successful mid-career artists to examine their relationship with the tools they use on a daily basis as they create artworks, and the imagined tools that provide the answers to life, the universe and everything in between.

Exhibiting artists, Olga Cironis, Geoffrey Drake-Brockman, Kevin Draper, Stuart Elliott, Sarah Elson, Dawn Gamblen, Phil Gamblen, Peter Hill, Angela McHarrie, Denise Pepper, Monique Tippet and Tony Windberg reflect on the tools they employ in their own practice and remind us, that as makers and thinkers, tools are an essential part of an artist's life. Artists utilise tools from the conventional, and the technological to the metaphorical, often making their own tools to achieve a singular purpose.

McHarrie, Elliott, Pepper and Windberg elevate the status of humble items (wheelbarrows, scarifiers, spindles and navigational tools) reminding us of their understated legacy in building nations, with Windberg reflecting on the instrumental role the sextant played in deeming a continent uninhabited and Pepper referencing the tools needed to settle that supposedly uninhabited land.

Fascinated by the cycle of production, Phil Gamblen, contemplates how the made becomes the maker, whereas Draper, playfully looks at the tools that we can carry with us, and the tools that really shouldn't fit in your back pocket. For Hill, well used tools have become old friends, adorned with names, and now decoration, transforming functional objects into "useless good for nothing sticks", and Drake-Brockman pulls out his artistic toolbox of illusionary devices producing an artwork that tells the story of its own composition.

Responding to the tools of language, Cironis poetically translates the ways in which we decipher meaning and loss, whilst Dawn Gamblen sees the beauty in decay, in the way a tool may lose value as a useful item as it tires from use, and order dissolves into chaos. Both Tippet and Elson have created works that cause us to reflect on the natural world, its beauty and strength, with Tippet highlighting the way in which fire, destructive in nature, is also used as a protective measure.

Instrumental: The distinct pleasures of tools, on show at the Mundaring Arts Centre from 22 September to 4 November, celebrates and reinvents tools of all designs, origins and functions and sets the tone for the broader community project, *What a Tool*.



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MEDIA RELEASE

RE-IMAGINED RAILYARD

MIDLAND JUNCTION ARTS CENTRE | EAST GALLERY

OPENING CELEBRATION

Sunday 7 October 11am – 3pm

VIEWING TIMES

7 October – 16 November | Wed – Fri 10am – 5pm

Artists are constantly inventing new realities and experimenting with versions of past histories. *Re-imagined Railyard* brings visual arts and social history together to evoke personal memories attached to the locally treasured Midland Railway Workshops.

For 90 years, the Midland Railway Workshops significantly contributed to the social and economic fabric of the Eastern Hills community. A range of highly skilled labourers and support services operated from the workshops from 1904 to the closure in 1994 and were intrinsic to the fabric of Midland.

The Pattern Shop at the Midland Railway Workshops was a hub of innovation. The function of this space was to manufacture and maintain railway property. In this warehouse, skilled workers created timber patterns for casting metal items. Today, the Pattern Shop is frozen in time, the curious and playful patterns remain categorised in a methodical fashion, and these historic tools have become windows into a manufacturing world of the past.

Artist Eva Fernandez has captured the aesthetic curiosity of the patterns in her large-scale photographs, whilst City of Swan volunteer Lisa Buck and local history librarian Jude Carr have created a timeline snapshot into the day to day operations of the past by embedding historical photographs into railway patterns. Artworks from the City of Swan collection will also be on display including work by Nigel Hewitt.

Past histories are grounded within a rapidly changing age of technologic advancement for human consumption as a way to appreciate this significant Midland industry. City of Swan Libraries and The Futures Lab demonstrate the power of 3D printing, exhibiting how shapes, moulds, tools, or anything one can imagine can be reproduced using this exciting technology.



Eva Fernandez, Photograph of the Midland Railway Workshops Pattern Shop

Re-Imagined Railyard is collaboratively curated by members of the Midland community: City of Swan history librarian Jude Carr, volunteer Lisa Buck, The Futures Lab and City of Swan Libraries and Mundaring Arts Centre curator Greg Sikich.

On display at Midland Junction Arts Centre from 7 October – 16 November, *Re-Imagined Railyard* is a contemporary snapshot into railway patterns, a multipurpose tool used by a range of skilled tradespeople at the Midland Railway Workshops.

Midland Junction Arts Centre

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www.mundaringartscentre.com.au



William Leggett, *Transitory Form 2*, 2018, Plywood, Studio Payoka



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REMEMBERING TOMORROW | STUDIO PAYOKA

MIDLAND JUNCTION ARTS CENTRE | WEST GALLERY &
THE STORE

OPENING CELEBRATION
Sunday 7 October 11am – 3pm

VIEWING TIMES
7 October – 16 November | Wed – Fri 10am – 5pm

Artists Rory Dax Paton, Adam Ismail and William Leggett share insights into the industrial, multidisciplinary arts undertaken at Studio Payoka. *Remembering Tomorrow* is a culmination of intimate interactions between the artists, based in an aesthetic and a personal rapport where disciplines, approaches and shared visual intentions are explored and realised.

Nestled in the rolling hills of Mt Helena, Studio Payoka offers a variety of workshops and one-on-one classes, as well as providing a workspace for the artists involved. Studio Payoka doesn't just house the creative practices of the artists, but is also a result of it; the building, and much of the equipment constructed by hand by the three artists. Studio Payoka is a culmination of the artists' shared skills, knowledge and experiences of working both industrially and creatively.

Despite vastly different aesthetic outcomes, each of the artist's practices are strongly informed by the mediums, materials and tools they use. Ismail's assemblages of intensively rendered debris and remnants mix traditional storytelling with urban contemporary landscapes, where ideas are abstracted and dreams are personified, whilst Paton's gestural ink works explore the fluid medium whilst abstractly referencing the Pilbara; a place where Paton has spent a great deal of time. Paton's paintings pay homage to the beauty of the harsh, scorched landscape of the region; with delicate wildflowers, amongst the flames, smoke and mines.

William Leggett's multi-disciplinary practice draws heavily on the push-pull relationships that exist between society, technology and their environments. His work takes inspiration from the materials of the construction industry and his time spent working in it. Whilst each artist comes to the studio with these differences in mediums, experiences and learnings, working alongside each other allows a sharing of ideas and the challenge to each push their work in a myriad of new directions.

The dichotomy of the title *Remembering Tomorrow* reflects the way in which the exhibition looks back on what Studio Payoka have already created together, and also forward to the future as the artists continue to build the legacy of the studio and strengthen its engagement with the wider community. It's fitting that these visual outcomes are displayed at Midland Junction Arts Centre, a location steeped in a history of industry, education, creativity and community, reflecting the values that the artists strive for at the studio.

On display at Midland Junction Arts Centre from 7 October – 16 November *Remembering Tomorrow*, is not only an insight into the practices of Ismail, Leggett and Paton individually, but the creative community they have developed at Studio Payoka.

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