



CHAPTER HOUSE LANE

MEDIA RELEASE
21 October 2015

group show

Stephen Benwell, Aaron Carter, Alan Constable, Matlok Griffiths, Benjamin Lichtenstein, Julian Martin, Pia Murphy and Georgia Szmerling

5 November – 4 January 2016

This November, Chapter House Lane presents a collaborative exhibition of works by Stephen Benwell, Aaron Carter, Alan Constable, Matlok Griffiths, Benjamin Lichtenstein, Julian Martin, Pia Murphy and Georgia Szmerling. While group shows are often bound by set themes or specific frameworks, this exhibition celebrates spontaneity and choice, and will see the artists explore the nature of collaboration as a theme in itself.



Image: Alan Constable, *Not titled (SLR)*, 2015, ceramic, 13 x 22.5 x 10.5cm. Image courtesy the artist and Arts Project Australia, Melbourne.



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Image: Benjamin Lichtenstein, *Untitled*, 2015, unique silver gelatin print, 14 x 21cm.

The project centres on creative interplay as the artists have collaborated over time – via painting *en plein air*, email correspondence or trading reference materials in the post – to explore possibilities borne out of artistic exchange. Though varied in age and experience, artists have been paired on the grounds of mutual sensibilities – however subtle – like material choices, affection for colour, composition or the willingness to experiment.

The exhibition marks Chapter House Lane's fourth year of operation and we are thrilled to announce our first partnership with non-profit organisation Arts Project Australia, which supports and advocates equal opportunity for artists with intellectual disabilities. Accompanying the exhibition is a 48-page publication featuring a selection of the collaborative works and a catalogue essay by Anne Stonehouse.

About the pairings

Alan Constable and Benjamin Lichtenstein

Alan Constable has produced a series of ceramic cameras based on photographs of Benjamin Lichtenstein's personal collection of point-and-shoot and SLR cameras.



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Working together over a six-month period, the pair embraced non-verbal engagement to create works centred on interpretation and replication. Adopting a tactile approach – inspired by Constable’s affinity with organic and expressive practices – their work for *group show* is “based less so on logical aesthetic decisions and more so the immediate feelings and sensations experienced in the process of replication.” Lichtenstein said.

Aaron Carter and Stephen Benwell

Emerging artist Aaron Carter was paired with one of Australia’s most acclaimed ceramists Stephen Benwell. Sharing space and knowledge the duo crafted “an honest reflection of what collaboration might look like” Carter said. Working side-by-side, mostly in Benwell’s St Kilda studio, Carter states, he and Benwell “have enjoyed conversing and challenging the normal habits in our respective practices”, working toward a “series of stacked / modular ceramic objects, that sit somewhere between a pot, vase and figure”.



Image: Stephen Benwell and Aaron Carter, *Standing Plinth with Figure*, 1987-2015, wood, hydrocal, self drying clay, no more gaps, enamel, ink, ceramic, 26 x 27 x 28cm. Image courtesy the artists and Niagara Galleries, Melbourne.



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Matlok Griffiths and Julian Martin

Through postal-exchanges, Julian Martin and Matlok Griffiths created a series of pastels works and paintings that directly responded to their give-and-take interchanges. Initiating an exchange of photographic references, Griffith's followed Martin's processes of abstraction; both artists extrapolating the essence of the subject in source images, to create new images for continued exchange between the pair, allowing the act of reflection to be incorporated into the process of creation itself.

Georgia Szmerling and Pia Murphy

For *group show*, Georgia Szmerling and Pia Murphy, undertook painting *en plein air* at Fairfield Boathouse, accompanied by Stephen Benwell in October. The artists have worked collaboratively at the studio of Arts Project Australia to create a series of paintings that are influenced by their immediate surroundings.



Image: Georgia Szmerling, *Not titled*, 2015, ink on artist board, 41 x 51 cm. Image courtesy the artist and Arts Project Australia, Melbourne.



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The exhibition *group show* is curated by Louise Klerks, the Co-Founder and Gallery Director of Chapter House Lane.

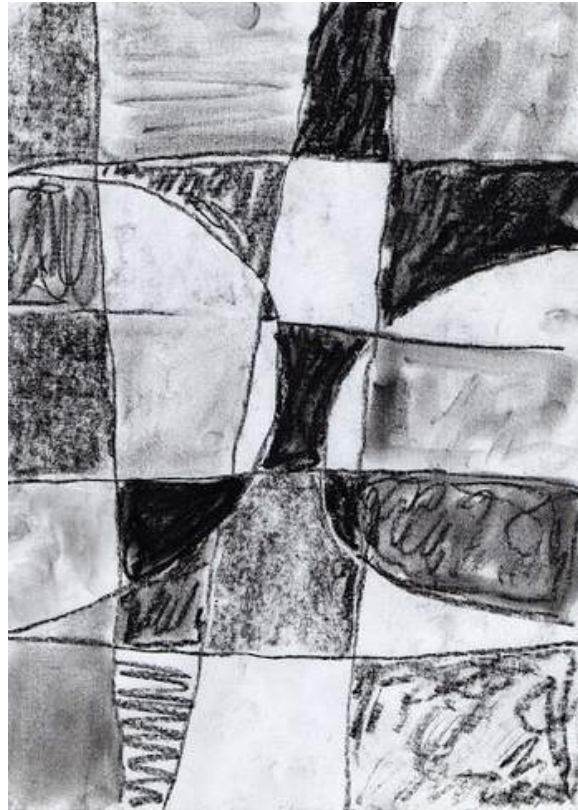


Image: Matlok Griffiths *Untitled*, 2015, charcoal on paper, 29.7 x 21cm. Matlok Griffiths appears courtesy of Darren Knight Gallery and NKN Gallery.

Exhibition: 5 November 2015 – 4 January 2016

Launch: Thursday 5 November, 6–8pm

Location: Chapter House Lane, entry via Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Chapter House Lane is a non-profit contemporary art gallery in Melbourne. Find out more at chapterhouselane.org.au. Contact us for media enquiries, interviews or images: Louise Klerks on 0404 118 105 louise@chapterhouselane.org.au

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