

Media contact: Penny Whitehead | T: 0404 846 202 | E: penny@geelonggallery.org.au

Now open: Luminous relic until 12 June 2017

A sense of intimate connection between industry, carbon emissions, the end of the fossil fuel era, and a lurid dawn heralding freak winds and, far across the ocean, a collapsing ice shelf, underlie the artistic response from each artist in *Luminous relic*.

Mandy Martin paints the body of the Geelong industrial complex into the ice shelf. Her high key reflective surface allows time-lapse moving images of industrial Geelong by **Alexander Boynes** to play with the element of time in what appears to be a static moment. **Tristen Parr's** score adds pathos and gravitas to the contemplative space and sublime proposition of *Luminous relic*.

Over 6 months in the making, the three artists travelled to Geelong late last year to scope a potential site for this collaborative project, created for the state-wide festival, **ART + CLIMATE = CHANGE 2017**. Over a 36 hour period filming, drawing and recording sound, the artists witnessed a stunning dawn prior to high winds and extreme weather.

Mandy Martin discusses the trio's inspiration in her artist statement "Fossil fuel refineries and chemical processing plants will be the relics of the twentieth century, just as 19th Century sawtooth factories were a relic of the industrial revolution. One sees both in Geelong, and nostalgia hangs around them as it does around manufacturing and industry in many great coastal industrial cities at the end of the fossil fuel era. Meanwhile carbon emissions still hang heavy in the air and it is these invisible gases that are the *driving forces of unthinkable magnitude that create unbearably intimate connections over vast gaps in time and space*¹. This sense of the intimate connection between a lurid dawn heralding freak winds and far across the ocean a collapsing ice shelf, underlie the artistic response from each of the artists involved in *Luminous relic*."

Mandy Martin has built up layers of ochres, sands, iridescent and fluorescent pigments to literally paint the body of the industrial complex into the ice shelf. This high key reflective surface allows the multichannel video work by **Alexander Boynes** to play with the element of time in what appears to be a static moment. As time-lapse footage of industrial Geelong unfolds, it allows an alternative narrative of calving icebergs and melting glaciers. This melding of imagery talks on the one hand about the waste of human capital in Australia, and our failure to take up a renewal future on the other.



Mandy Martin, Alexander Boynes and Tristen Parr
Luminous relic install shot (detail) 2017
pigment, sand, crusher dust, acrylic and oil on linen;
three-channel high-definition, stereo sound score; 6
minutes, 10 seconds
Courtesy of the artists and Australian Galleries,
Melbourne and Sydney
Photographer: Andrew Curtis

Tristen Parr's reflective score interprets the industrial sounds of Geelong and of ice melting and cracking. These are blended with the sound of electronically manipulated cello creating an other-worldly sonic landscape. The score adds pathos and gravitas to the contemplative space and sublime proposition of *Luminous relic*.

Luminous relic is part of ART + CLIMARTE = CHANGE 2017, a festival of exhibitions and events harnessing the creative power of the arts to inform, engage and inspire action on climate change. *Luminous relic* opened on 8 April and runs until 12 June 2017. Entry is free.

¹ Ghosh, Amitav. *The Great Derangement. Climate Change and the Unthinkable.* 2016 The University of Chicago Press. Chicago and London. P.63

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Media contact—

For further information, to request interviews or high-resolution images, please contact:

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Geelong Gallery

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Public program:

In conversation—

Mandy Martin, Alexander Boynes, Guy Abrahams, Bronwyn Johnson and Jason Smith

Saturday 29 April, from 2.00pm

Join our learned panel for a collaborative examination of the ongoing and cumulative effects of industry on landscapes, fragile ecosystems, human conditions, and reminder of the social and political agency of the artist. The panel will discuss arts capacity to creatively engage and inspire action on climate change through a discussion on *Luminous relic*. This is a free event.

Floortalk—

Jason Smith

Friday 2 June, from 10.15am

Gallery Director, Jason Smith, will present an insightful lecture on exhibiting artist Mandy Martin, exploring her prominent career and her focus on conservation, the landscape and the social and political agency of the artist.

Enjoy the first Friday of each month with Friends. Begin at 10.15am with coffee, tea and scones before an illustrated lecture at 11.00am.

Cost—

Members \$10.00

Non-members \$12.00

Tickets are purchased on the day at the visitor services desk

Exhibition partner



Government partners



Geelong Gallery is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria

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Media contact: Penny Whitehead | T: 0404 846 202 | E: penny@geelonggallery.org.au

Little Malop Street Geelong VIC 3220 | T: 03 5229 3645 | **Free entry** Open daily 10am–5pm

www.geelonggallery.org.au

**Geelong
Gallery**