



# Media Release

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## Geelong Gallery celebrates Geelong Design Week with new exhibition suite



Louise Saxton making *REST—the sleeping hermaphrodite (after Anon (ancient) & Bernini 1620)* with Linen Draw in studio

With over seventy events on offer, this year's Geelong Design Week program is shaping up to be the biggest and most exciting yet, featuring a diverse range of events and experiences that celebrate innovation, creativity, and community, showcasing why Geelong is Australia's only UNESCO City of Design.

Geelong Gallery plays a leading role in the City of Greater Geelong's vision of a 'clever and creative city'. This summer, the Gallery will demonstrate its evolving strategy and growing commitment to exhibit and collect the works of key practitioners working at the tantalising and experimental intersection of art and design.

The *Sweet Spot—Between Art & Design* includes a wonderfully diverse selection of recent acquisitions to Geelong Gallery's collection. The exhibition focuses on artists' engagements with various disciplines and traditions including textile and costume design, architecture, industrial and interior design, graphic design, and theatre and stage design. The natural world and its endless array of perfectly designed organisms or geometric forms have also inspired certain artists. Objects made from carved and crafted wood, woven grass, forged metal, blown glass and reclaimed textiles can often transcend their materiality and processes of making to become intriguing works that fluidly move between definitions of 'art', 'craft', and 'design'.



Emily Floyd, *Field Libraries #20 2015*, screenprint; unique state, Geelong Gallery, Gift of Anthony Scott through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2023, © the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery



*Design + Play*, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2024

*A People's Press—Noel Counihan* focuses on Melbourne-born artist Noel Counihan (1913–1986) and his unwavering commitment to political and social justice through times of intense social and political upheaval. The exhibition brings together a selection of prints by Counihan—and his collaborators—that focus on the historical events and relationships that informed his political life and artistic practice. Drawn primarily

from the Colin Holden Print Collection, *A People's Press* reveals the broad scope of Counihan's politically informed print output, and the ways in which he employed printmaking as a collaborative and democratic tool to promote the causes he was drawn to.

*Social Studies* assembles an intriguing group of artists who recognised printmaking as a democratic, inexpensive, and graphically striking way to communicate social and political messages, often referencing or incorporating historical printed matter for effect. This exhibition presents the work of Brook Andrew, Emily Floyd and David McDiarmid, who employ printmaking as part of their multi-disciplinary practices to explore a range of contemporary issues: from a re-examination of First Peoples' representation to feminism, and to gay liberation and identity politics.

And *Design + Play* invites visitors of all ages to play and experiment with different materials, colours and shapes to promote design and creative thinking in the Gallery's Learn Space.

Of the Gallery's Design Week contributions, Geelong Gallery Director & CEO **Jason Smith** said 'We are excited to present a wonderfully diverse selection of exhibitions and events that explore the nexus between art and design.'

Geelong Gallery Senior Curator **Lisa Sullivan** commented, 'We are delighted to participate in the rich and diverse program for this year's Geelong Design Week: from thought-provoking exhibitions, to engaging conversations with exhibiting artists, an interactive workshop space, and in our retail offering, we will be inviting visitors to consider the many and varied ways design is an important part of our lives'.

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