



# Media Release

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## 2023 Geelong Acquisitive Print Awards recipients announced

Embargoed until Friday 28 July, 6.30pm



Melbourne-based artist **Marian Crawford** has been announced as the recipient of the *2023 Geelong Acquisitive Print Award* of \$10,000, and the *2023 Ursula Hoff Institute Award* of \$5,000 has been awarded to Melbourne-based artist **Christopher Orr**.

This is the third work by Marian Crawford, and the first by Christopher Orr, to enter Geelong Gallery's exceptional collection of Australian prints.

This year's selection panel included Independent Curator & Writer, **Kirsty Grant**, Geelong Gallery Director & CEO, **Jason Smith** and Geelong Gallery Senior Curator, **Lisa Sullivan**.

**Judges statement:** In this 2023 exhibition we see deeply thought-provoking responses to the natural world, history and culture, geopolitics and world events such as the Corona virus, everyday objects, feminism, language and storytelling, and explorations of colour and form through abstraction.

We thank each artist for their work and exceptional vision and extend our thanks to the Colin Holden Charitable Trust and the Ursula Hoff Institute for their support of the two acquisitive prizes.

In selecting **Marian Crawford's work *A blizzard, 2021***, for the *2023 Geelong Acquisitive Print Award*, we responded to its quiet, poetic quality and its sophisticated merging of the personal with the political. Made during lockdown in Melbourne, the imagery and scale of the work references the constrained domesticity of this time, but the work opens itself, profoundly, to our own visual and emotional responses. It does so by using text drawn from two key literary sources to critique the role of the media, and its relentless presence and power in our lives.

Comprising numerous small-scale letter press and relief prints, the work demands our close attention and as

we work our way from left to right, perceiving the intimate textures of domesticity, and reading words cleverly intertwined from different times, it packs a powerful punch. As the artist says, 'Newspapers present us with a blizzard of signs, the news cycle presents us with the same', but art can slow and still this cycle, making space for a different type of reading.

The winning work for the *2023 Ursula Hoff Institute Award*, **Christopher Orr's *Served bold 2023***, is an exceptionally sophisticated and captivating digital print, which was, for the three judges, utterly arresting. It is a work that cleverly combines imagery from historical engravings with the intricate circuitry of a computer motherboard and it speaks to the prominence of technology in the 21st century and the power it exerts over every aspect of contemporary life. *Served bold* draws a connection between the role of historical printmaking in democratising imagery, the dissemination of information, and the global and totalising power of the computer.

In the context of the biblical Judith who beheads Holofernes, *Served bold* also issues a caution, reminding us that with the development and prominence of artificial intelligence, there is an increasingly fine line between reality and make-believe.

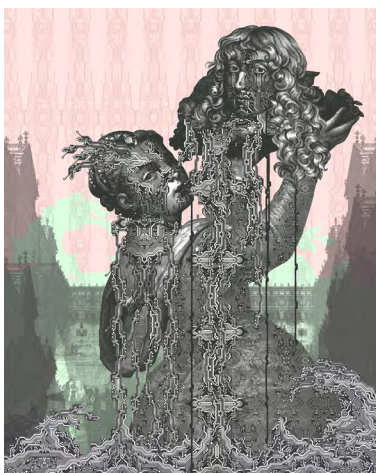
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### Exhibition partners

Colin Holden Charitable Trust

THE URSULA HOFF INSTITUTE INC.

Marian Crawford  
*A blizzard 2021*  
letterpress and relief prints; unique state  
Geelong Acquisitive Print Award (winner), 2023  
© the artist



Christopher Orr  
*Served bold 2023*  
digital print; edition 1/8  
Ursula Hoff Institute Award (winner), 2023  
© the artist



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