

CRITICAL TIME

8 MAY - 17 JULY 2021

MJAC

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On display at Midland Junction Arts Centre from 8 May – 17 July, *CRITICAL TIME* brings together Western Australian artists Tom Freeman, Andre Lipscombe, Joana Partyka and Gemma Watson in a reflection on the way in which they keep time, waste time, or chronicle time through artmaking.

A new sixteen-part work on paper by Tom Freeman layers bright colours and subtly shifting white lines to chart journeys drawn from memory. Process in making is a key element of Freeman's practice and is also evident in his dipped sculptural work which shows a similar, laboured, accumulating process of dipping a piece of string in paint. Freeman says these repetitive motions are a relief sometimes, stating it "takes it [decisions] out of my hands a little bit".



Joana Partyka, *Unprecedented*, 2021, stoneware, glaze, gold lustre, 17 x 11cm

Andre Lipscombe makes work that consider time in many respects; his works grow slowly over months and years, with thin layers of salvaged household paint poured into moulds or brushed onto surfaces of recycled materials, giving them new life as objects that resemble artefacts. Whilst these artefact like 'paintings' are hard to place in time, they are embedded with coded references to art history and ask questions about how materials and information endure.

A suite of glazed ceramic vessels from an ongoing series of work by Joana Partyka chronicle various social and political events that have taken place over the "*Unprecedented*" last twelve months. Working to the specs of the kiln she has in her home studio, Partyka has hand-built a collection of vessels, venting frustration, hurt, incredulity and hope into their curves and divots. With titles like *Did You Get Home Ok* and *It's Un-Australian (And Must Stop)*; these forms are complex; reckoning with deep contradictions, social and political forces via lush surface treatments. Curator Melissa McGrath reflects that "these works feel like opals to me. So many luminous, lustring, textured facets are contained within each of these vessels".

Also made through repetitive acts across 2020, pre-pandemic, and at points of intensity or void while working from home in arts administration, Gemma Watson's A4 drawings are a reclamation of time. Icons can be seen repeating across the works like a personal ritual or spell, Watson has performed as a reprieve from other repetitive, boring, or labour-intensive tasks.

CRITICAL TIME gestures to the relationship between urgency and immobility in the experience of time, something we have all noticed a lot more during the momentous events of 2020 and early 2021. Enjoy this timely opportunity to slow down and explore the process of making through fine details and exquisite textures.

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Midland Junction Arts Centre

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Wed – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat 11am – 3pm

