

MAILBOX ART SPACE

ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

BIOPHILIC TENDENCY 10 AUGUST – 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

The artists hands are clearly visible in the ceramic pinch pots, plaques and sculptures which culminate in *Biophilic Tendency*. The pieces are at first glance abstracted, yet on closer inspection are united by their mimicry of natural and organic forms, including geological aggregates, coral organisms, seed pods, their resulting flora, and the landscapes in which these reside. Distilled into hand-built forms, each piece is rendered instinctively in clay then marked with intricate surface pattern. Richly layered glaze has been applied with intuitive and vivid use of colour, creating motifs that warp and shift into rhythmic decoration. *Biophilic Tendency* celebrates the innate human inclination to seek connections with nature and other living systems.

Ally DiMattina, Sal Felsing, Sam Forster and Dave Mendelsohn are studio artists at Arts Project Australia (APA), an internationally leading visual arts organisation that champions neurodivergent artists and artists with intellectual disability. Through their studio program, exhibition opportunities, and professional development pathways, they empower Arts Project artists to develop their practice and meaningful careers in the contemporary art world. Curated by Shell Odgers.

LIST OF WORKS

BOX 01 // Ally DiMattina <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$130	ADMC25-0014
BOX 02 // Salome Felsing <i>Untitled</i> 2021, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$150	SAFEC21-0001
BOX 03 // Sam Forster <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100 each	SAFOC25-0008/9
BOX 04 // David Mendelsohn <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$140	DMC25-0001
BOX 05 // Ally DiMattina <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$110	ADMC25-0003
BOX 06 // Salome Felsing <i>Untitled</i> 2021, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$120	SAFEC21-0006
BOX 07 // Sam Forster <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100 each	SAFOC21-0002/3
BOX 08 // David Mendelsohn <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100	DMC24-0001
BOX 09 // Ally DiMattina <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$130	ADMC25-0011
BOX 10 // Sam Forster <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100 each	SAFOC25-0003/4/5
BOX 11 // Salome Felsing <i>Untitled</i> 2021, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$120	SAFEC21-0003
BOX 12 // David Mendelsohn <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100	DMC25-0002
Ally DiMattina <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$110	ADMC25-0002
BOX 13 // Salome Felsing <i>Untitled</i> 2021, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$120 for 3	SAFEC21-0004
BOX 14 // David Mendelsohn <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100	DMC24-0002
BOX 15 // Ally DiMattina <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$110	ADMC25-0008
Sam Forster <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100	SAFOC22-0005
BOX 16 // Ally DiMattina <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$130	ADMC25-001
BOX 17 // Sam Forster <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$100 each	SAFOC21-0012/13
BOX 18 // David Mendelsohn <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze \$140	DMC24-0003
BOX 19 // Sam Forster <i>Untitled</i> 2025, earthenware ceramic & glaze, \$100 each	SAFOC21-006/7

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Alessandra Di Mattina is an emerging multidisciplinary artist working in textiles, ceramics and painting. Her abstract works, characterized by richly layered colours, are inspired by both her immediate surroundings and landscapes from holiday destinations. Alessandra joined Arts Project Australia in 2022.

Salome Felsinger is an emerging multidisciplinary artist whose work draws on the figures and landscapes of Polynesian mysticism, as well as influences from Indonesian batik and totemic symbolism. Her practice moves fluidly between abstraction and fictional representation, with subjects distinguished by organic forms, rhythmic repetition, and a hypnotic use of colour and pattern. Archetypal characters and abstracted environments often bleed into one another, creating immersive compositions that evoke mythic and meditative worlds. Felsinger has worked in the Arts Project Australia studio since 2016.

Sam Forster is an emerging artist whose miniature pictograms incorporate repetitive patterns of dots and text to form complex visual symbols creating a personal vernacular for subjects of interest and objects from everyday life, like houses, cars and flowers. Working primarily on paper, his coloured dots and symbols glow like lights in the darkness, offering just enough visual familiarity to suggest a landscape. Forster has worked at the Arts Project Australia studio since 2017 and has participated in group exhibitions in Melbourne.

David Mendelsohn is an emerging multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans drawing, painting and ceramics. Drawing on diverse influences, including science, technology, geology, and philosophy, his work explores abstract and kaleidoscopic forms. Mendelsohn's visual language is defined by vivid colours and patterns that warp and shift, evoking a psychedelic experience. His ceramic works echo his two-dimensional practice, incorporating intricate surface markings that mirror the rhythmic, linear motifs of his drawings. Since 2023, Mendelsohn has been developing his practice at Arts Project Australia.

All four artists are represented by Arts Project Australia, Naarm/Melbourne.



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