

Left: Amani Tia, *David Bowie*, 2018, greylead, pencil and ink on paper, 32 x 38 cm.
Right: William Murray, *David Bowie*, 2018, pastel on paper, 38 x 28 cm.

We could be heroes & POP!

Two new exhibitions opening at Arts Project Australia

OPENING: Saturday 28 April | 3pm to 5pm | Arts Project Australia

EXHIBITION DATES: 28 April – 9 June 2018

From the hypnotic movement of striped, flared paints, to the captivating imagery of Kylie, certain moments of popular culture continue to resonate and impact upon our lives, offering collective experiences. Opening Saturday 17 March are two new exhibitions at Arts Project Australia that explore these ideas: ***We could be heroes*** and ***POP!***

Curated by Arts Project studio artist **Paul Hodges**, *We could be heroes* remembers and celebrates David Bowie's vivid music, his mesmerising style, and his ongoing influence.

From iconic imagery to creative artistry, the music, personality and influence of Bowie has had a profound influence on many Arts Project Australia artists. Whether it's Ziggy Stardust, Aladdin Sane, the Thin White Duke, or simply Bowie, the musician and singer still continues to cultivate admiration and respect. To pay tribute to the enigmatic performer and cultural icon, *We Could Be Heroes* brings together a series of Bowie portraits by Arts Project artists. Surveying the connections between celebrity and fandom, the show explores how superstars continue to have inspiring meaning in our day-to-day lives.

The exhibition features works by Steven Ajzenberg, Valerio Ciccone, Alan Constable, Leo Cussen, Paul Hodges, Bobby Kyriakopoulos, Anne Lynch, Eden Menta, William Murray, Anthony Romagnano, Cathy Staughton, Fiona Taylor and Amani Tia.

Meanwhile ***POP!*** explores how popular culture motifs are embraced and celebrated by artists worldwide. Artists have a long history of looking to popular culture for inspiration as they draw on attitudes, ideas, images, and other phenomena presented in mainstream mass media. From Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein to Claus Oldenburg and Jean Dubuffet—popular culture themes, aesthetics and sensibilities inform what artists create and subsequently shape the way we reflect on our culture, mirroring our values and culture back to us. Similarly, pop culture themes

MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate release

ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

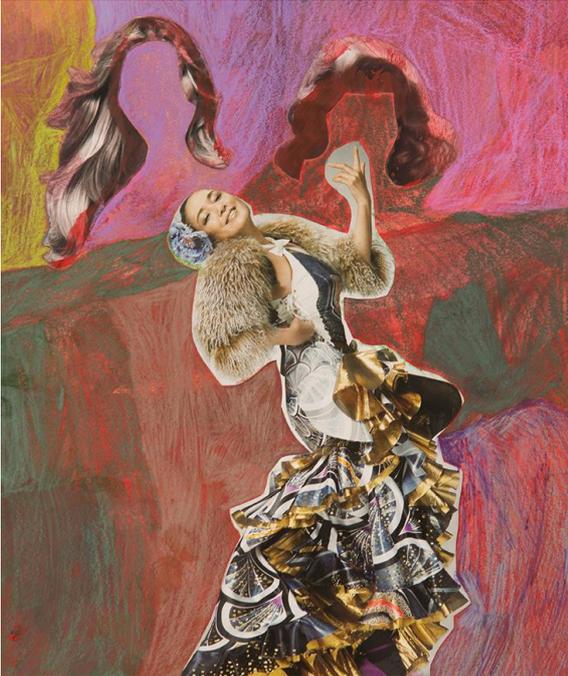


Image left: Emily Dober, *Not titled*, 2017, collage, ink, pastel and pencil on paper, 28 x 38 cm.
Image right: Suzanne Barnes, *Caravan*, 2017, pencil and carbon transfer on paper, 20.5 x 29 cm

regularly infuse the work of Arts Project artists, who explore broad-ranging subject matter and often use mass culture—advertising, music, internet images, Hollywood, and celebrity figures—to inform their work.

POP! is a group exhibition that provides a snapshot of the bold, colourful and astute work of Arts Project artists who celebrate popular culture in a myriad of ways. Whether it's text or image-based, *POP!* focuses on artists whose artwork embodies a pop aesthetic and uses aspects of popular culture to inform their work.

From Patrick Francis' pop icons like Nicki Minaj and Simon Paredes interpretations of soft drink cans and primas, Arts Project artists reflect what they observe day-to-day and playfully pay homage to their favourite artists and popular culture images that they see presented through digital media.

The show features works by: Suzanne Barnes, Peter Ben, Boris Cipusev, Emily Dober, Patrick Francis, Bronwyn Hack, Kate Knight, Bobby Kyriakopoulos, Adrian Lazzaro, Michael Licenblat, Julian Martin, Simon Paredes, Lisa Reid, Anthony Romagnano, amongst others.

Arts Project Australia is a studio and gallery that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promoting their work and advocating for inclusion within contemporary art practice. In the last two years Arts Project artists have exhibited at a variety of external galleries including **National Gallery of Victoria, Museum of Old and New Art, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Spring 1883, Gertrude Contemporary, West Space, Artspace** and **Darren Knight Gallery**. These exhibitions are proudly supported by Art Guide Australia.

VENUE: Arts Project Australia | 24 High St Northcote VIC 3070 Australia
EXHIBITION: 28 April – 9 June 2018
LAUNCH: Saturday 28 April | 3-5pm
TIMES: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm
MORE INFO: www.artsproject.org.au
ENTRY: FREE

MEDIA CONTACTS: further information, interviews or high-resolution images

Curators Paul Hodges and Sim Luttin are available for interviews. High-res images [are here](#) (captions in file names).

Tiarney Miekus | Communications | tiarney.miekus@artsproject.org.au | +61 3 9482 4484 or 0421 624 156

Sim Luttin | Gallery Manager & Curator | sim.luttin@artsproject.org.au | +61 3 9482 4484 or 0437 448 758