

MEDIA RELEASE

30/7/2019

For immediate release



Cynthia Schwertsik

UTE-ilitarian

29 July – 30 August 2019

Guildhouse and Flinders University Art Museum are delighted to present *UTE-ilitarian* by Austrian born, Adelaide-based artist Cynthia Schwertsik as part of the 2019 SALA Festival.

Commenting on Australia's ecological footprint, Schwertsik will present new video and performance work at Flinders University's Bedford Park campus, with an official launch on Thursday 8 August 2019.

Schwertsik's work traverses the genres of visual art and contemporary performance, while also incorporating active inclusion. In her practice she engages with and navigates the everyday world utilising common objects (such as chairs) and public spaces (such as footpaths), often subverting their familiar functionality and societal roles with humorous interventions.

This new work has resulted from the Guildhouse Collections Project with Flinders University Art Museum, an initiative which provides South Australian artists with unique opportunities to research and respond to extraordinary State collections.

Schwertsik explored the Post-object and Documentation collection held by Flinders University Art Museum. Initiated by Donald Brook, the collection includes photographs, artist books, prints and audio-visual material that document Australia's conceptual art making of the 1960s and 70s within the context of the international movement. Schwertsik's new work specifically responds to artworks in the collection by Aleks Danko, Tim and Vivien Johnson, and David Thorp.

Cynthia Schwertsik says *"In Australia, my ecological footprint as a daily commuter consists of numerous bitumen-laid carparks. In my new work I reimagine chairs as cars and consider bitumen as an inscription on the earth for societal convenience. UTE-itarian is my absurd, unsustainable grappling of Australian everyday norms."*

Guildhouse Chief Executive Officer Emma Fey and Flinders University Art Museum Director Fiona Salmon say, *'By opening the collections in this way, not only do artists benefit from direct and extended engagement with works of art, but their readings and responses facilitate alternative ways of seeing, experiencing and understanding artworks and their histories for both the Art Museum and its audiences.'*

EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Thursday 8 August | 4 – 5.30pm

Flinders University
Level 1 | Student Hub
Bedford Park | South Australia

GUEST SPEAKER

Associate Professor William Peterson
Creative & Performing Arts | College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
Flinders University

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Performative artist talk in conversation with curator Nic Brown

Thursday 8 August | 3 – 4pm

Curator talk and artist performance

Tuesday 13 August | 12 – 1pm

Level 1 | Student Hub (near The Tavern)
Flinders University
Sturt Road | Bedford Park

Getting to Flinders University [Public transport](#) | [Parking](#) | [Map](#)
Level 1 is located at H10 on the map

The Collections Project is a collaboration between Guildhouse and Flinders University Art Museum that provides artists with the opportunity to engage with the Museum's collections and staff to create new work for exhibition. Guildhouse is the leading South Australian organisation supporting and creating connections for South Australian visual artists, craftspeople and designers for 53 years. This initiative is generously supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and the Government of South Australia through Arts South Australia.



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Media images and captions are available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c8acutppve9f7kb/AACHeMWga1fR1VJCXL64PlmTa?dl=0>

Image: Cynthia Schwertsik, *UTE-ilitarian*, 2019. Photograph Jennifer Hofmann.

Guildhouse is supported by the South Australian Government through Arts South Australia and by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.



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