

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release



South Australian artist Ray Harris to examine Flinders University's rich collection of performance and installation art for the Guildhouse Collections Project 2020.

Guildhouse and Flinders University Museum of Art are delighted to announce that South Australian performance and installation artist Ray Harris will be undertaking The Collections Project in 2020.

The Guildhouse Collections Project is a unique opportunity designed to champion contemporary artists while celebrating our cultural, historic and scientific heritage. This is the fourth year that Guildhouse and Flinders University Museum of Art will be partnering on the project and Ray Harris will be the fifth South Australian artist to undertake the project at Flinders University.

Ray Harris works with performative video, performance, sculpture, and installation to explore the psychological complexities and struggles of the self. She is also an emerging curator, having curated exhibitions for FELTspace; FELTnatural public art projects and three SALA group exhibition and performance art events at Holy Rollers Studios.

Harris' residency for The Collections Project will see her working with museum staff to explore Flinders University's Post-object and Documentation Collection. Initiated by Donald Brook, this comprehensive collection documents conceptual art making in the 1960s and 1970s and features some of Australia's best known and most innovative artists.

Ray Harris says, 'I am incredibly excited at this unparalleled opportunity of exploring this vast collection to produce new work, inform my practice and expand my knowledge, concepts and ideas through direct access to the works contained within it.'

'The collection is incredibly rich with stimulating works, some that have been part of my past research and ongoing influence but never in this immediate accessible form.'

Guildhouse Chief Executive Officer Emma Fey says, 'The Collections Project provides an important opportunity for South Australian artists to engage with the wealth of our archives. Over the course of her eight-month residency, Ray will have exclusive access to key works in Flinders' collection as well as being able to work closely with the curatorial staff to develop new work for exhibition at the museum's recently launched gallery at Bedford Park.'

'Through past projects, we've been able to see the remarkable impact that The Collections Project has had on the professional development on the artists involved. The overwhelming feedback we've received is that the extended period of engagement with South Australian collections has not only broadened the scope and scale of the artists' practice but has built connections that will serve them well into the future.'

Flinders University Museum of Art Director Fiona Salmon says, 'We are thrilled to be able to share our vast collection of images, publications and recordings with Ray. It is one of the most comprehensive national collections of 'post-object art' representing some of the most innovative artists of the 1960s and 1970s. With works by the likes of Aleks Danko, Imants Tillers and Tim Burns as well as recordings of performances by Mike Parr, Stelarc and Ulay and Marina Abramovic there is much for Ray to explore.'

'Our collaboration with Guildhouse provides unprecedented collections access for a new generation of artists and audiences. Working with Ray will help unlock an extraordinary yet little-known FUMA archive while supporting the development of exciting new work for the benefit of students, staff and wider community who engage with us.'

The Collections Project is a collaborative project between Guildhouse, the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, Flinders University Museum of Art and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

This unique project provides artists the opportunity to research an area of one of the institution's collections and develop new work for exhibition. Championing the art and artists of our time while celebrating our cultural, historic and scientific heritage, The Collections Project has the demonstrated ability to provide new audience experiences while delivering long-term benefits to the artistic and career development of participating artists.

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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Image: Ray Harris, *On the tip of my Tongue*, 2018, HD digital video still.

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Media images and captions are available here:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zgb5x2iazou9twa/AABLYKUWVv20g_b_Mb7AIpxa?dl=0

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