

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Ritual Nature Takes Out First Prize at Fringe

Flinders University Museum of Art and Guildhouse are thrilled to announce that Ray Harris' *Ritual Nature* has been awarded The Eran Svigos Award for Best Visual Art at the 2021 Adelaide Fringe.

The Eran Svigos Award for Best Visual Art honors the life and work of artist Eran Svigos who sadly passed away unexpectedly in her early thirties. The award pays homage to Eran's love of the Adelaide Fringe by celebrating the contribution of visual art to the festival program and supporting the practice and future work of participating visual artists.

*Ritual Nature* is a new exhibition of evocative performative videos by South Australian artist Ray Harris as part of The Guildhouse Collections Project and delivered in partnership with Flinders University Museum of Art. Curated by FUMA Collections Curator Nic Brown, Harris' work is informed by a research-based residency undertaken by the artist late 2019 through 2020 investigating the Museum's conceptual art collection.

Presented in juxtaposition with selected works from this important archive, Harris' meditative and time-based actions situate the body in dialogue with the environment, allude to death and its associations with grief and loss, decay and dirtiness, and the possibilities of cleansing and transformation. In this intimate relationship rests a delicate tension between the female body and the environment, where Harris' seemingly passive acts of surrender to her surroundings can also be considered acts of gendered resistance.

Upon receiving the award Harris says, *'I feel immensely proud of the work I made through The Guildhouse Collections Project with FUMA during a very challenging year. Winning the Adelaide Fringe Eran Svigos Award for Best Visual Art is an amazing endorsement and validation of this body of work and my practice.'*

She continues, *'This award will allow me to further develop ideas I've discovered through this research-based initiative.'*

*Ray Harris: Ritual Nature* is on display at Flinders University Museum of Art until 16 April 2021. See website for further details: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/museum-of-art/>

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### **Flinders University Museum of Art**

Flinders University | Sturt Road | Bedford Park SA 5042  
Located ground floor Social Sciences North building  
Humanities Road adjacent carpark 5

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**Ray Harris** (born 1970) holds a Master of Visual Art (2014) and a Bachelor of Visual Art (Honours) (2009) from the University of South Australia. She is founder and director of Holy Rollers Studios and its former Gallery and was co-director of FELTspace (2010-2015). Harris has exhibited and performed in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally with significant exhibitions including *Video Contemporary* (2018) curated by Kelly Gellatly for Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney; *PP/VT: performance presence, video time* (2015), curated by Professor Anne Marsh for the Australian Experimental Art Foundation AEAF, Adelaide; *do it (adelaide)* (2015), Samstag, Adelaide; and *Subject to ruin* (2014), Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney. Her work has been presented in contemporary art fairs and festivals in Sweden, South Korea, Turkey and the United States, and featured in publications such as *Artlink*, *Art Collector*, *Broadsheet*, *RealTime*, *fine print* and *ETC*. Harris' work is held in the Turkish collections of Proj-4L Elgiz Museum of Contemporary Art and Borusan Contemporary, and private collections nationally.

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**The Collections Project** is a collaboration between Guildhouse and South Australian institutions: the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, Flinders University Museum of Art and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. It is a unique project that provides artists with 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 over 50 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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**For more information or interviews, please contact:**

Ayesha Aggarwal

Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Guildhouse

T 08 8410 1822 E [communications@guildhouse.org.au](mailto:communications@guildhouse.org.au),

Madeline Reece

Exhibition and Programs Manager, Flinders University Museum of Art

T 08 8201 3247 E [maddie.reece@flinders.edu.au](mailto:maddie.reece@flinders.edu.au)

Media images and captions are available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1vhw8lo7o9qahgt/AADhjNv-WdAVCE2V5PbUn0t7a?dl=0>



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