

PRESS
RELEASE

p r o j e c t 8

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For immediate release

DIGS

Exploring material inscriptions of place into space

9 July – 20 August 2022. Opening 8 July 2022, 6–8 pm



Project8 Gallery presents its second exhibition *DIGS*, curated by Cūrā8. ‘Digs’ is a slang term for describing home, and for this exhibition is understood as broadly encapsulating the shared human desire to materially inscribe place into space. Presented through the work of five local and international artists—Laura Cuch, Spencer Harrison, Jaime Powell, Tariku Shiferaw and Lisa Waup—this exhibition speculates upon the nature of material expression and spatial arrangement in the formation of personal places of habitation.

As a curatorial proposition, *DIGS* considers some of the many ways that spaces are provisionally materially transformed into places through placeholders, architectural interventions, keepsakes and décor.

Echoing our shared human desire to create a sense of home, artists engage in the practice of creatively selecting, arranging and manipulating objects drawn from the continuum of lived experience to create experiences of place meaningfully delineated from everything else in the world. With this curious confluence in mind, the artists presented in *DIGS* explore the materiality of placemaking through printmaking, filmmaking, drawing, painting, animation, sculpture, and sculptural installation, and in doing so, reflect something of their unique cultural and social backgrounds.

As anthropologist Michael Jackson put it in his 1995 book *At Home in the World*, the idea of home is lived as both a relationship and a tension. With this relational quality in mind, *DIGS* asks: What constitutes a 'home?' How do we mark the places in which we sleep and eat? And in what kinds of ways do we 'make do' with that which is available to hand to construct a sense of home?

The artists

Laura Cuch, born in Barcelona and based in London, is a visual artist, researcher and cultural geographer working with photography, film and installation. She completed a practice-related PhD in Geography (UCL), exploring the relationship between food, spirituality and everyday practices of faith in communities in West London.

Spencer Harrison is a visual artist whose work distils colour, form and space into ordered abstract structures that reflect on our lived urban experience. His visual language draws on the world around us, referencing design, architecture, science and the built environment.

Jaime Powell is an Indian-Australian artist who uses lithography and mark-making to investigate what our mind does when the body extends into space. The examination of belonging is at the heart of Jaime's practice.

Tariku Shiferaw is a New York-based artist who explores mark-making addressing the physical and metaphysical spaces of painting and social structures. For Shiferaw, the act of making a physical mark is a performative utterance of his existence, which inevitably alters the immediate physical space and simultaneously introduces new ideas and boundaries.

Lisa Waup is a mixed-cultural First Peoples multidisciplinary artist and curator born in Naarm (Melbourne). Waup's practice spans diverse media, including weaving, printmaking, photography, sculpture, fashion and digital art.

About Project8

Project8 is a new contemporary art space in Melbourne's CBD dedicated to promoting speculative poetic and material innovation through exhibitions and related events. It utilises the multimodal aesthetic languages of contemporary art to experientially deemphasise differences and contestations grounded in language, politics and culture. Project8 is committed to the promotion and development of discursive exchange, collaboration and partnerships between Australian, Chinese and international artists, researchers and communities actively engaging with contemporary art.

CONTACT

Project8 Gallery
Wurundjeri Country
Level 2, 417 Collins St.
Melbourne, Victoria
AUSTRALIA
+61 3 9380 8888

More information

www.project8.gallery

Instagram and Facebook @project8gallery

Press and additional promotional images contact Honi Ryan: honi@hedonics.com.au

Image credits

Above: Laura Cuch, *Spiritual Flavours: Meals*, Ealing Christian Centre, 2015, photographic print, 75 × 50 cm.

Below: Tariku Shiferaw, *I'm Black and I'm Blue*, 2019, found shipping pallets from New York City, dimensions variable.

