

EDITORIAL MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release

GOULBURN REGIONAL ART GALLERY TO LAUNCH MAJOR NEW EXHIBITIONS, FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 6PM

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery will open its final three exhibitions for 2024: Dionisia Salas', *Of mouth and mind*; Sammy Hawker's *Conversations with Bees*; and Luke Chiswell's, *To Spite One's Face*. This major exhibition launch demonstrates the Gallery's ongoing support for ambitious artists living in the region to create new, exciting and ambitious work.

The event will be opened by Elspeth Pitt, Senior Curator, National Gallery of Australia.

Dionisia Salas' solo exhibition presents an extensive display of the Walbanga Country/Braidwood-based artist's practice in drawing and painting. Including large-scale, immersive oil paintings on canvas and more intimate works on paper, Salas' practice is an exploration of abstract forms and associations with the body. Highly gestural and taking full advantage of bold and brilliant colour, *Of mouth and mind* encourages viewers to consider their own bodies and associative connections on a grand scale and in minute detail all at once. Accompanying this ambitious show is the brand new publication with newly commissioned texts by leading curators Shaune Lakin, Senior Curator, Photography, National Gallery of Australia and Elspeth Pitt, Senior Curator, Australian Art, National Gallery of Australia, complete with high coloured

Kamberri/Canberra based artist Sammy Hawker's immersive exhibition *Conversations with bees* offers a provocative insight into human and non-human collaboration and storytelling. Analysing the enigmatic landscape of Ngungara/Weereewa/Lake George through photographic processes, Hawker interrogates human-centric perspectives on climate change, and presents bees as a vital portal between our known world, and the spiritual realm.

Luke Chiswell exhibits a new sculptural installation work titled *To Spite One's Face*. Based between Los Angeles and Collector, NSW, Chiswell's work is well known in Goulburn from his iconic public art sculpture *Hold Your Head Up*, commissioned in 2017 situated on Auburn Street. Chiswell's new bronze sculpture on display in the Gallery explores the tension between human made structures and the natural world.

Each of these exhibitions represent significant growth across diverse artistic practices, with all three of the Gallery's exhibition spaces dedicated to local artists expressing contemporary concerns encompassing the personal, political, philosophical and environmental. *Of mouth and mind*, *Conversations with bees* and *To Spite One's Face* are on display at the Gallery until Saturday 1 February 2025.

"It is so exciting to be presenting the new works of three exciting and ambitious artists living and working in the broader region. Working in diverse mediums including painting, photography, moving image and sculpture, there is a lot to discover for audiences. These exhibitions are bold and immersive and will engage people of all ages in work that is imaginative, intriguing and thought provoking. The exhibitions are timely, delving into concepts pertinent to our current social, political and environmental concerns". – Yvette Dal Pozzo

Connect with Goulburn Regional Art Gallery goulburnregionalartgallery.com.au | artgallery@goulburn.nsw.gov.au | @goulburnregionalartgallery | (02) 4823 4494

Images: Dionisia Salas, portrait. Courtesy of the artist; Sammy Hawker, portrait. Courtesy the artist, photography by Sami Harper; Luke Chiswell portrait. Courtesy of the artist.



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