

BALLIS BLACHFORD



GALLERYSMITH
EST. 2008

KATE BALLIS

born 1985, lives Naarm/Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Atlantis Revisited*, Essoign Club, Melbourne, VIC
Inflorescence with Tom Blachford, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, VIC
Before Time, Arthouse, Sydney, NSW
- 2022 *Atlantis*, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, VIC
Wonderworld, David Jones Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 *Infra Realism: Lilac Lux*, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, VIC
- 2020 *Liminality* (virtual exhibition), Gallerysmith, Melbourne, VIC
Hyperphantasia, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 *Spectrums of the Galapagos*, Jardan, VIC
- 2018 *Hypercolour Fantasy: Infra Realism*, Garis and Hahn, Los Angeles, USA
- 2017 *Glace Noir*, Black Eye Gallery, NSW
Infra Realism, Jardan, VIC

CURATED AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Portals to Atlantis*, Ballarat International Foto Biennale, headline artist, Ballarat, Victoria (various venues)
Sydney Contemporary, Arthouse Gallery, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
Lost in Palm Springs, curated by Greer Honeywill, (touring), HOTA, Home of the Arts, QLD
XV: Past Present Future, Gallerysmith, Melbourne
- 2022 *Sydney Contemporary*, Gallerysmith, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
Out of the Blue, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 *Hundreds and Thousands*, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Going Home, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide, SA
Coming Home, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Fresh Eyes: Reimagining Robin Boyd's Walsh Street, Melbourne Design Week, Melbourne, VIC
Not Fair, Melbourne, curated by Ashley Crawford and Sam Leach
Summer Salon, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2020 *Head on at 107*, Head On photo Festival, curated by Sandy Edwards, Redfern, NSW
RE(NEW)AL, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Summer Show, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 *Illusions*, Backwoods Gallery, VIC
- 2017 *CCP Photo Fair*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, VIC
Straight Lines, Black Eye Gallery, NSW

SELECTED AWARD EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Northern Beaches Environmental Art and Design Prize*, Manly, NSW
IRIS Award, Perth Centre for Photography, Perth, WA
- 2022 *Kings School Art Prize*, Finalist, The King's School, Parramatta, NSW
- 2021 *Bowness Photography Award*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, VIC

COLLECTIONS

Artbank
Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra

TOM BLACHFORD

born 1987, lives in Naarm/Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Inflorescence* with Kate Ballis, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, VIC
The Lost Archive of Slender O'Kenoshi, Ballarat International Foto Biennale, Ballarat, VIC
- 2021 *Midnight Modern*, Duran Maashal, Canada
- 2020 *Gertrude Street Projection Festival*, Melbourne, VIC
- 2019 *Centro Verso*, Backwoods Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
Midnight Modern IV, Photo London, with ARTITLEDcontemporary, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Midnight Modern IV*, Toth Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Midnight Modern IV, Michael Reid Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2017 *Midnight Modern Retrospective*, Black Eye Gallery, Darlinghurst, NSW
- 2016 *Midnight Modern III*, Black Eye Gallery, Darlinghurst, NSW
Midnight Modern III, Modern Times Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2015 *Midnight Modern II*, Modernism Week Special Event, Palm Springs, CA, USA
- 2014 *Midnight Modern I*, Modern Times Gallery, Melbourne, VIC,
- 2011 *Aoteroa*, Port Melbourne Gallery, VIC

GROUP AND AWARD EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Lost in Palm Springs*, (touring), Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville; HOTA, Gold Coast, QLD
Omnia Art Award, St Kevin's College, Melbourne, VIC
Bowness Photography Award, Museum of Australian Photography, Melbourne, VIC
- 2022 *Out of the Blue* with Kate Ballis, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Omnia Art Award, St Kevin's College, Melbourne, VIC
- 2021 *Bowness Photography Award*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, VIC
- 2020 *Bowness Photography Award*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, VIC
- 2019 *CCP Photo Fair*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, VIC
- 2018 *Bowness Photography Award*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, VIC
Royal Photographic Society International Photography Prize Shortlist
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- 2016 *Bowness Photography Award*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, VIC
Royal Photographic Society International Photography Prize Shortlist

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Translating Space, photography workshop, Powerhouse Ultimo, NSW
- 2019 Nihon Noir, artist talk, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, VIC

BOARD POSITIONS

Powerhouse Museum Photography Advisory Board Member 2022-2024



INFLUORESCENCE

In a world where scientific truth can erase the divine, creative and life partners Kate Ballis and Tom Blachford recapture the magic with their first collaborative photographic series *Influorescence*. The pair reach to the cosmos for inspiration with large scale, iridescent, blooming bodies that burst from deep space. Floral satellites transform into supernovas, or planets among a nebula of stardust. So visceral is the interwoven carapace of petals that you could step forward and be engulfed by the imagery. Suspended in darkness, the sensual subjects appear to rotate in a vortex akin to gravitational orbit. When surrounded by these images, you are transported, the familiar and the alien colliding into a flowering galaxy.

Ballis and Blachford title their artworks after constellations, yet these images remain tethered to their botanical roots. These works are a tribute to the celestial bodies that remain constant through space and time; not 'discovered' by pioneers, but shared by all those who look skywards. But Ballis and Blachford have also looked earthbound, taking miniscule

gifts from the soil to emphasise the majestic. Each bloom has been lovingly grown in the artists' shared garden and plucked at the moment it reaches budding perfection. This fusion of cosmic and terrestrial finds an equilibrium in true representation and awe, rekindling the curiosity that comes from incomprehension.

Ballis has a preoccupation with the human need to explain the unfathomable. Her diverse practice is underpinned by creation stories, mythology, and fae. Earlier series have captured bubble-gum pink foliage and aqua skies that connect the rolling hills and weeping willows of the United Kingdom to King Arthur's Avalon. Or Atlantis, that rises from Greek Isles in oases of oil slicked amethyst. And the Cailleach, Goddess of winter, is seen in the Isle of Skye as blood red stains across the crags and valleys of which she forged.

Blachford is driven by the desire to examine human endeavour through absence. His practice is grounded in the conviction of the built environment. His works dislocate rational expectation

and transfix the gaze. Long exposures masterfully fuse navy blue midnight skies with the warm hues of artificial night lights to draw attention to an otherworldly space that sits between urban reality and science fiction.

Together, Ballis and Blachford express ideas which go beyond the everyday notions of photography.

In *Influorescence*, their worlds merge and the ever-expanding universe is caught within a bloom, fluorescing pollen exploding forth from the darkness. What lies beyond human perception is unleashed through ultraviolet photography. Flora transforms UV light, which is invisible to both humans and the camera. Multiple long exposures capture an otherworldly glow emitted by the flowers. Ballis and Blachford's combined visual language perfectly align to make the unseen seen.

There is a euphoric discovery to be found everywhere, if only Ballis and Blachford will let you see it.



Alcyone, archival pigment print on cotton rag, 153x123cm, edition of 8

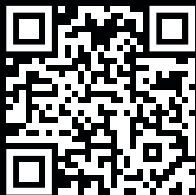
Front cover: *Andromeda*, archival pigment print on cotton rag, 153x123cm, edition of 8

Page 3: *Arche*, archival pigment print on cotton rag, 153x123cm, edition of 8

Page 5: *Pollux*, archival pigment print on cotton rag, 153x123cm, edition of 8

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