

A person wearing a translucent yellow raincoat is crouching in a shallow tide pool on a rocky beach. The person's reflection is clearly visible in the water. The surrounding rocks are covered in dark seaweed, and the water in the tide pool is a mix of blue and brown. The overall scene is serene and evocative.

# OCEANS FROM HERE

Chris Bennie | Dean Cross | Emma Hamilton  
Honey Long + Prue Stent  
Kai Wasikowski | John Young Zerunge  
7 September - 20 October

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

*Oceans From Here* explores the aesthetics of water, from mountain peaks to the open seas, as it ebbs and flows as a global life force. This simple and abundant compound has the power to define planetary geography, etching the landscape and separating the continents. Water moves through disparate sectors of the globe in various states – as mist, rain and snow.

The floating cliffs of ice in John Young Zerunge's photographs of the Antarctic echo the aesthetics of traditional Chinese landscape painting. Kai Wasikowski travels to the melting glaciers of New Zealand in search of the source of the Pacific Ocean, while Emma Hamilton heads north to frame the horizon of the Arctic seas.

From visceral and cerebral to sacred and somatic, water has inspired human creativity and provoked metaphysical thought. For Dean Cross, water is integral to his identity, heritage and family relationships. Chris Bennie touches on how our physical and psychological states are, like the tidal movement of rivers and oceans, affected by the moon's gravitational forces. In Honey Long + Prue Stent's performance-based works, human forms emerge from, and are subsumed by, watery environs. We are bound within nature's cycle as water moves between the environment and our bodies.

*Oceans From Here* touches on the transitory qualities of water as it courses through nature and our bodies. The artists selected for this exhibition have responded to water as a vital element, which flows through the land to the seas and fills the atmosphere of our planet. Several of the artists reinforce notions of an Australian identity so closely tied to the oceans that surround this nation island. Others immerse the viewer in a metaphorical ocean that surrounds, defines and moves through us all.

**Allison Holland, Curator**

## ARTISTS

### Chris BENNIE

'Mood Swings signals my reflection of the potency of water to act on my body in physical and psychological ways.'

### Dean CROSS

'My ancestors are Saltwater people, and it is salt water that connects me to them.'

### Emma HAMILTON

'While on an art residency in Reykjavik, Iceland, I would walk along the shore each morning. These images were inspired by the novel *Independent People* (1934) by the celebrated local author Halldór Laxness.'

### Honey LONG + Prue STENT

'The earth is a big wet body upon / inside which there is an endless number other wet bodies, containing their own set of endless wet bodies too. Because they are wet bodies matter flows through them and between them. They breath, eat, rub, kiss, excrete each other. Locked in exchanges, which mould and mingle their forms. Not many people feel comfortable acknowledging their wet bodies, leakage is not so desirable. Especially in a female body, which is encouraged to be sealed.'

### Kai WASIKOWSKI

'Observing the glaciers and the lines of their retreat highlighted the abundance of information that connects global phenomena to our daily actions. With this in mind, I visualised the disassembling of nature as a Romantic and stable backdrop to my everyday experience and thought about the potential of more synthetic and simulated ecologies emerging as the ice melts.'

### John YOUNG Zerunge

'Nature is not only fragile, majestic and sublime in the old Kantian sense but, as Paul Virilio would have it, the ocean may well be frightful and monstrous in its answering back – through climate change – to the human-centred progressiveness of modernity's folly.'

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Sunday 9 September 2018

Chris Bennie:  
Splash performance

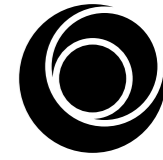
Saturday 20 October 2018  
10am - 4pm

Kai Wasikowski:  
Hydrographic printing

Please see ACP website for more details.

## Image

Honey Long + Prue Stent,  
*Neptune's Necklace*, 2018.  
Courtesy and © the artists  
and ARC ONE Gallery, Melbourne



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