

# PLANT + HUMAN



Steven Cavanagh | Liss Fenwick | Philip George  
Haley Millar-Baker | Polixeni Papapetrou | Pony Express  
Merri Randell | Diana Scherer | Erica Seccombe

15 February - 27 April 2019

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

For many, the intimate connection between humans and the botanical has been assumed, overlooked or not considered. For others, plants are revered and appreciated through the filter of cultural beliefs and practices. The artists in this exhibition approach their vegetal subjects with intensity, exploring both our historical and contemporary entanglements with ecology. With biophilic intent, their works encourage an intuitive response to the current urban malaise of 'plant blindness' and stimulate in us a biospheric consciousness.

Plant + Human communicates the power-plays of this interspecies relationship. It posits the greener genera as sentient beings, with the ability to pre-empt and respond to changes in the environment. In turn, plants affect responses in us. From edible foliage to old growth forests, our wellbeing is dependent upon ingesting, being wrapped in, or surrounded by, rooted organic matter. While agriculture and genetic modifications indicate our advantage, equally they reinforce the essentialness of plants to our survival.

Over the course of human history, this dependency has become entwined in our knowledge, culture and creativity. The politics of place, plants and human habitation is tangible in our naming of locations to reflect the proliferation of certain species. As a cultural symbol of life and death, beauty and abundance, vegetation is manifest in our architecture, design and personal names. Flora has become fundamental to our collective and individual identity and trained our understanding of the world.

Allison Holland, Curator

## LIST OF WORKS

### Steven CAVANAGH

*Kittens and sunsets* 2016

Installation: plastic flowers, photographs, moving image, monitor, cards, candles, candle holders and ornaments

### Liss FENWICK

*Boab tree covered by a century of tourist graffiti, mythologised as the Hillgrove Lockup, north Western Australia*, 2016; *Christmas tree in a church, Newcastle Waters, Northern Territory*, 2016

Colour inks on plantine fibre rag paper

### Phillip GEORGE

Nine works from the *Fog Garden* series 2012  
C type print. Edition of 6 + 1 AP

### Hayley MILLAR-BAKER

*Untitled #1*, from the *Flora and fauna* series 2016;

*Untitled (Go out and collect the grass so I can weave)*, from the *Cook book* series 2018  
Colour inks on paper

### Polixeni PAPAPETROU

*Amaranthine* and *Rhodora*, from the *Eden* series 2016

Colour inks on paper. Courtesy of the Artist's Estate and Michael Reid, Sydney

### PONY EXPRESS

*Glorious* 2019

Performance installation: single channel HD video, wooden door, monitor. Duration 25:40 min

### Merri RANDELL

*Touching the Mauri* 2018

single channel HD video, with sound. Duration 8:13 min. Edition of 5

### Diana SCHERER

*Rootbound #4/1* 2018; *Rootbound #2* 2017; *Rootbound #3/1* 2018

Colour inks on Hahnemühle paper

### Erica SECCOMBE

Six works from the *Permutations* series 2018

photogravure on paper. Edition 2 of 3



## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### Photographic forage

Saturday 23 March, 9 am-1pm

### Foraging workshop: wild food and public botany

Saturday 6 April 2019, 2-5pm

Please see ACP website for more details.

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## Image:

Polixeni Papapetrou

*Amaranthine*, from the *Eden* series 2016

Colour inks on paper

Courtesy and © of the Artist's

Estate and Michael Reid, Sydney