

23. 11. 2024

– 22. 12. 2024

ORGANISED BY LEVENT CAN KAYA, SEHEJ KAUR SEHMBHI AND EMMA PHAM



In 2020, 'mixed business' was invoked as a title for Pari's annual community group show, to announce the hopeful mode of operation of the newly-born artist-run initiative. Like those corner shops housing mismatched items on rickety shelves, this space could also make room for the multiplicity, exchange and plurality at the heart of Western Sydney.

Reading back on five years of writing from previous Mixed Business shows, it was clear that Pari, from its inception, has aspired to be a space offering a balm, a site for building solidarity to digest and respond to the systems that render us in an endless state of crisis.

For Mixed Business 5, we are holding space for joy and grief simultaneously. As we celebrate half a decade of Pari, we rejoice in the community, both new and old, that Pari has cultivated, whilst recognising the collective suffering that is ongoing, here and across the globe.

The graphic for this year's exhibition takes inspiration from the bright and loud shop signs that hang from the ceilings of covered sidewalks in Western Sydney. In many languages, many colours, designed to speak directly to the communities they are situated in, these kitschy shop signs reflect the spirit with which we hope Pari leaps into the next 5 years.

Let this be an opening to gather together and refortify our roots at Pari, so that we may continue to take care of each other and our communities in the times to come.

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1. Samantha Lim / Chiobu9999

Transcendence, 2024

3 tiered altar with an AR activation. (Materials: MDF, Spakfilla, flowers, candles, kitbashed props, and a lot of paper, etc.)

86cmx86cmx150cm

"Transcendence" is the actualisation of the transcendence beyond life by the use of objects in Taoism and general Chinese Culture.

The objects that will be presented are a stylised altar with offerings for the deceased, as well as objects that are usually present on birthdays. The altar is meant to look like a crossover between a huge birthday cake and a Taoist prayer altar for the deceased.

There is also an AR component, which could be activated with instructions found on the joss paper scattered around the altar. The AR is 3d scanned paper offerings that are typically burning for the dead, along with a fire animation and sound effect. The AR component is also an extension of the installation as the viewers would be able to see a "deceased life" consuming the paper offerings burned for them.

2. Saleha Rufina

Bong, 2024

Ceramics (x3)

tallest piece 10-12cm tall

Elegance is often linked to refinement and sophistication—qualities not typically associated with marijuana. While drinking is glamorised in high-class settings, marijuana carries a stigma, often seen as tied to counterculture rather than grace. My three vessels draw inspiration from the soft, iridescent beauty of seashells. The light pink hues mirror the delicate tones of the inner shell, evoking fragility and serenity. The organic, imperfect forms pay homage to nature's effortless elegance, while embellishments of pearls and jewellery add timeless sophistication. These pieces explore the harmony between nature's raw beauty and personal memory, fostering a dialogue between humanity and the natural world.

3. Kenny Phan

Despite everything, you are still at peace, 2024

Oil and colour pencils on canvas

60.9 x 91.4 cm

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The feeling of contemplation and solitude instils within the mind. Within the isolated desert is just you, and the surrounding environment. As you ponder at the flames near the chair, you think to yourself: this is fine. Despite everything going on, you are at peace with yourself and the situation going on in your life.

4. Debbie Achurch

Next Up, 2023

Screenprint on recycled fabric with hand stitching

60 x 45 cm

Our urban landscapes are changing rapidly. My work is based on architectural forms from my local neighbourhood. As in many parts of Sydney there is ongoing demolition and rebuilding with repeated cycles of noise and disruption. I aim to document the forms of the older houses and the rebuilds in an abstract way. Although building additional housing is necessary for our growing population, on an emotional level some of the themes touched on in my works are loss, traces and memory.

5. Amy Ge

i want to be a dragon, 2017

Video

1 min 11 secs

I want to be a dragon (2017) is a short experimental video work. Shanghai dialect was used in the narration.

6. Katika Schultz

Weathering

Monoprint and ink on paper

42cm x 59cm 2D work

Weather is a veil, is a mood, is a feeling. We carry our own weather with us everywhere we go. In this work, I am leaning into the states of mind that arise as a parent. The physical, psychological and emotional demands can be extreme.

I created these monoprints by hand cutting cardboard packaging late at night while my son was asleep. They are printed over self portraits

7. Kirsten Maglalang

kain na/ mangan ta na, 2024

paper, printed photographs, banana leaves, wood, ground rice grains

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roughly 60 x 25cm (wall space), 20x25cm (canvas)

The words 'kain na/ mangan ta na' are common phrases spoken in Tagalog and Kapampangan and translates to 'Let's Eat!' This piece delves into the complexities of identity, my personal fear of loss of language and tradition and how I want to preserve these memories. It is collaborative as the texts are handwritten by different family members who were given prompts that reflect on the practice of eating rice together, a staple to many households. Photographs of my grandparents hands in conjunction with the grounded rice grains, I am reminded of generations' love and care in preparing shared meals.

8. Hayley Sophia Coghlan

TRASHBAG, 2024

recycled clothes and yarn

Wall Space - H 100cm x W 50cm

9. Katerina Asistin

2770, 2024

Eucalyptus oil transfer and acrylic on wooden board

280mm x 356mm each piece

This triptych is part of a project centered around exploring systems. I was particularly drawn to the structure of postcodes and maps, especially the lines and grids visible from an aerial view. The three pieces focus on the postcode area 2770, which is where I reside and proudly grown up in. My inspiration often comes from the everyday, unremarkable aspects of Western Sydney suburbs, and this project gave me the opportunity to experiment with new ways of expressing this through different materials. The mapping system revealed a fresh perspective on my approach to representing place and memory, which has changed my approach as a painter this year.

10. Ilana Lapid

97 (dis)cards, 2023

Found objects, mixed media

1470 x 460

97 (dis)cards is a humorous reclamation of the ordinary and mundane through a collection of discarded things, found through wandering streets and collecting other people's paper rubbish. It is an autobiographical work of movement and memory. And an exploration of how foreign objects can become personalised when infused with memory.

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11. Guian Balan*Through The Curtain I Cannot See, 2023*

Framed Prints

4 x A3

Inspired by Eva H.D.'s poem, *Through The Curtain I Cannot See* is a photo series that meditates on the liminal space between girlhood and womanhood, navigating the evolving self when clarity is elusive. The work questions what can coexist during cycles of upheaval and transformation, reflecting on the dissonance between innocence and experience. *Through The Curtain I Cannot See* explores the complexity of unveiling and surrendering one's self at this cusp.

Night's got a shiner,
it's masquerading as the
moon, swollen shut slit.

—Eva H.D., "Through The Curtain I Cannot See," *Shiner*

12. Nathan Hammer*Shop O'Clock, 2024*

Plywood, clock mechanism & digital print

30cm diameter

Eat, sleep, spend, repeat

13. Celine Cheung*7 Minute in Heaven, 2018-24*

Single-channel video

7:25

"7 Minutes in Heaven' is a video documentation of a performance, in which I sensually kiss a mask that is glowing with a blinking, back-projected composite of everyone who had been objects of my affection.

In a performance that closes the gap between fantasy and fulfilment, a breach of privacy or personal space also takes place. The work plays on the uncomfortable nature of public displays of affection while endorsing the pleasures of voyeurism, through a slow, mesmerising performance of a deeply intimate act.

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On a street-facing screen, the video work brings the intensely personal into public view.

14. emoeba hartbridge

Drawing on paper

15. Emma Pham

Eternal Gateways, 2023

Digital Print

430 x 430 mm

Eternal Gateways reflects the cultural lore we carry within ourselves on our myriad journeys through life. In this work, I honour the whimsical Vietnamese creation myth, in which Vietnamese people descended from a kind, skilful mountain fairy and an intelligent, strong dragon king from the sea. Together, the fairy and dragon king gave birth to a hundred children, and taught them how to cultivate the land and live with integrity.

This ancient creation story was not passed down to me growing up, and so this interpretation is my own way of connecting with Vietnam's cultural stories. I see it as a powerful portal, beckoning me towards other symbols, stories and worlds in Vietnamese culture I hope to learn and draw wisdom from.

Please scan the QR code to animate this work.

16. Janina Osinsao

A striking element / State of flow, 2024

Graphite pencil on paper

3 x A4 portrait pieces (at least 63cm length x 29.7cm height)

In the past year, I've created graphite portrait pieces that take inspiration from photographic images.

In each portrait, there's one particular element that has drawn me towards creating it. For these works, it's the hair, jewellery and glasses.

Once the outline is mapped, the process is quite cathartic and calming as I get in a good state of flow while drawing.

17. Naomi Segal

Amuletic peach installation, 2024

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resin, found glass figurine
Small scale, dimensions variable

Peach-shaped buns, cakes and jellies tend to be served on birthdays, particularly for older people, as a way to wish them longevity. This tradition originates from Chinese legends in which peaches were revered as a source of immortality.

This desire for more life is endlessly fascinating for me. What do we collectively need to not only stay alive, but to feel more alive too?

These resin peaches were made while in residence at Singapore Art Museum.

18. Jess Curran

Nourished, 2024

Linen pillow cases, sage green, oatmeal and terracotta coloured bedsheets, natural dyes created using avocado skins and pits, onion skins, turmeric, mint and berries, thread, embroidery floss, glue, key rings
2 pillowcases- each work is 54 x 76cm. Installed, about 1.2m x 0.76m

Nourished features two linen pillow cases with unposed self-portraits that aim to mediate self-perception in regards to lived experiences of disordered eating. Using handmade natural dyes created from food scraps such as avocado pits and onion skins, food is reimaged as a colourful, vibrant and joyous. Slow, labour-intensive processes of hand-quilting, natural dyeing and embroidery work to engage with ideas of care, softness and mending of self-perception. The work acts as a mode of reclaiming food as a source of nourishment as opposed to something to track, fear, and control.

19. Rainer Ciar

Vermin Angels, 2024

Printed Acrylic, Polymer Clay, Printed Poetry

Stack of A5 paper, three acrylic standees roughly 23cm tall/10cm wide each, polymer clay statue 10x10x15cm

"*Vermin Angels 1 and 2* by Rainer Ciar are a group of sculptural works reflecting on the grubby aspects of domestic life. Rainer's work depicts hybrid anime characters that resemble household pests. Skittering lightly across the ground, eating discarded hair and food, these creatures are imagined both sustaining the home and personifying its decay. Their sexualised bodies and bug-like adornments play with a sense of attraction and repulsion, highlighting the objectification of femme anime figures and the social values that shape desire.

(Didactic written by Lillian Colgan <3)"

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20. Pari Podcast Team

Pari Radio, Season 1, Parra Matters: Local Stories 2024

x2 headphone sets connected to wooden stand

Pari Radio features podcasts and sound-based works by Pari, a collectively-run art gallery in Parramatta, Western Sydney, on Dharug Country. Listen to our first season 'Parra Matters', exploring the people, stories and histories of Parramatta from the perspective of artists and creatives who live and work in the area.

Join us as we explore the people, stories and histories of Parramatta from the perspective of artists and creatives who live and work in the area. We will hear from Pari co-founders Bec Gallo and Tian Zhang; artist, activist and community worker Alissar Chidiac; artist and Dharug Knowledge Holder Chris Tobin; emerging artists Bonnie Huang and Sehej Kaur Sehmbi; and Peter Curnovic of Beatdisc Records.

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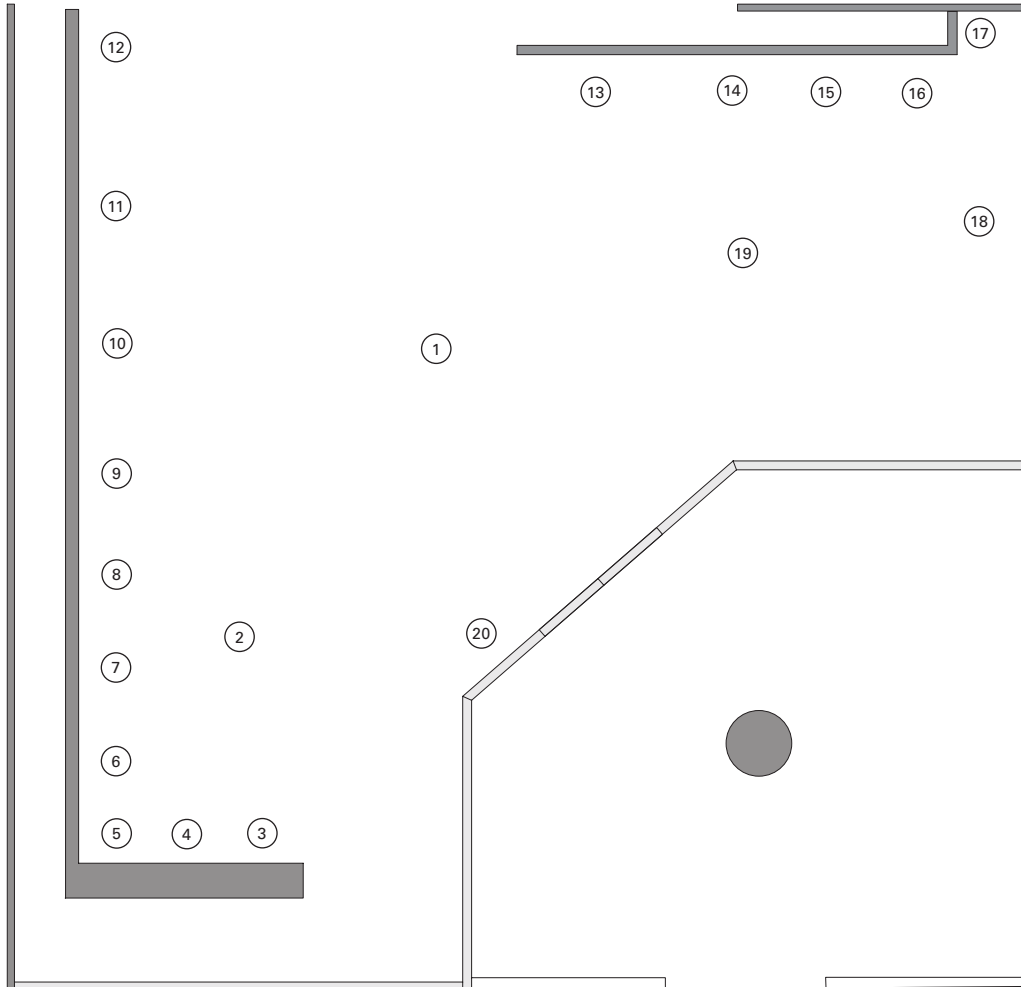


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