



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NO SECOND THOUGHTS: REFLECTIONS ON THE ARTEMIS WOMEN'S ART FORUM

1 September - 8 December 2018 | Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia presents *No Second Thoughts: Reflections on the ARTEMIS Women's Art Forum* - an exhibition that addresses the existence, work, and legacy of The ARTEMIS Women's Art Forum.

Active in Perth from 1985 until 1990 with roughly 300 members at its peak, The ARTEMIS Women's Art Forum Inc. aimed to raise the status of women in the arts and to foster interest in women's art practice and ideas. The group produced symposia, exhibitions and a newsletter, provided childcare facilities for its members at meetings, and also ran the ARTEMIS gallery, located in the Artshouse building in the Perth Cultural Centre.

After the dissolution of the group in 1990, the ARTEMIS archive - featuring correspondence, meeting minutes, exhibition ephemera, artist files and more - was donated to State Library of Western Australia.

No Second Thoughts responds to the ARTEMIS archive, examining the production of memory and history in Western Australian feminist art practice and beyond. One half of the exhibition is comprised of material from the State Library's ARTEMIS archive and from personal collections, while the second half consists of artworks by former ARTEMIS committee members Penny Bovell and Jo Darbyshire, and early career artists Teelah George and Taylor Reudavey. This includes commissioned projects by each of the four artists.

“Visiting the State Library material has been a very personal experience for all four artists, prompting reflection on

the ARTEMIS organisation but also of the developments, repetitions and circularities of artistic practice itself,” says curator Gemma Weston.

For Penny Bovell, responding to the ARTEMIS archive meant refocusing on past motifs drawn from her performance practice, combining them with more recent investigations into weather forms.

Jo Darbyshire’s large-scale work *Wildflowers* from 1994 explores lesbian experience within a critique of Australian narratives of place and landscape. This is placed alongside her more recent works depicting the relationship between abstraction and figuration.

As ‘millennials’, both Teelah George and Taylor Reudevay bring forth an entirely different perspective of art, feminism, politics and activism as they examine the conditions of artistic practice. George’s embroidery is a tactile metaphor for the archive. Through the gradual accumulation of stitches the whole work has grown as a record of passing time. Reudevay prompts discussions of marriage and the legal obligations hidden beneath the emotive and romantic language of love and destiny.

“*No Second Thoughts*, curated by Gemma Weston, foregrounds the work of women artists and their significant contribution to local arts practice,” says Ted Snell, Chief Cultural Officer at the University of Western Australia. “The ARTEMIS group in the ‘80s was a catalyst for change that continues to ripple through to a younger cohort of contemporary artists.”

“Through archival material that highlights the historical roots of their innovation, artists from the original ARTEMIS group and two younger artists present a body of work that contributes to our re-construction of Western Australian art history.”

***No Second Thoughts: Reflections on the ARTEMIS Women’s Art Forum* is presented by the Cruthers Collection of Women’s Art at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery and runs from 1 September until 8 December 2018.**

Additional Information: [Images are available here](#) | [Exhibition Catalogue](#)

Media Enquiries

Caine Chennatt (Audience Development Manager)

E: caine.chennatt@uwa.edu.au

M: +61 431 229 479

Ted Snell (Chief Cultural Officer)

E: ted.snell@uwa.edu.au

M: +61 417 921 995