

Media Release – For Immediate Release
New commissions for Broadway Screen
23 June 2020
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New Digital Art Premieres at UTS Central



Image: Patrina Mununggurr and Ishmael Marika (The Mulka Project), *Rarranhdharr (The Late Dry Season)*, 2019, Video, 48:9, 21 minutes, 8 seconds, UTS Art Collection, Commissioned 2019. UTS Broadway Screen. Photo: Document Photography.

UTS Gallery and Art Collection is delighted to announce a new series of large-scale digital artworks at UTS.

The **UTS Broadway Screen** is a 12-metre LED screen dedicated to digital art by Australian artists. The inaugural program includes new commissions by leading Australian artists **Daniel Crooks**, **Grant Stevens**, and **Patrina Mununggurr** and **Ishmael Marika** of The Mulka Project. New acquisitions include a significant video work by **Daniel Boyd**, with further commissions and acquisitions by artists including **Cigdem Aydemir** and **Angela Tiatia** to premiere from late 2020-2021.

The Broadway Screen is located in UTS Central, a vibrant student hub and faculty space at the heart of our city campus. New commissions speak to the diversity of perspectives and experiences of the UTS community, and respond to the site as a busy city pedestrian corridor and as an entryway to a centre of knowledge exchange.

Rarranhdharr (The Late Dry Season) is a collaboration between Yolŋu artists **Patrina Mununggurr** and **Ishmael Marika**. In the film, a group of Yolŋu map the various environments they encounter as they walk on their ancestral lands. As they walk, an aerial drone and a widescreen camera register types of food that are ready to harvest during Rarranhdharr (the late dry season). The film shows how

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Yolŋu have navigated their lands for tens of thousands of years and invites viewers to visit their world, be with their people, and experience the time of Rarranhdharr.

A new work by **Daniel Crooks**, *Static No.25 (George Street, March 1, 2020)*, is a study in time and motion—part abstraction, part data graphic, and part anthropological film. The work was filmed in the Sydney CBD and produced between two periods of extreme environmental and social change: the 2019–20 Australian bushfire season and the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic. Accordingly, Crooks notes that the footage feels historic, as it captures citizens moving in and recovering from a period of environmental pollution and devastation and engaging in an everyday social activity – walking together in the city – that only weeks later, was no longer possible.

By contrast, **Grant Stevens'** *Below the mountains and beyond the desert*, a river runs through a valley of forests and grasslands, towards an ocean depicts a computer-generated landscape programmed to change and evolve over a limitless duration. In a context where digital technologies and interfaces often compete for slices of our fragmented attention, this artwork reminds us to reflect upon and tune into the rhythms and cycles of the natural environment.

Access to the UTS campus is currently restricted via swipe card access to a small number of essential staff and students that require specialist facilities or face-to-face teaching activities. The campus is not currently open to the general public, however the artworks are visible from the the street at 61 Broadway. Video interviews with the artists and further information can be found at artoncampus.uts.edu.au

UTS Curator **Stella Rosa McDonald** states, *“These artists were chosen for the distinct ways in which they articulate the social, cultural and environmental conditions that define us. Art and artistic practice play an important role in shaping how we see ourselves and seek to understand each other. This ambitious program of commissions and acquisitions brings new digital artworks into the UTS Art Collection and supports the creation of new work by some of Australia’s best artists.”*

UTS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources), **Patrick Woods** states, *“UTS is committed to building a dynamic environment of thought and critique. Public art stimulates creative and critical minds, helping contribute to the diversity and richness of the UTS experience. Located at the front door of the university, these artworks will reach out to our community, helping to define UTS as a public university within a vibrant creativity and innovation precinct.”*

About UTS Gallery & Art Collection

The UTS Gallery & Art Collection represents the cultural vision of the university and its commitment to lifelong learning.

Established in 1988, the UTS Art Collection contains over 850 permanent works of art in a diverse range of media; from site-specific installations and sculptures, to

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more intimate paintings, prints and drawings and a growing collection of digital and new-media works.

We collect, interpret and display contemporary Australian art that responds to the changing nature of technology and society, including our collection of Indigenous art from across Australia which further supports the appreciation and understanding of Indigenous knowledge and culture.

The UTS Gallery & Art Collection programs are a rich resource for teaching and learning across disciplines, support intellectual enquiry and public discourse, reflecting the mission and values of the university.

Media enquiries

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High-resolution images and video interviews with the artists are available to download below.

<https://bit.ly/UTSBroadwayScreenMedia>