



**phototropism**

# phototropism

## forward

We acknowledge the Sunshine Coast as home of the Kabi Kabi and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share. We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance.

The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

The works exhibited were created on stolen land in so-called Australia where sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be.

-----  
Phototropism and Electrotropism was co-curated by Amanda Bennetts and Warwick Gow and supported by Horizon Festival through Sunshine Coast Council and The Old Ambulance Station, Nambour.

We'd like to specially thank Amie Moffat, Toni Wills, Trav Lane, Megan Williams and USC Gallery, sub tropic studio and all the artists involved for all of their support and work on bringing this project together.

<https://www.horizonfestival.com.au/>

<https://theoldambulancestation.com/>

<https://www.tmlightingdesign.com/>

What is your earliest memory of seeing a photograph? Possibly your parents wedding photos from a dusty old album hidden in a box in the cupboard. Or maybe even pictures of yourself as a baby hold promise of being shared publicly on your twenty-first. For me, it was being handed a disposable camera on each camp trip and family holiday, the anticipation of handing it over the counter and returning an hour later to collect my little wallet of prints.

Photography has always been on the precipice of irrevocable change tied to the fluctuations of society, technology and, more importantly, our most intimate moments. From gathering together in dark rooms to look at slides to the palm-sized screens where we can endlessly devour photography. Our idea of photography and what it can represent has permanently changed and will always continue to do so.

Phototropism leans into Australia's long history of photography and its exhibition history to bring us back into the darkness while continuing to challenge what a photograph is. Phototropism disrupts our notion of the photographic image in a time when the photograph is consumed so readily on our devices.

Exploring the medium of photography as an object, with illuminating structures, projections, soundscapes and sculptures to destabilise the normality of the flat two-dimensional image.

Co-curated by Amanda Bennetts and Warwick Gow as part of Horizon Festival 2022, Phototropism celebrates an exciting and persevering photography culture of South-East Queensland. Each artist featured has embraced the medium in ever-evolving ways, each with its unique take. There's no prevailing style aside from a continual push to experiment with their practices and installation. This survey exhibition features works by James Hornsby, Joseph Burgess, Seamus Platt, Christine Ko, Tasmin Handsaker, Zaide Harker & Macami Mcm (Collaboration), Warwick Gow, Amanda Bennetts and Trav Lane as lighting designer.

All the works exhibited come together to illuminate a dark space where we're invited to gather and continue our long history of sharing ideas. Regardless of changes to algorithms and technology, photography will continue to find its place among us. There will always be dusty boxes to find, possibly filled with hard drives instead of prints.

Written by Warwick Gow, co-curator/artist.

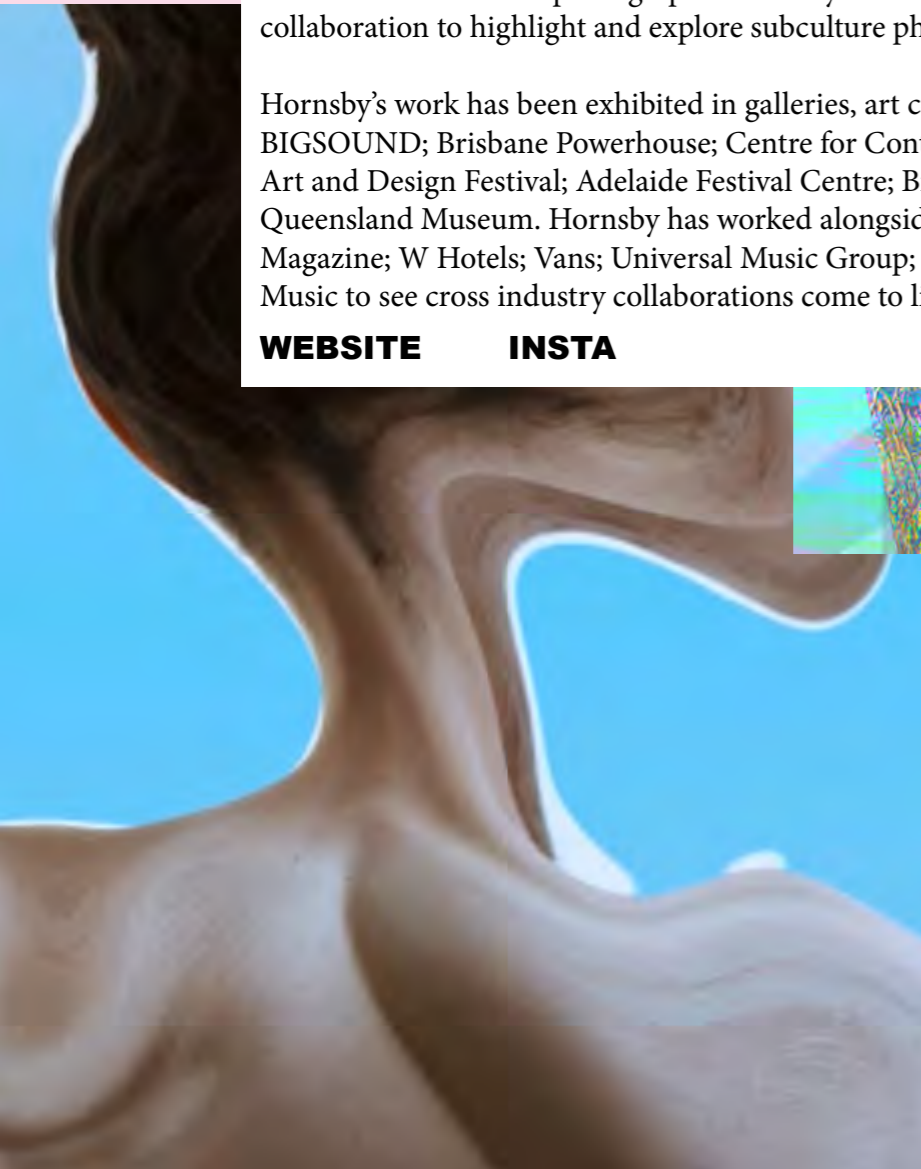
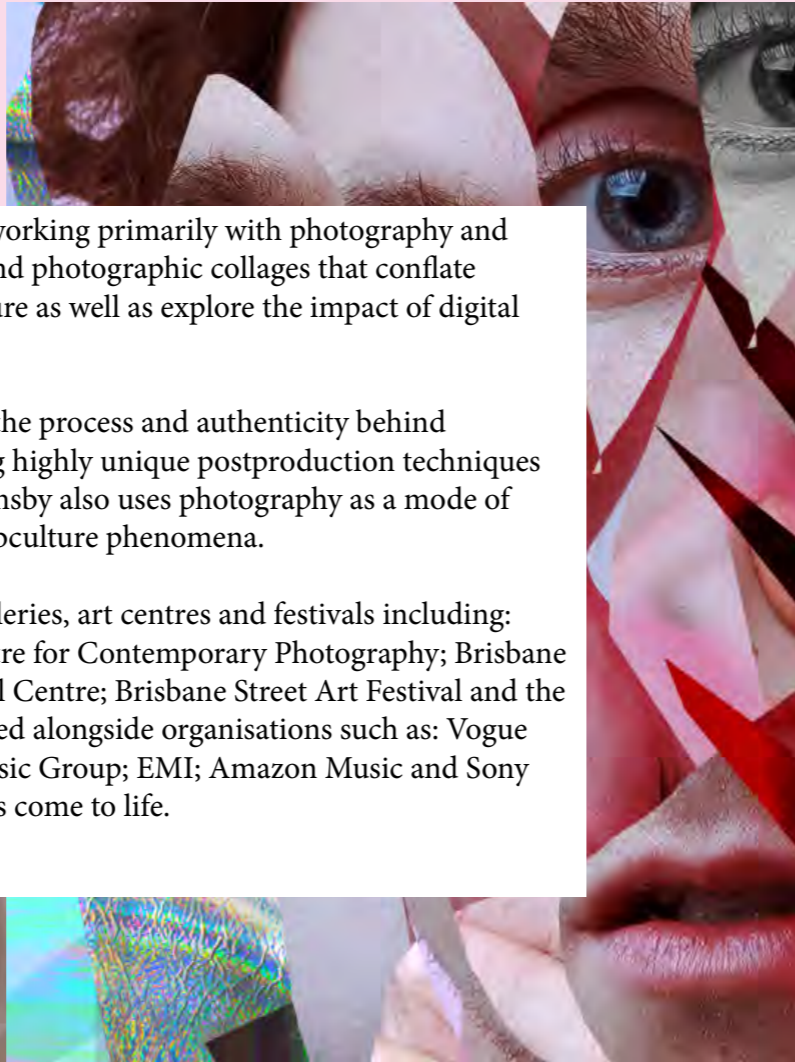
**JAMES HORNSBY  
JAMES HORNSBY  
JAMES HORNSBY  
JAMES HORNSBY**

James Hornsby is a contemporary artist working primarily with photography and video. He is known for his installations and photographic collages that conflate references of contemporary popular culture as well as explore the impact of digital media on consciousness and modern life.

He is particularly interested in revealing the process and authenticity behind photographic image creation. Often using highly unique postproduction techniques to re-visualise his own photographs. Hornsby also uses photography as a mode of collaboration to highlight and explore subculture phenomena.

Hornsby's work has been exhibited in galleries, art centres and festivals including: BIGSOUND; Brisbane Powerhouse; Centre for Contemporary Photography; Brisbane Art and Design Festival; Adelaide Festival Centre; Brisbane Street Art Festival and the Queensland Museum. Hornsby has worked alongside organisations such as: Vogue Magazine; W Hotels; Vans; Universal Music Group; EMI; Amazon Music and Sony Music to see cross industry collaborations come to life.

**WEBSITE    INSTA**



**JOSEPH BURGESS  
JOSEPH BURGESS  
JOSEPH BURGESS  
JOSEPH BURGESS**

Joseph Burgess is an artist born in Portland Oregon, currently living and working in Australia. Their multidisciplinary practice includes sound engineering, large scale fabrication, and interactive media. Burgess operates as Unregistered Master Builder as a way to encompass the plurality of their skills, experience, and creative output. Joseph has developed large scale public projects and installations for Vivid, Curiosity and Woodford Folk Festival. Currently Joseph is a director of KEPK, and working toward a new URM album to be released in 2023.

**WEBSITE    INSTA**





Seamus Platt is a Brisbane-based, visual artist who employs the photographic image as a starting point in order to explore the distance between the documentary and narrative genres. Intentionally oscillating between photography's poles; index and construction, Platt works to dismantle Photography's archaic relation to authenticity, foregrounding the medium's unavoidable bind with bias. Using the power of past tense, Platt leans on semiotic sequencing to create meaning through metaphor, pairing sets of disparate images that are drawn from their archive.

Platt responds to their immediate milieus, examining gender identity and so-called Australia's socio-political landscape in an era of post-truth. Drawing on these familiarities in a tongue-in-cheek manner and expressed through the "every day," Platt suggests subtle and evocative storylines in their works, which they consider indicative of a larger social context.

**WEBSITE INSTA**

**SEAMUS PLATT  
SEAMUS PLATT  
SEAMUS PLATT  
SEAMUS PLATT**



Christine Ko is a Brisbane-based Asian-Australian visual artist working across photography, installation and public art. Her practice explores marginality, hybridity and spaces characterised by the 'in-between'. Drawing from her own Chinese-Australian migrant experience, Christine uses an autoethnographic methodology to examine feelings of ambivalence—between hopes, dreams, invisibility and shame.

**WEBSITE INSTA**

**CHRISTINE KO  
CHRISTINE KO  
CHRISTINE KO  
CHRISTINE KO**





Trashbinn Art (she/they) is a Gamilaraay person living and creating in Meanjin on stolen Yuggera & Turrubal land. Trashbinn has been practicing digital and film photography for the past two years in order to express her ideas about social policy, femininity, relationships, culture, and love. She also likes to explore the concepts of nudity, fatness, Aboriginality, diversity and radical self-acceptance in a Western world that prioritises and upholds the values of whiteness.

**WEBSITE INSTA**

**TASMIN HANDSAKER  
TASMIN HANDSAKER  
TASMIN HANDSAKER  
TASMIN HANDSAKER**



Zaide's work is characterized by large swathes of vibrant oil paint applied with palette knives in a thickly worked, gestural style. The paintings touch on themes of identity and perception while reckoning with quarter-life existentialism. The expressive nature of the paintings reflects on rejection of pre-established narratives in the artists' life.

**WEBSITE INSTA**

**ZAIDE  
ZAIDE  
ZAIDE  
ZAIDE**



Macami is a Brisbane-based Creative Director and Photographer. Always featuring colours and contrast, her work is known as creative, fun, and avant-garde. Macami frequently works with local musicians, designers and artists, and is considered a valued member of the art-underground scene in Brisbane. Recently she has started running a photography exhibition, House of Iris, in hopes of providing a platform to feature other emerging photographers.

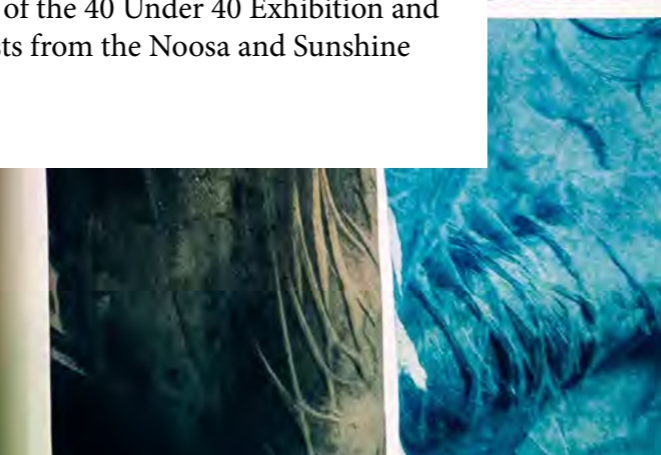
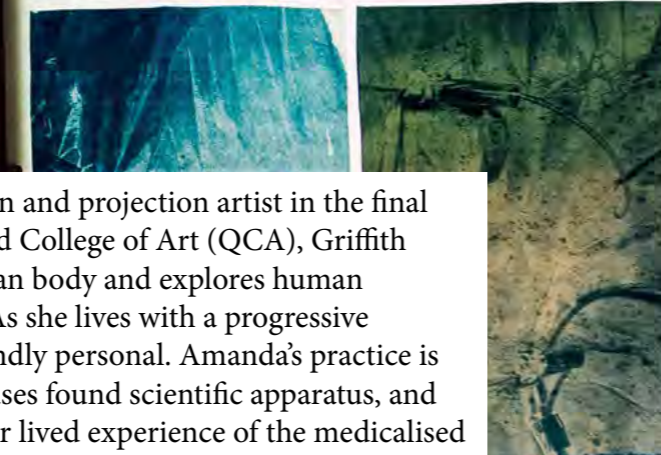
**INSTA**

**MACAMI  
MACAMI  
MACAMI  
MACAMI**

**AMANDA BENNETTS  
AMANDA BENNETTS  
AMANDA BENNETTS  
AMANDA BENNETTS**

Amanda Bennetts is a photo-media, installation and projection artist in the final year of her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Queensland College of Art (QCA), Griffith University. Her work is influenced by the human body and explores human themes including fragility, the self and death. As she lives with a progressive neurological disease, this work is often profoundly personal. Amanda's practice is process-driven. She engages with materiality, uses found scientific apparatus, and incorporates medical imagery to investigate her lived experience of the medicalised body. Amanda is the Founder and Co-Curator of the 40 Under 40 Exhibition and Art Prize (2020 - 2022 ), which showcases artists from the Noosa and Sunshine Coast regions.

**WEBSITE INSTA**



Warwick Gow is a Sunshine Coast based photographer who uses the portrait to place local fringe culture within arm's length of the mainstream. Exploring notions of identity and self by hijacking the thin veil of commercialism and elegantly smashes it against DIY ethics, Warwick's crusty and colourful work uses portraits, zines and installation art to destabilize notions of representation.

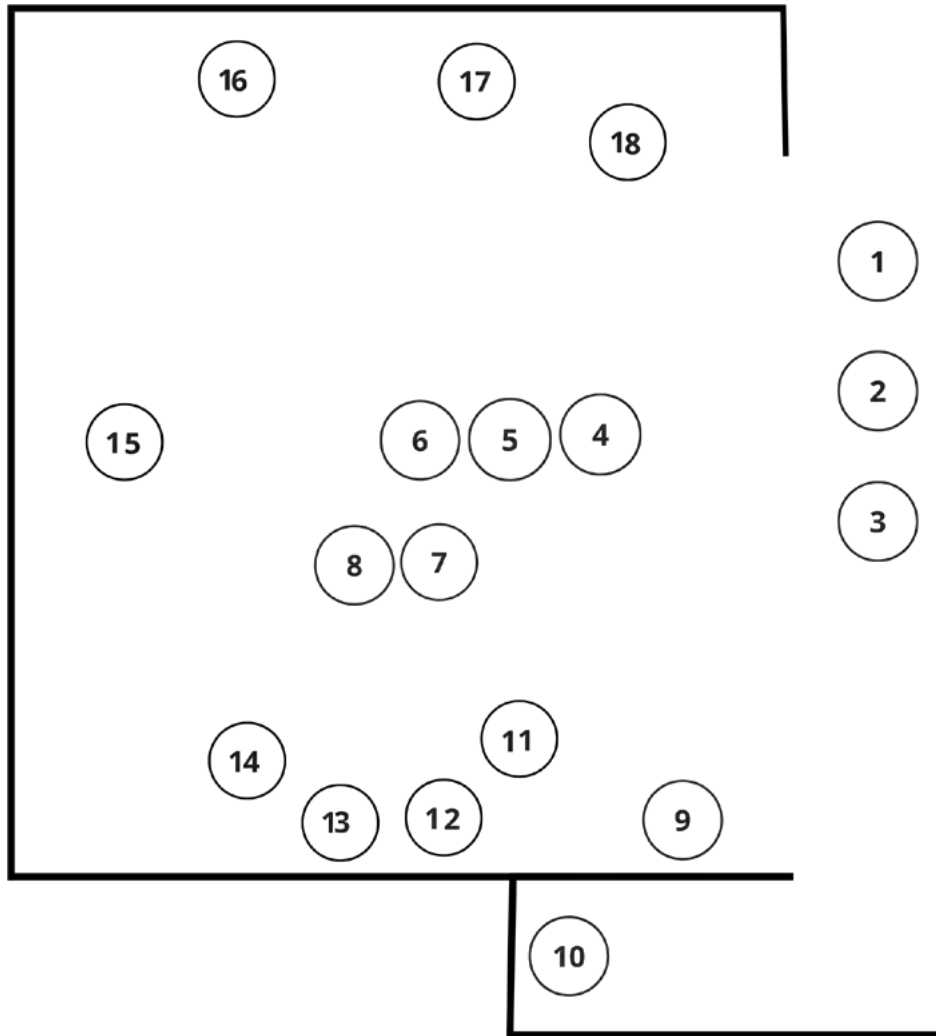
**WEBSITE INSTA**



**WARWICK GOW  
WARWICK GOW  
WARWICK GOW  
WARWICK GOW**

# phototropism

## floor plan



- |    |                  |                                  |   |
|----|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1  | Zaide & Macami   | Out of Balance                   | Oil on high resolution print  |
| 2  | Zaide & Macami   | Out of Balance                   | Oil on high resolution print  |
| 3  | Zaide & Macami   | Out of Balance                   | Oil on high resolution print  |
| 4  | Seamus Platt     | From series Suburban Apparitions | Photographic print on handmade paper mache vessel   |
| 5  | Seamus Platt     | From series Suburban Apparitions | Photographic print on handmade paper mache vessel   |
| 6  | Seamus Platt     | From series Suburban Apparitions | Photographic print on handmade paper mache vessel   |
| 7  | Seamus Platt     | From series Suburban Apparitions | Photographic print on handmade paper mache vessel   |
| 8  | Seamus Platt     | From series Suburban Apparitions | Photographic print on handmade paper mache vessel   |
| 9  | Warwick Gow      | Self # 4                         | Assisted self portrait video  |
| 10 | Amanda Bennetts  | From the Shadows II              | 2 Channel video installation  |
| 11 | Tasmin Handsaker | 3:04am                           | Photographic print on transparent sheets  |
| 12 | Tasmin Handsaker | 3:04am                           | Photographic print on transparent sheets  |
| 13 | Tasmin Handsaker | 3:04am                           | Photographic print on transparent sheets  |
| 14 | Tasmin Handsaker | 3:04am                           | Photographic print on transparent sheets  |
| 15 | Joseph Burgess   | I hate fireworks                 | Tufted carpet, timber   |
| 16 | James Hornsby    | Trapped                          | Video   |
| 17 | Christine Ko     | Glasshouses (Chatswood)          | Clear perspex, opal perspex, digital photographic prints, lamp with lightbulb, synthetic turf, wood palings |
| 18 | Christine Ko     | Glasshouses (Chatswood)          | Clear perspex, opal perspex, digital photographic prints, lamp with lightbulb, synthetic turf, wood palings |