

# 19 KAREN

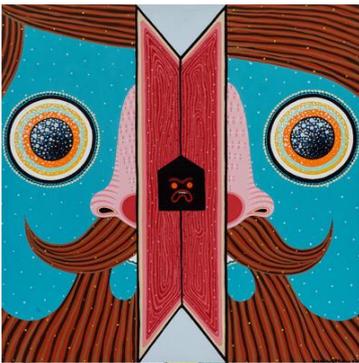
contemporary artspace

## MEDIA RELEASE

COLOUR, HUMOUR, IMAGINATION

The diverse talent of our showcase of Australian art.

October comes alive in a burst of colour at 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace as we celebrate the diversity of our artists with an all Australian showcase (3 of them from the Gold Coast) - From the emotive figurative work of Helen Holmes, a dash of colourful abstracts from Patrick McMahon, Leisa Russell's rustic sculptures to Dan Withey's whimsical surrealism.



A surrealist artist with a boundless imagination, **Dan Withey** questions the world around us in *The day the world was ok*.

"The more we know the more we realise that we don't know as much as we thought." He muses.

Withey's paintings are a portal to another world and to another dimension. They are a fusion of fictitious stories and reality. They are dreams brought to life.



Gold Coast based figurative artist **Helen Holmes** is always playing around with shapes, colours and textures, a process that led her to create artworks filled with emotion. Holmes' upcoming exhibition *'Knock Knock Who's There?'* - titled after the Shakespeare phrase - hopes to transcend honesty.

"Just like Shakespeare revealing everyday truths in his plays, I wanted to relate or connect to these in my paintings," Holmes says.

Also, as a way of truly embodying the role of the 'playwright' or an 'architect of truths', each painting will be accompanied by a Shakespearean quote.



Always pushing the boundary of her craft, award winning ceramic artist **Leisa Russell** continues to explore the sculptural form with her latest series of works - *Pipedream*.

Her colourful sculptures loop and twist on an endless path with no defined beginning or end.



Inspired by the colours and patterns of nature, 'from the sparkling opals to the dazzling corals to the geographical shapes in the landscape' Gold Coast artist **Patrick McMahon** puts together artistic puzzles in a kaleidoscope of hues in his new body of work *Colourscapes*.

'I start with the background of the painting, painting over it to achieve a balance and then again, transforming it completely with each layer. After a certain point, it seems to paint itself. I never know exactly what it will be like until the last strokes are done' Patrick explains.

A colourful journey entertaining the eye of the viewer, taking them on a journey but letting them decide what the destination looks like.

October is literally bursting at the seams with colour and excitement.

19 Karen Contemporary Artspace | 19 Karen Avenue, Mermaid Beach QLD 4218

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### 4 Solo Shows

Dan Withey - The day the world was okay

<https://19karen.com.au/exhibitions/dan-withey-the-day-the-world-was-okay/>

Helen Holmes - 'Knock Knock' Who's There

<https://19karen.com.au/exhibitions/helen-holmes-knock-knock/>

Leisa Russell - Pipedreams

<https://19karen.com.au/exhibitions/leisa-russell-pipedream/>

Patrick McMahon - Colourscapes

<https://19karen.com.au/exhibitions/patrick-mcmahon-colourscapes/>

This exhibition will open on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October in our grand opening reception from 5pm - 7pm.

Guest speaker: Harry Gallagher OAM - celebrated sporting coach, member of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame and avid art collector.

Musical backdrop: provided by Toowoomba based blues outfit Lochart Ryder.

Catering: Made with love by Lilicious Catering.

Artists Helen Holmes, Patrick McMahon and Leisa Russell will be in attendance.

This exhibition will run until 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

For all media enquiries, artist interviews and images please contact Erika Spanos at [erika@19karen.com.au](mailto:erika@19karen.com.au) or Kylie Cox at [kylie@19karen.com.au](mailto:kylie@19karen.com.au) or phone us on (07)555 45 019.