



*Can we fixate? Yes we can!*

**21 SEP - 16 NOV 2018**

## MEDIA RELEASE

# INSTRUMENTAL: THE DISTINCT PLEASURES OF TOOLS

MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE | GALLERY 1 & 2

### OPENING CELEBRATION

Friday 21 September 7pm

VIEWING TIMES 22 September – 4 November

Tue – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun 11am – 3pm

*For Instrumental: the distinct pleasures of tools*, curator Jude van der Merwe has invited twelve, successful mid-career artists to examine their relationship with the tools they use on a daily basis as they create artworks, and the imagined tools that provide the answers to life, the universe and everything in between.

Exhibiting artists, Olga Cironis, Geoffrey Drake-Brockman, Kevin Draper, Stuart Elliott, Sarah Elson, Dawn Gamblen, Phil Gamblen, Peter Hill, Angela McHarrie, Denise Pepper, Monique Tippett and Tony Windberg reflect on the tools they employ in their own practice and remind us, that as makers and thinkers, tools are an essential part of an artist's life. Artists utilise tools from the conventional, and the technological to the metaphorical, often making their own tools to achieve a singular purpose.

McHarrie, Elliott, Pepper and Windberg elevate the status of humble items (wheelbarrows, scarifiers, spindles and navigational tools) reminding us of their understated legacy in building nations, with Windberg reflecting on the instrumental role the sextant played in deeming a continent uninhabited and Pepper referencing the tools needed to settle that supposedly uninhabited land.

Fascinated by the cycle of production, Phil Gamblen, contemplates how the made becomes the maker, whereas Draper, playfully looks at the tools that we can carry with us, and the tools that really shouldn't fit in your back pocket. For Hill, well used tools have become old friends, adorned with names, and now decoration, transforming functional objects into "useless good for nothing sticks", and Drake-Brockman pulls out his artistic toolbox of illusionary devices producing an artwork that tells the story of its own composition.

Responding to the tools of language, Cironis poetically translates the ways in which we decipher meaning and loss, whilst Dawn Gamblen sees the beauty in decay, in the way a tool may lose value as a useful item as it tires from use, and order dissolves into chaos. Both Tippett and Elson have created works that cause us to reflect on the natural world, its beauty and strength, with Tippett highlighting the way in which fire, destructive in nature, is also used as a protective measure.

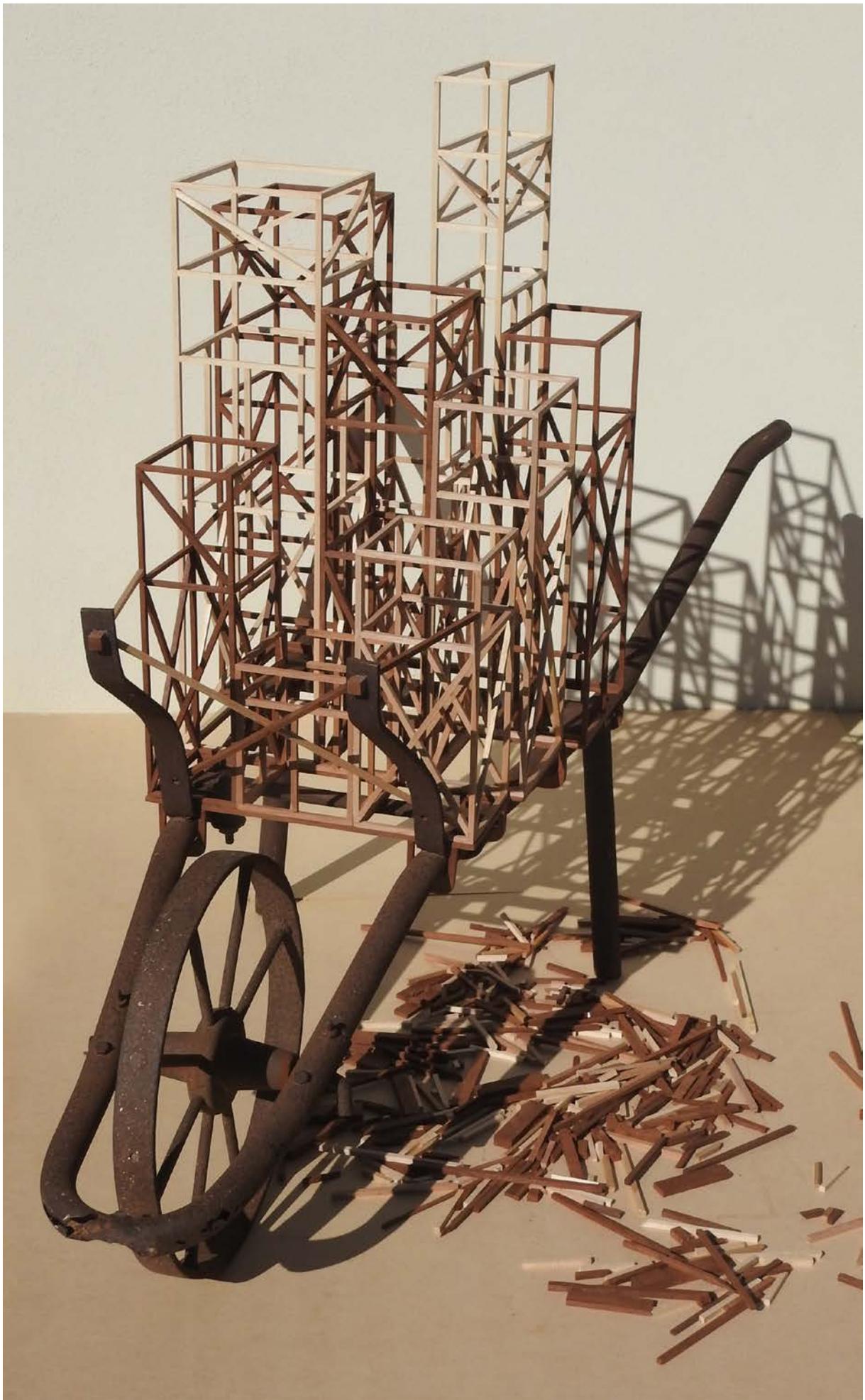
*Instrumental: The distinct pleasures of tools*, on show at the Mundaring Arts Centre from 22 September to 4 November, celebrates and reinvents tools of all designs, origins and functions and sets the tone for the broader community project, *What a Tool*.



Mundaring Arts Centre

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[www.mundaringartscentre.com.au](http://www.mundaringartscentre.com.au)



Angela McHarrie, *Out of the Shadows*, 2018, Vintage wheelbarrow frame, various timbers, 111 cm x 62 cm x 167 cm