

CURATORIAL RATIONALE – Wild Spaces

Curator: Eleanor Scicchitano

Wild Spaces will bring together artists from around Australia to celebrate and explore radical softness as a form of power, strength and resistance. Coined in 2015 by Oregon-based writer, visual artist and poet Lora Mathis, the phrase ‘Radical softness as a weapon’ is the idea that showing and embracing emotion can be seen as a political act, and a challenge in a society that prioritises stoic strength. In 2022, the windows, walls and dark corners of Gertrude Street will be transformed into bold and unapologetic displays of emotion and feeling. Artists will be asked to embrace the strength they find in their softness, to bring these private feelings into the public space, and to create wild spaces in which we are free to explore how we are feeling. The program will tap into a growing conversation around emotions and their expression, resistance and protest, creating room for discussion between artists and audiences.