

19 KAREN

contemporary artspace

MEDIA RELEASE

THIS SEPTEMBER AT 19 KAREN CONTEMPORARY ARTSPACE

-WOMEN, BIRDS, FLOWERS AND HISTORY



This September, 19 Karen comes alive with 4 solo shows - a vibrant collection of artworks by 4 exciting artists - three Australians and one American, with a focus on women, birds, flowers and history.

The colourful, detailed pointillism works by the Sunshine Coast's Sally Paxton, the organic ceramic vessels of local Gold Coast artist Megan Puls, the vibrant exploration of flowers and the feminine by Sydney's Mellissa Read-Devine and the captivating investigation of history's effect on today by US artist Jon Stucky - will excite the senses in our latest art exhibition.

Sally Paxton is a pointillism painter who says that art and design have always played an important part in her life. She was raised on a farming property on the Murray River in Mildura and that is where her fascination with nature began. Now she lives in the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

Her incredibly intricate and detailed works are a sight to behold.

"Repetitive pattern and shape, particularly dots dominate my work. I am obsessed with dots and see them everywhere, in everything."

In her upcoming exhibition, *Colours Of The Spirit*, Sally Paxton draws inspiration from the natural world around her and the words of 19th century poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"Nature wears the colours of the spirit. It speaks to us through different images, landscapes, colours, patterns, and forms of exquisite beauty. As we admire nature's extravagance, our emotions and feelings become part of it. This harmonious balance makes our souls happy," Sally quotes from Emerson.



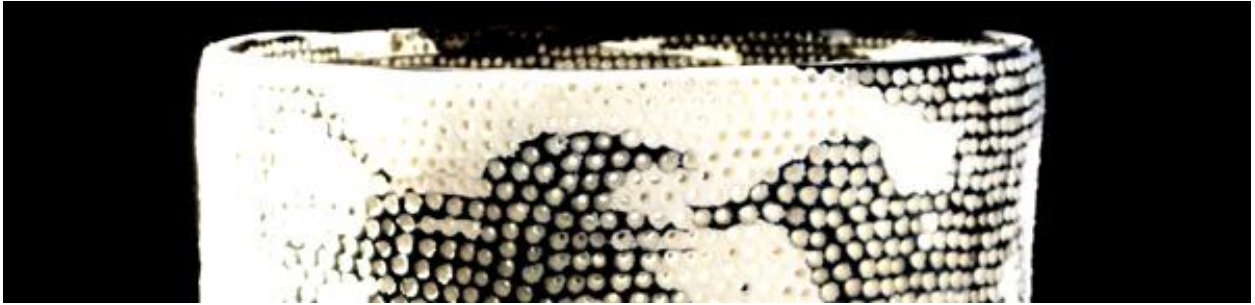
Well known as a teacher and a professional ceramicist, **Megan Puls** is widely exhibited, highly awarded and is one of Australia's most successful ceramic artists. A Gold Coast local, her solo exhibition, *Mangroves*, explores the direct spiritual link between artists and nature.

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“When developing a block of work, all the colours and shapes are provided by nature. It is then created by me into uniqueness. Inspiration grows as my work develops, inspired by the wetlands, mangroves swamps, rust, ebbitides, oceans, sand, birds and silt,” Megan said.



Her exquisite works have also drawn the attention of Telstra CEO and patron of the arts, Mr. Andrew Penn, who has works of Megan’s in both his private collection and in the Telstra collection.

“I ... commissioned a serious body of work from Megan which we now have in the Telstra collection and we also use as gifts for significant customers and visiting dignitaries Through this process Megan’s work now showcases in many international offices and other collections including the Kerry Stokes collection.

Megan’s work draws on the spiritual and very earthly nature of Australia’s landscape. This is what connects me to it and why I commissioned the work - To share in a very emotive way this connection with the nature of Australia through art,” Andrew said.

Another favourite of Mr Penn’s, and whose artwork features in his private collection, is Mellissa Read-Devine.

Born in England, **Mellissa Read-Devine** emigrated to Australia with her family when she was just a child. For the past fifteen years she has continuously studied and practised painting and printmaking honing her art to perfection. Her impressionism style of work has been the recipient of many award and prizes and is displayed in many galleries and private collections.

Living in rural Sydney overlooking the Hawkesbury River, Mellissa Read -Devine’s work ranges between vibrant interpretations of her local landscape to intricate wood & linocuts. Her combination of quirkiness and calm blend to create works with a strong spiritual base.

Her upcoming solo exhibition, *Verdance* promises the same vibrancy and emotion that has captivated viewers in the past.



“I have been led to explore the glories of floral painting, as well as the feminine figure in reverie. It is a dance of brushstrokes, luxurious with paint and colour. Some paintings hint at a hidden anguish, but all of them are of joy,” Mellissa stated.

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All the way from the cusp of Ohio's Amish country in the United States, **Jon Stucky's** solo show, *What Goes Around Comes Around* explores his connection to his ancestry.

His early exposure to art and design was the goods and products that the Amish created for use in everyday life. Jon studied art at High School is formally trained in textile design by The Cleveland Institute of Art in Cleveland, Ohio.



Layers of design, pattern and colour combine, his work is done as a stream of conscience and plays heavily on the relationship between perceptions of good and evil across many cultures.

"The work in this show is about deconstructing the past with an eye for the future, as well as exploring the person I have become. Layered images reveal a history of family, places and times I remember along with the exploration of history before my existence and how these things have made me the person that I am today," Jon said.

This exhibition will officially open on
Saturday 9th September 2017 | 5pm - 7pm

Artists Megan Puls, Mellissa Read-Devine and Sally Paxton will all be in attendance at the Opening night reception.

Entertainment by local Gold Coast Blues duo - The James Street Preachers.

Contact: For all media enquiries, artist interviews and images please contact Erika Spanos at erika@19karen.com.au or Kylie Cox at kylie@19karen.com.au or phone us on (07) 55545 019.

19 Karen Contemporary Artspace is the biggest art gallery on the Gold Coast and represents just under 100 Australian and International artists.