

## FORM

# Built Constructs

Curator Polly Dance has brought together emerging and early-mid career artists in Built Constructs, her first exhibition as part of the Adelaide City Council's emerging curator program, which gives an emerging curator the opportunity to mount exhibitions at both the Town Hall and Art Pod (Pirie Street) over a 12-month period.

BY JANE LLEWELLYN

“I wanted to start with a show that actually talked to the environment we live in, but in the cityscape and the urban cosmos,” Dance says. “*Built Constructs* looks at our urban landscape, and more domestic suburban landscapes, and the physical constructs we have to negotiate in everyday life.”

For Dance it was James Dodd's *DIY Google Street View* that was the starting point for the exhibition. “It's really interesting and telling of our current position in society. There are big things going on that we have no control over but they have control over us.”

Dodd's work questions why we allow corporations to film over our fence and store information but are not comfortable with an individual doing it. In making the work he came into contact with the police, a reminder of our

limitations and boundaries within our urban environment. Also featured in the exhibition are paintings by Thom Buchanan who, like Dodd, celebrates the urban environment.

Looking at the domestic environment is Annalise Rees. Through her hand-stitched works of domestic scenes and everyday objects, Rees explores ideas of place and how we identify ourselves through the spaces we navigate. The works were originally part of a 3D space you could walk through – shown at the JamFactory – and for *Built Constructs*, Dance includes three panels from the installation.

Other artists include Tom Borgas, who explores the digital environment through his handcrafted sculptures inspired by the structural language of digital media. By aligning analogue processes and digital



Tom Borgas, *Postdigital Artefacts (6 rocks)*, 2013, acoustic foam, dental plaster and spray paint, 95 x 27 x 10cm. Courtesy the artist and Hill Smith Gallery.



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systems, Borgas looks at the broader concept of nature and culture. While Dodd in *DIY Google Street View* literally looks into our backyards, Sundari Carmody explores a broader global environment with her work *The Southern Skies*, a map of the stars in the southern sky.

The Art Pod on Pirie Street acts as an extension to the Town Hall Gallery space. Dance says: "I will be working with artists that are activating space in there. It's more of an activation, interaction and participation space for me."

The current exhibition *PAINTFACE You Reckless Bath Towel*, continues the *PAINTFACE* series that Dance established while running Constance ARI, Tasmania. It features the work of Tasmanian textile artist Mae Finlayson and Melbourne painter, Grant Nimmo.

Dance will continue the ideas explored in *Built Constructs* in future exhibitions. Already in the pipeline is *Interrogating the Land*, which will explore our spiritual connection with the land and our heritage, and *Ghostly Nature*. Dance says, "*Ghostly Nature* is the flipside of *Built Constructs*".

"It looks at how the dark histories of our past and how those ghosts, or that tangible

history, never leaves us. It also looks at personal histories and natural history."

Mounting an exhibition of contemporary art at the historical Adelaide Town Hall presents an interesting contrast between old and new. It provides an opportunity to reflect on our environment and see it from the unique perspective of the artists involved.

"For me the whole show is about how we negotiate the built surroundings we live in," Dance says, "and that might just be walking out of your front door, or it might be the scaling of the buildings you are walking past, or it might be your neighborhood."

» **Built Constructs**  
Adelaide Town Hall

Continues until Friday, January 30

[adelaidetownhall.com.au/art-music/public-art-gallery](http://adelaidetownhall.com.au/art-music/public-art-gallery)

» **PAINTFACE You Reckless Bath Towel**  
Art Pod

Continues until Friday, January 30

[adelaidecitycouncil.com/whats-on/event/paintface-you-reckless-bath-towel](http://adelaidecitycouncil.com/whats-on/event/paintface-you-reckless-bath-towel)



## UNISA GRAD EXHIBITION

The Visual Communications students of the University of South Australia held their opening launch called 2:34 on Wednesday, November 26 at the City West Campus. It represented a dynamic collective of students who undertake a diverse range of processes to reach the end result.

