

PAT BRASSINGTON 2 FEBRUARY - 6 MARCH NIGHT SWIMMING

ARC
ONE



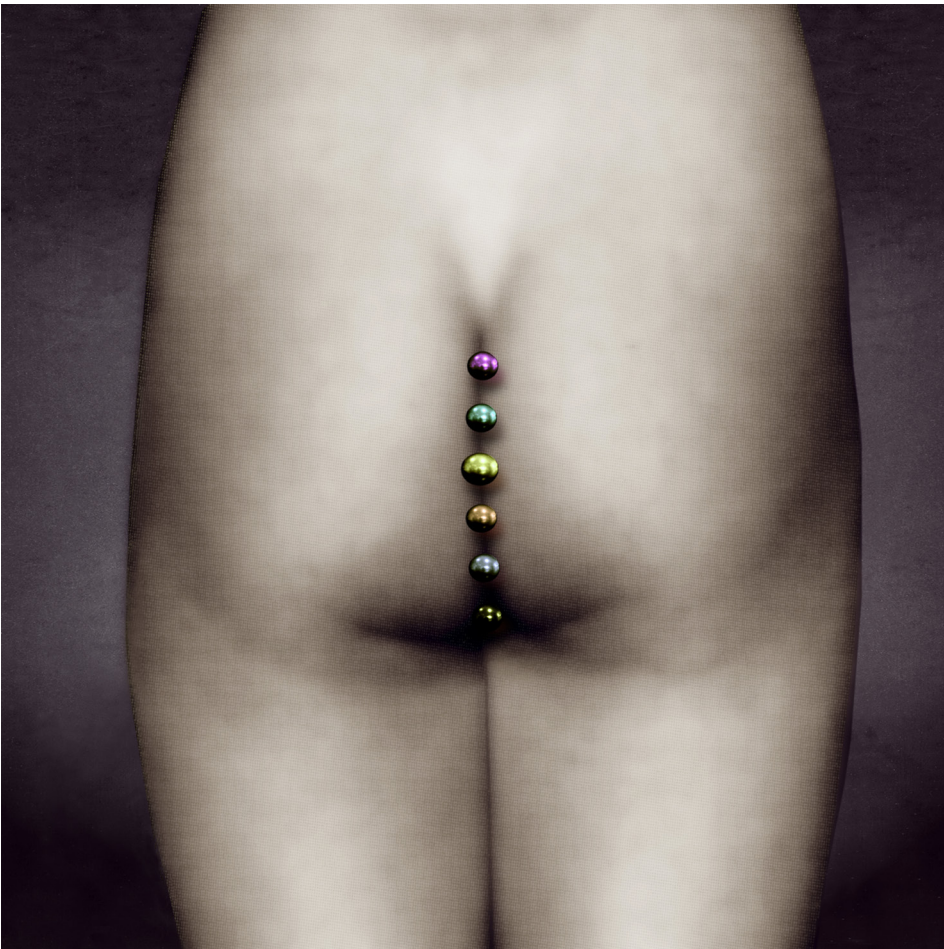
One of Australia's most significant and influential artists, Pat Brassington, returns to ARC ONE with *Night Swimming*, a new body of work presented as part of the PHOTO 2021 International Festival of Photography. An opening reception will be held on Friday 19 February, 6-8pm.

Pat Brassington's work uncovers how the endless possibilities of our deep and complex inner states — narratives of sex, memory and identity — run quietly rampant.

Influenced by surrealism, feminism and psychoanalysis, Brassington is known for her ability to combine the ordinary with the unusual, making her work provocatively ambiguous. In *Night Swimming*, she employs photomontage to reveal the power of the mind to transform mundane objects and situations into sites/sights of sensuality, desire, horror or menace. Baulking prior to resolution, Brassington leaves her work open to interpretation; allowing the viewers' visual mind to make its own associations. Digitally manipulated and evocatively juxtaposed, bodily fragments, inky tones, fetish objects and claustrophobic interiors are rendered abject or sublime, unsettling or seductive by the viewer; exposing our innermost predilections, hopes, biases and fears.

Typical of the artist's work, these monochromatic images bring together a series of fragments which create a strange and ambiguous world. The parts of the images — a fish slipping down a throat, a jarring clash of sharp fingernails, heads which twist into a strange darkness and feet that curl — are drawn from Brassington's vast archive of visual material and are deeply personal. These disjointed compositions offer contradictions between the soft charcoal tones of the pigment print, the intimacy of the forms and the unsettling charge of the juxtapositions. *Night Swimming* rouses a sense of disquiet as the images subtly and humorously scratch at the underbelly of the human condition.

With a career spanning more than three decades, Pat Brassington is one of Australia's leading contemporary artists. In 2018, Brassington won the prestigious Australia Council Award for Visual Arts. In 2017, she was awarded the inaugural Don Macfarlane Prize. In 2013, she won the Monash Gallery of Art Bowness Photography Prize. In 2012, she was honoured with a major nationally touring survey of her work, *A Rebours*, by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA). Brassington's work has also featured extensively in major exhibitions, including *The Body Electric*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra (2020/21); *Dressing up: clothing and camera*, Monash Gallery of Art, Victoria (2019); *Defining Place/Space: Contemporary Photography from Australia*, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego (2019); *In Her Words*, Horsham Regional Art Gallery (2019); *The Shape of Things to Come at Buxton Contemporary*, Melbourne (2018); *Today Tomorrow Yesterday at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney* (2017); *Lurid Beauty: Australian Surrealism and its Echoes*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2015); *Adelaide Biennial Parallel Collisions* (2012); *Feminism Never Happened at the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane* (2010); *the Biennale of Sydney* (2004); *World Without End - Photography and the 20th Century at the Art Gallery of New South Wales* (2000); and *Fotokunst Aus Australien, Berlin* (2000), curated by Bernice Murphy. Selected recent solo exhibitions include *Pat Brassington at Ten Cubed*, Melbourne (2018); *The Body Electric*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (2017); *Just So*, ARC ONE Gallery, Melbourne (2016); *In search of the marvellous at CAST Gallery, Hobart* (2013); a survey exhibition at the *Lönnstrom Art Museum, Finland* (2008); *Pat Brassington at the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane* (2007); a major solo retrospective at the *Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne* (2002) and *Gentle at Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne* (2001). Pat Brassington's work is held in many public collections including the Art Gallery of NSW; Queensland Art Gallery; National Gallery of Australia; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; National Gallery of Victoria; Art Gallery of Western Australia; Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart; Buxton Contemporary, Melbourne; ArtBank, Sydney; Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne; Cologne Museum of Contemporary Art, Germany; Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne; Geelong Art Gallery; Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne; City of Yarra Collection; University of Technology, Sydney; Banyule City Council; Horsham Gallery of Art; Murdoch University, WA; Devonport Art Gallery, Tasmania; Burnie Regional Gallery, Tasmania; Fremantle Arts Centre, WA; University of the Northern Territory, Darwin; La Trobe University Art Collection, Melbourne; Collection of Legal Aid Victoria. Pat Brassington lives and works in Hobart, Tasmania.



Images: Pat Brassington, *Foot/oose*, 2019, pigment print, edition of 6, 75 x 75 cm;
Pat Brassington, *Precious*, 2019, pigment print, edition of 6, 75 x 75 cm;