

GROUP EXHIBITION CLOSER

7 - 24 FEBRUARY

OPENING: 9 FEBRUARY, 5:30 - 7:30PM

ARC
ONE
GALLERY

"She was like a park that had never once removed its Don't Walk on the Grass signs." - Elizabeth Harrower

Two people can only get so close. CLOSER gathers a group of artists concerned with the elusive nature of intimacy. Before we get any closer to these works, there are a myriad of obstacles in our way.

In this special exhibition esteemed artists from ARC ONE Gallery, **PAT BRASSINGTON, ROSE FARRELL & GEORGE PARKIN**, and **HONEY LONG & PRUE STENT**, are joined by **Grace Stevenson**, the recipient of the 2023 ARC ONE Artist Opportunity awarded to a graduating student from the VCA Masters or Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) program. This marks the second year that ARC ONE has partnered with Victorian College of the Arts to present this award, and we are proud to be supporting this exceptional graduate.

Grace Stevenson's portraits are based on historical photographs of anonymous individuals that she collects from op shops, online stores, and markets. Although her work presents a certain veracity, each subject is covered by a vivid, alien-green veil. Unbeknownst to us, Stevenson has introduced doppelgänger-features across multiple portraits; for instance, "the same eyes are often used on multiple faces." While we typically approach portraits as if they can tell us something meaningful about the sitter, these works expose the "inauthenticity of the portrait as a representation of identity."

ROSE FARRELL (d. 2015) & **GEORGE PARKIN** (d. 2012) shared a twisted humour that they conveyed in all their collaborative works. In pieces from the late-1990s, they appear to depict a medieval torture scene, but in reality, portray an obsolete medical equipment used for rejoining a dislocated shoulder or fractured bones. Through the actions of pulling, squeezing, and pushing, the patient comes apart even as they come together.

HONEY LONG & PRUE STENT also enjoy a tandem practice, alongside a preoccupation with physical intimacy. Their images are often defined by a prophylactic touch, portraying instances where fabric or plastic barriers appear between the human figure and the wider world.

Throughout her 40-year career, **PAT BRASSINGTON** has always held the spectator at bay. Marked by a hypnotic quality, many of her compositions intentionally restrain, frustrate, or obscure a clear view. The more her work twists out of sight, the more we find ourselves compelled to pursue it, looking for a way in, eager to get just a little bit closer.

For more information on each artist visit our website: www.arcone.com.au

For all enquiries, interviews and images please contact ARC ONE Gallery at mail@arc1gallery.com or (03) 9650 0589

Image caption: Pat Brassington, *You Again*, 2001, Digital pigment print, 60 x 45cm.

