

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Women In Abstraction: an exhibition showcasing works by emerging South Australian artists**

Carclew's artists and curator in residence will proudly open their *Women In Abstraction* exhibition on Thursday, as part of the **South Australian Living Artists (SALA)** and **Feminist Renewal Art Network (FRAN)** festivals.

Curated by Carclew's **Curator in Residence** Olivia Kubiak and featuring artworks by Carclew's **Artists in Residence** Imogen Porteous and Emma Sullivan, *Women In Abstraction* aims to deconstruct traditional beliefs of femininity through abstraction, thus questioning the hierarchy of the professedly masculine technique.

Carclew Chief Executive Tricia Walton said Carclew's Artists in Residence Program helps artists grow, gain industry support and expand their professional networks.

"Carclew has been delighted to host three incredible young female artists as part of this year's program," Ms Walton said.

"Each resident has really made the most of this opportunity and together they have produced a very exciting exhibition."

Artist Imogen Porteous' body of work was inspired by her interest in understanding her identity as a female artist.

"I've been inspired by my research into second and third-wave feminist art practice and women abstract painters. The idea that we are not born a gender but rather that gender is culturally constructed, is a concept that has become very important to third-wave feminist thought. This concept is explored in my creative practice through active gestures, colour, text and concealed elements," Imogen said.

Imogen, Emma and Olivia have had access to Carclew's studio space seven days a week throughout the year as part of the residency program, which has assisted them through the creative process.

Curator Olivia Kubiak said she has been able to realise her dream of putting together an exhibition.

"Having the opportunity to exhibit in Carclew's beautiful ballroom is very exciting and I think it will really emphasise the beauty of Imogen and Emma's work," Olivia said.

"My time at Carclew has taught me so much about curating and understanding how to put an exhibition together. I have gained technical skills and I've also had the chance to meet some high profile people from the industry – it has already opened up a lot of doors for me," Olivia said.

The *Women In Abstraction* exhibition will be held in **Carclew's Ballroom Gallery** from **3 August – 24 September 2017**.

For more information about the exhibition, please visit: <https://carclew.com.au/Program/women-in-abstraction>.

For more information about Carclew's Artist in Residence program, please visit: <https://carclew.com.au/Program/artist-in-residence>.

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