

# Obviously



04 May - 01 July

*sweet pea at Lawson Flats*

A group show featuring  
*Marla Bendini, Nazerul Ben-Dzulkefli,  
Patrick Carter and Luisa Hansal*

# Obviously

# sweet pea

*Obviously* is the second of four exhibitions curated by *sweet pea* and taking place at our *Lawson Flats* space during 2023. Each exhibition will explore ways to imbue the so called 'ordinary' with meaning and power.

*Obviously* brings together four artists whose practices are driven by process - meaning that the images and objects they create are not fully premeditated but manifest through their engagement with techniques, medium, feeling and spirit. In this way the process of art making can reveal untapped questions, stories, and knowledge that - when looking at the finished work - can be so revealing or true as to seem obvious in hindsight.

*sweet pea* acknowledges that this exhibition takes place on unceded *Whadjuk Noongar boodjar*. We pay our respects to elders past and present. This exhibition has been made possible with support from the *West Australian* government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. *sweet pea* would also like to extend a special thanks to *Lawson Flats* for their generous support.

*sweet pea* is a gallery located at *58 Pier Street* in *Boorloo* on *Noongar Boodjar* (*Perth, Western Australia*). *sweet pea* exhibits significant solo exhibitions from and represents *Western Australian* artists. Our aim is to build meaningful and sustainable, long-term artistic careers and to play our part in building a collegial, fair and accessible local arts community.

As well as facilitating sales, *sweet pea* also offers a range of art services including exhibition and curatorial consultancy, art advisory services and artwork installation. No job is too large or small, so please contact us to start a conversation about your job or project.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians and rightful owners of the land on which we are situated, the *Whadjuk* people of the *Noongar* nation. We acknowledge all First Nation elders past, present and emerging. This land was never ceded and we work in the spirit of reconciliation.

# Obviously

## Marla Bendini

*Darkest Before Dawn*  
2022  
Oil on Linen  
\$7,500

*Soften Our Hearts and Harden Our Feet*  
2022  
Oil and oil pastel on linen  
\$6,000

*Marla Bendini* is an artist who works in painting, text, sound and performance to articulate the multi-faceted transgender experience on her own terms. Her current practice uses the female gaze through a combination of writing, drawing, painting, collage and printmaking to create layered 'documentations' of a unique woman's experience. Her painting *Soften Our Hearts and Harden Our Feet* takes a queer reading of the figure of saint Michael and depicts the saint here as muscular, heroic, and anonymous. *In Darkest Before Dawn* Marla herself is now depicted with face obscured, embracing a close friend while both are naked and vulnerable to the weather.

## Nazerul Ben-Dzulkefli

*Must I stay put*  
2023  
Glazed stoneware

*Large objects* \$800 each  
*Small objects* \$200 each

*Nazerul Ben-Dzulkefli* works predominantly – although not exclusively – in ceramics and whose work is informed by the cultures of *Singapore* and the *Malay Archipelago*. His work often taps into themes of death and afterlife, religion, family and the potentials and limits of language. For *Obviously*, *Nazerul's* work *Must I stay put* consists of stone forms inscribed with glyphs of a personal script derived from *Arabic* and old *Malay*. Parts of the script refer to folk stories in which a character is turned to stone after spurning his mother, others to Islamic teachings around respect for parents. *Must I stay put* is a rumination on the complex feelings surrounding migration and obligation to family left behind, processed through a direct and tactile engagement with clay.

## Patrick Carter

*Process*  
2015  
Digital video with sound

*Untitled*  
2023  
Acrylic on canvas

*Untitled*  
2023  
Acrylic on canvas

All prices on application, please inquire!

*Patrick Carter* tells his stories through performance, video, movement, painting, music and sound and his work often explores stories of family, camping on country, love and connection. He often collapses disciplines in his video works where dance moves, music and spoken word unfold as an expansive drawing process. For *Obviously* *Patrick* presents the video work *Process* which follows the making of a drawing created using silhouettes and tracings of hand moulded clay forms. In this work the medium of drawing becomes a playful and animated world building technique.

## Luisa Hansal

*You listen and he dies*  
2022  
Oil on cotton canvas board  
\$3,500

Inspired by spiritualist and mystic painters, *Luisa Hansal* approaches art making as an entryway into inner space. Through painting a visual language of forms and symbols appear, bringing forth a tender understanding of some deeper meaning she often can't articulate through speech. There is a tension between the tangible and psychic nature of painting she finds almost magical. Through the act of painting *Luisa* attempts to refine her visual expression of personal grief, compassion, and sentiment.





For all inquires  
*andrew@sweetpea.gallery*

*@sweet.pea.arts*  
*www.sweetpea.gallery*

*58 Pier Street,*  
*Boorloo (Perth), 6000*