

**Media contact:** Penny Whitehead | T: 0404 846 202 | E: penny@geelonggallery.org.au

# Opening soon: Still life painting—Adam Pyett

**20 May to 16 July 2017****Opening: Saturday 20 May by private invitation only**

The first comprehensive survey of Melbourne artist **Adam Pyett's** works will go on show next month at **Geelong Gallery**. The exhibition, titled *Still life painting—Adam Pyett* is a unique opportunity to see the progression of Pyett's practice through works spanning over a ten year period within his more extensive career.

The exhibition charts Pyett's practice: his most recent works (2015–16) depict native Australian plants, arranged in transparent vessels, variously atop plain or decorated surfaces. Painted in a vibrant palette, the plant cuttings, water-filled vases, shadows and table surfaces take on almost abstracted forms. This series was preceded by a number of still life paintings in which native arrangements housed in modest recycled water bottles and café glasses were depicted in dark, dramatic settings.

Icons of consumer culture such as Fosters beer cans and Coca cola cans, and rock t-shirts for the Ramones, Motorhead and AC/DC draped across humble milk crates, bring a very contemporary flavour to Pyett's still life subject matter. While earlier works focussed on the skull, a long-standing subject in still life representative of the transience of life: in Pyett's works, skulls are variously reflected, positioned alongside native banksias and proteas, or housed within plastic shopping bags.

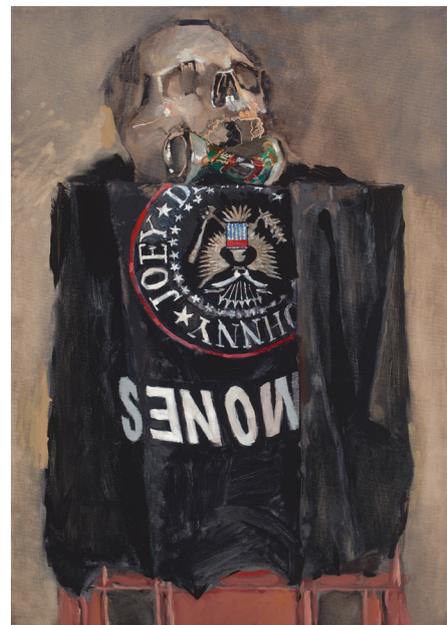
Geelong Gallery Director, **Jason Smith** says "*Geelong Gallery is delighted to be working closely with Melbourne-based artist Adam Pyett on the presentation of his ten-year survey. Adam brings attention to the enduring subject of still life and is an important contemporary painter whom we look forward to presenting in his first institutional exhibition.*"

Pyett's work is held in public and private collections throughout Australia, including the National Gallery of Victoria, Monash University Collection, and McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park Collection. He has also been shortlisted in several of Geelong Gallery's biennial painting prizes including the *Geelong contemporary art prize* in 2016 and 2014, and the *Fletcher Jones art prize* in 2010, 2008 and 2006. He is represented by Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne.

*Still life painting—Adam Pyett* opens on 20 May and runs until 16 July. Entry is free.



Adam Pyett  
*Flowering gum* 2013  
oil on linen  
Private collection  
Reproduced courtesy of the artist and Sophie Gannon  
Gallery, Melbourne



Adam Pyett  
*Ramones* 2014  
oil on linen  
Reproduced courtesy of the artist and Sophie Gannon  
Gallery, Melbourne

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## Media contact—

For further information, to request interviews or high-resolution images, please contact:

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Geelong Gallery

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## Public programs—

### Floortalk: Saturday 17 June, 2pm

Adam Pyett will discuss his current survey exhibition of works spanning ten years, focusing on his long-standing interest in the still life genre.

Free event, no bookings required.

## Government partners



Geelong Gallery is supported  
by the Victorian Government  
through Arts Victoria

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Little Malop Street Geelong VIC 3220 | T: 03 5229 3645 | **Free entry** Open daily 10am–5pm

[www.geelonggallery.org.au](http://www.geelonggallery.org.au)

**Geelong  
Gallery**