

gesture

curated by Michelle Chanique

Chelsea Lehmann

Tanya Linney

Chris Casali

Ben King

5 - 29 July 2023

Stanley Street gallery
SYDNEY



Gestures often referring to nonverbal communication, are a felt experience. They can be intentional or unintentional, widely recognised or small and intimate. The exhibition *Gesture*, curated by Michelle Chanique brings together four artists to develop this conversation, thinking about non-verbal languages in surface, medium, and physical movement.

Chelsea Lehmann's painting *Pleasure Treatise* is the starting point of the show. The entwined bodies converge narrative with loose brushstrokes, creating a surface of tangled abundance. With an apple in one palm and a harp in another the faceless figures caught in fervent embrace fill the canvas with baroque sensuality. The artist's technical rigour blends traditional techniques of chiaroscuro with contemporary abstraction, playing with notions of creation and censorship.

The work of Tanya Linney push the painterly movement of Lehmann's work even further. Linney strips back the idea of gesture to a raw extent, simplifying and expanding the brushstroke across the canvas. Exploring scale and colour, the effect is visceral, giving an immediate sense of vitality and wildness to the painted surface.

In contrast to the spirit of Linney's work, Chris Casali's breathtaking detail reminds us to take a moment and pause. Sitting within an environmental framework, each surface invites a personal encounter with the natural world. Casali's intricate and careful abstraction considers what it means to connect and experience kinship with nature.

The work of Ben King disrupts the conversation between the walls, pulling the audience back towards the idea of gesture as physical and performative. His ceramic sculptures are whimsical and nostalgic, drawing on childhood memory. The rough surfaces have a painterly quality, evoking the visceral interaction between the clay and the artist, exploring sensation and suggestion rather than realism.

Responding directly to the practices of the four artists, Chanique's curation initiates a conversation around medium, surface and physical movement. In many ways, the three painters reveal the sensibility and tactility of a sculptor. On the other hand, the sculptor's work is evocative of painterly gesture. This tension plays with our lens of perception, reminding us that it is important to view things in a different manner and live outside category.

Claire de Carteret
Writer



Chelsea Lehmann

Chelsea Lehmann
Pleasure Treatise
Oil on linen
99 x 98 cm

\$8,200

ENQUIRE

Chelsea Lehmann

Ravel

2023

Oil on linen

71 x 102 cm

\$7,900

ENQUIRE





Chelsea Lehmann

The Ponds

2021

Oil on linen, 37 x 72 cm

\$3,800

ENQUIRE

Chelsea Lehmann

Verdant

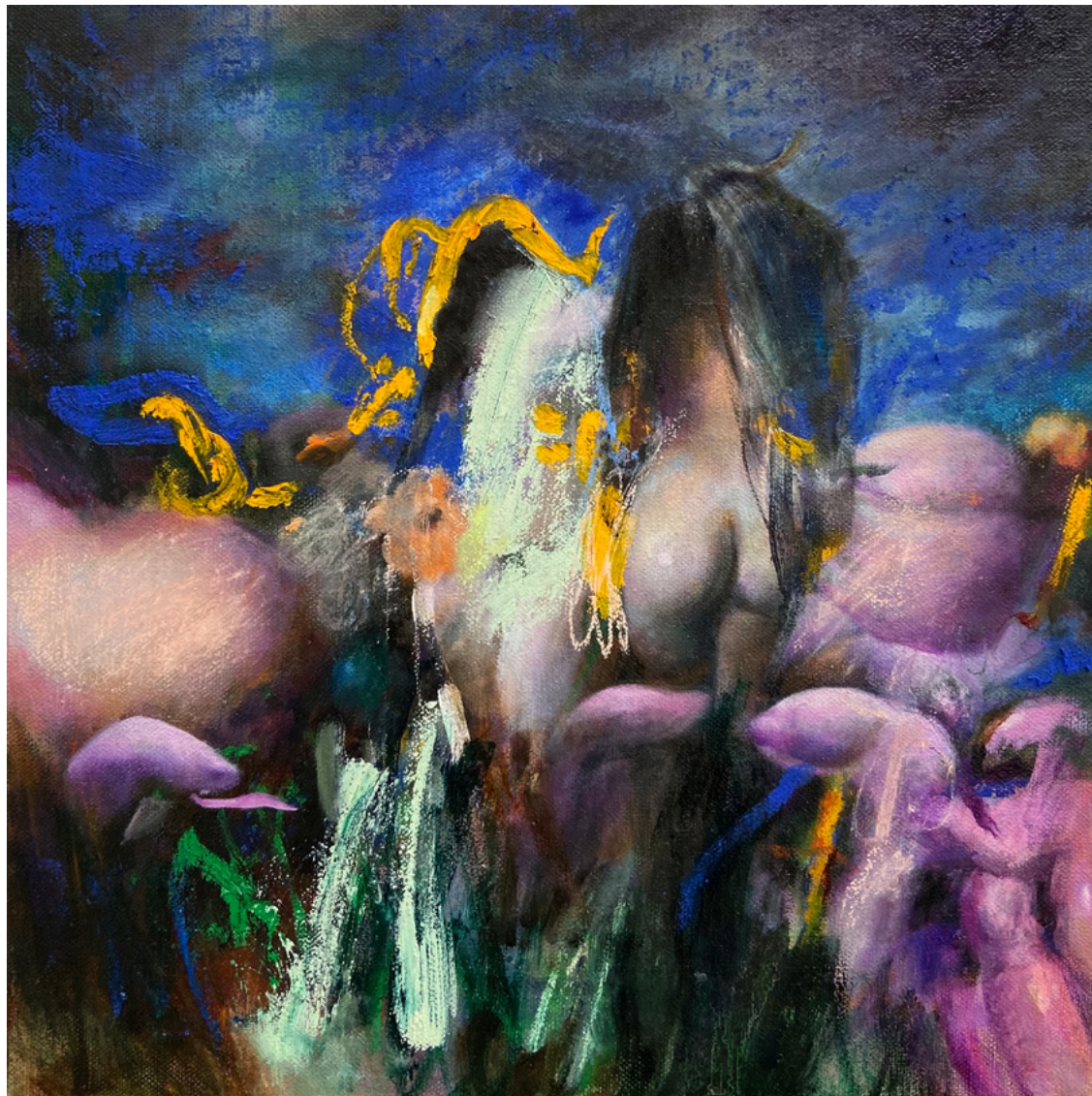
2023

Oil, oil stick and pastel on linen

30.3 x 30.5 cm Framed

\$1,500

ENQUIRE



Chelsea Lehmann

This series of paintings is concerned with the body as a constantly changing and evolving entity, both physically and socially. My curiosity lies in the intersection of personal experiences of intimacy and desire with the tumultuous realities of our contemporary world – shaped by pandemic, ecological concerns, and social inequalities. Through the application of diverse paint viscosities and layering techniques, I explore the transformation and suppression of physical forms within chaotic environments, suggesting a continuous negotiation between inner and outer pressures. As fluid and ephemeral postures unfold amidst this turbulence, echoes of historical art forms intermittently surface and dissolve, emphasising the mutability of bodily forms.



Chelsea Lehmann has exhibited extensively in Australia for the past two decades, and has been the recipient of several awards, grants, and local and international residencies. Her work is informed by baroque and surrealist approaches to representing the body in pictorial space, referencing the body's fragmentation and changing definitions in the 21st century. She is a Lecturer in Drawing at the National Art School and completed a PhD at UNSW Art & Design in 2019.



Chris Casali

Chris Casali
Untitled; Study of Contrasts #1
Acrylic on canvas
168 x 152.5 cm

\$7,800

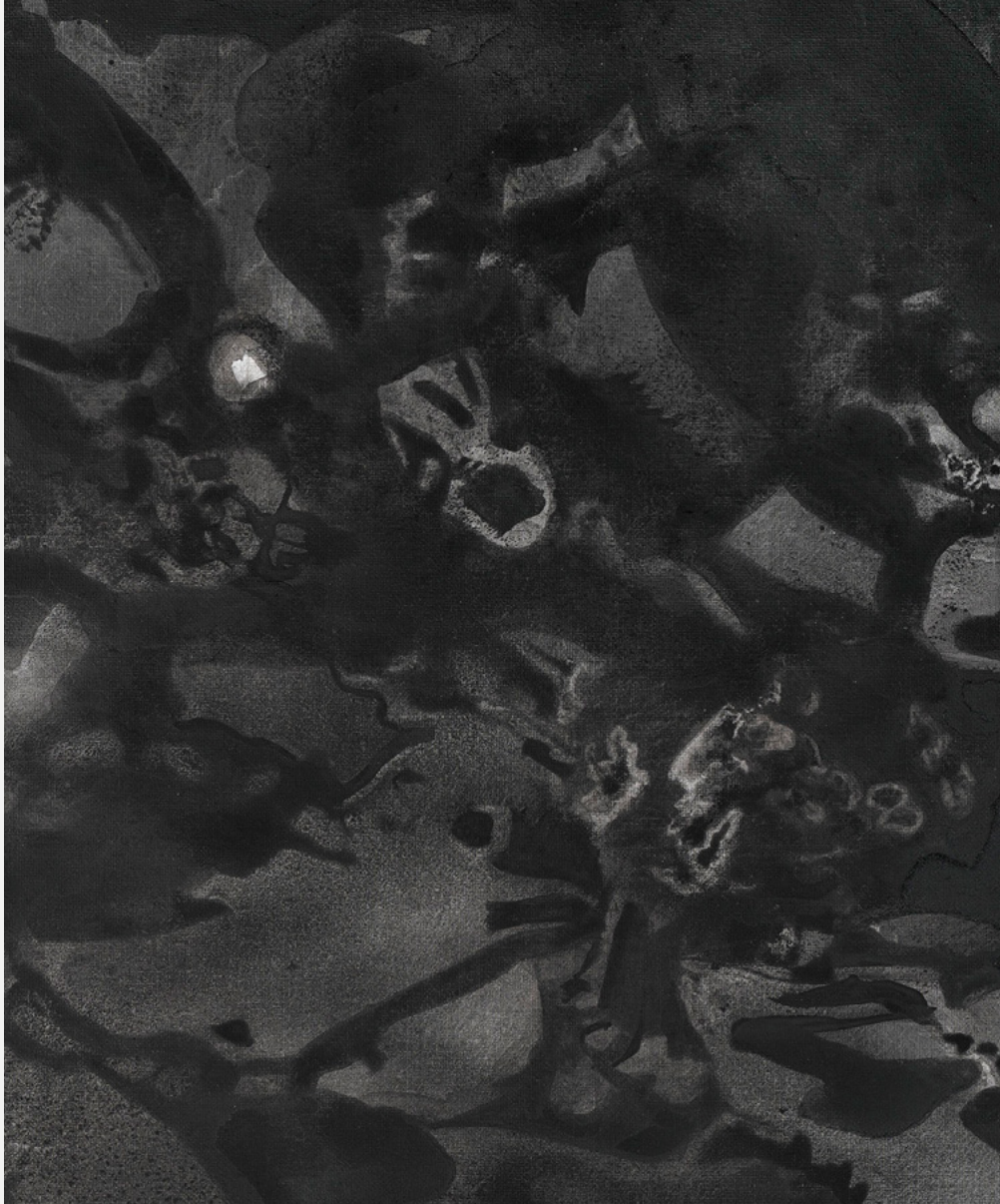
ENQUIRE

Chris Casali
Untitled; Study of Contrasts #2
Acrylic on canvas
61 x 51 cm

\$2,800

ENQUIRE





Chris Casali
Untitled; Study of Contrasts #3
Acrylic on canvas
61 x 51 cm

\$2,800

ENQUIRE

Chris Casali

Chris Casali's process driven practice employs an exploratory and intuitive approach to the creation of highly detailed and considered paintings. Her work, guided by the gesture of abstract expressionism, considers the influence of the external world on the internal self.

Her practice does not conform to a particular theoretic framework, rather she is guided by various personal experiences and memories as well as her ongoing fascination with detail. Her deep understanding of the materiality of paint allows her works to evolve dramatically over time. She straddles the tension between push and pull in her abstract marks on the canvas until a form is finally revealed. This form often hints towards the natural environment and fractured landscapes that are now obscured and disconnected in form.

This process navigates the depiction of the conscious and subconscious, it also hints towards an active withdrawal from the world, a coping mechanism that uses meditative practices that are both emotional and intuitive. While the detail in the works created by layered and deliberate marks can overwhelm the viewer, they also pose invitation to their experiences and interpretation.

Concurrently alongside her professional painting practice, Casali has held an extensive career in Arts Education and Management, including the position of Head of Visual Arts and Ceramics at TAFE NSW, Sydney Region.

Formal study attained includes a Master of Fine Art with Excellence from the University of New South Wales [2018]; a Diploma of Fine Arts from the National Art School, Sydney [1994] and a Diploma of Graphic Design from Enmore Design Centre, Sydney TAFE [1998].

Casali's work has been featured in solo and group shows in Australia and internationally, including Mexico, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Italy, and China. She has been represented in numerous art prizes including: the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize [Finalist, Professional Category, 2023]; Dobell Drawing Prize 22# [2021]; KAAF Art Prize [2019]; 3rd Taiwan Watercolour Award Exhibition [2019]; Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize [Winner - Emerging Category, 2019]; Splash McClelland Contemporary Watercolour Award [2021, 2018]; the Biennial International Marche d'Acqua Watercolour Prize [2018]; the Kedumba Drawing Award [2015, 2016]; The Macquarie Group Emerging Artist Prize [People's Choice Award and Highly Commended, 2016]; Tim Olsen Drawing Award [2016]; Fishers Ghost Drawing/Printmaking Award [2014] and the Winsor & Newton Emerging Artist Prize [Highly Commended, 2013].

Her work is held in public and private collections in Australia and internationally, including: the Paper and Watermark Museum, Fabriano, Italy; the Kedumba Collection of Drawings; the Macquarie Group Collection; and the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Collection.



Tanya Linney

Tanya Linney
Barefoot Dancing from A to Z
2023
Acrylic on polyester in custom frame
90 x 120 cm

SOLD

ENQUIRE





Tanya Linney
Love Potion Number Nine
2023

Acrylic on polyester in custom frame
41 x 51 cm

\$1,500

ENQUIRE

Tanya Linney
Season Of The Witch
2023
Acrylic on polyester in custom
frame 41 x 51 cm

\$1,500

ENQUIRE





Tanya Linney
Washed Away (after Ukeles)
2023

Acrylic on polyester in custom frame
41 x 51 cm

\$1,500

ENQUIRE

Tanya Linney

Linney's ritual emphasis on gesture, texture and colour transform her works from their literal depictions into their representations; they become an extension of sensibilities, figureheads of greater concepts – from a painting to a 'painting,' they simultaneously role-play and are the true, real and authentic. In this, Linney acts as martyr, her belief in the ordinary, elevating non-art objects and practices to the realm of philosophical contemplation – leading to her death as the artist, an anonymity of the auteur.

Tanya Linney is passionate about the nexus of technology and art with a focus on the representation of domesticity and women in a digital context. These concepts are explored through the use of sculpture, material, installation, photography and painting.

She is a Sydney based multi-disciplinary artist and a graduate of the National Art School. She has been a finalist in the 2023 Omnia Art Prize and the 2023 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize; 2022 Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Redlands Art Award and the Waverly Art Prize; 2021 Blackstone Works on Paper Prize and Into The Light Whitewall Art Prize; 2019 Sir William Dobell National Drawing Prize and the Waverly Art Prize; 2018 Winner Major Painting Award, Richard Luchese Abstract Painting Prize, National Art School.





Ben King

Ben King
Checkered Flag, Soft Dream

2023

Tasmanian Oak, Ply Wood,
Acrylic, Ceramic
65 x 110 x 70 cm

\$2,500

ENQUIRE

Ben King
Hermit Crab
2022
Ceramic
28 x 28.5 x 10 cm

SOLD

ENQUIRE





Ben King
I Love You
2023
Ceramic
28 x 20 x 4 cm

SOLD

ENQUIRE

Ben King
Superstar
2023
Ceramic
29 x 29 x 3 cm

SOLD

ENQUIRE



Ben King

Ben King is a ceramic artist recognisable for his playful and strangely evocative work

Ben's use of traditional ceramic forms such as plates and figures distorts the notion of everyday objects, challenging ceramic conventionality. A key concept lies in the individual, living spirit of each piece, and their rough solidity contrasts with the delicate attention he gives to them.

His pieces conjure childhood motifs often in humorously disarming, if not disconcerting ways. Comical looking characters may on closer inspection emerge as threatening, even scary. Trial and trauma appear instantaneously in parallel with living, yet manifest as dream-like imagery, ultimately offering a realistic optimism.



Michelle Chanique



Michelle Chanique is a Sydney based artist, curator who was born in Santiago, Chile. Chanique works across photography, video, and sculpture, and is fundamentally preoccupied with taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary. Maybe due to being an immigrant herself, a constant theme in her work is 'displacement', which has evolved and taken on many different shapes and forms. Chanique's objective is to engage the viewer on a reflection of the everyday, to elevate the banal, and to consider how the emotional, the psychological and the physical can evoke meaning or lack of, and most importantly a sense of play.

Chanique holds a Bachelor's degree from UNSW Art & Design, and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from UNSW Art & Design in 2020. She has exhibited widely in Sydney and Melbourne and has been commissioned by Fairfield City Council to produce video work. She has recently finished a residency with the Woollahra Council.

Image Credits

Chelsea Lehmann

Artwork: Document & courtesy of the artist

Portrait: Michelle Chanique

Chris Casali

Artwork: Courtesy of the artist

Portrait: Michelle Chanique

Tanya Linney

Artwork: Courtesy of the artist

Portrait: Michelle Chanique

Ben King

Artwork: Robin Hearfield

Portrait: Michelle Chanique

Michelle Chanique

Portrait: Felipe Olivares

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