



Artback NT

Media Release



Some Like it Hot, is an exhibition that intersects sweat, sex, desire and discord in Darwin, Australia's hottest and most remote capital city.

Curated by Wendy Garden with works by Therese Ritchie and Franck Gohier, **Some Like it Hot** commences a national tour starting at the Araluen Art Centre in Alice Springs, November 2022, before it travels to South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and West Australia.

The seed of Garden's curiosity to curate **Some Like it Hot** stems from 19th century newspaper articles claiming certain degeneracy of white men sent to the tropics. These assertions, likely penned by authors comfortable in positions of patriarchal power, played on Garden's mind while thinking of her own place within the Top End landscape.

If you are familiar with the work of prominent Northern Territory artists Therese Ritchie and Franck Gohier, it will come as no surprise that Wendy Garden has chosen these two master storytellers to explore ideas of gender.

Both Gohier and Ritchie have spent much of their impressive careers in Darwin, putting human behaviour under a philosophical microscope, and their works contest gender myths, body politics, hyper-masculinity, and accountability.

Ritchie's digital delight, *'Simply Did Not Happen'* depicts lush tropical flowers exploding with fertility dripping over a man's naked torso; another of her works takes a more sober approach. Titled, *"Impale Ale"* the digital print frames a group of men engaged in a physical altercation outside a Darwin drive through bottle shop, the city with the highest rates of alcohol consumption per capita in Australia.

"There is nothing more satisfying than being able to make a picture about a complicated issue", Ritchie says of her quest to hold society accountable. With a background in journalism and a sharp eye for design, Therese Ritchie is well known and respected for her astute social commentary.

Meanwhile with acrylic on boards, Gohier's femme fatales wrestle crocodiles (*Nature vs Nurture*) and drape a drowning Narzissus over their strong shoulders while donning tiny bikinis over their aspirational hourglass figures. (*The Rescue*)

Alluding to gender stereotypes popularised in mid-20th century comic books, romance narratives and action films, Franck Gohier creates paintings that deploy a pop art aesthetic to question sexualised binaries. Drawing upon narratives popularised in romance comics, he humorously probes gendered expressions of love and strife in the sweltering heat of the Top End. *"A sense of humour"*, Gohier says, *"helps the medicine go down, and goes a long way to survive in an often harsh, outpost, frontier town like Darwin"*.

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Quote from Artback NT Chief Executive Officer, Shay Vigona-Goudge

“Reflecting its Top End genesis, this exhibition about heat, place and gendered behaviour is challenging, amusing, irreverent and impressive. But most of all, **Some Like it Hot** is very cool.”

Some Like it Hot is being proudly toured by Artback NT with support from the Northern Territory Government, Australia Council for the Arts, and Visions Australia.

Some Like it Hot itinerary

Araluen Arts Centre | Alice Springs, NT | 11 November 2022 - 5 February 2023

Flinders University Museum of Art | Bedford Park, SA | 20 February - 6 April 2023

Bega Valley Regional Art Gallery | Bega, NSW | 7 July - 13 August 2023

Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery | Coffs Harbour, NSW | 25 August - 29 October 2023

Emerald Art Gallery | Emerald, QLD | 25 November 2023 - 28 January 2024

Geraldton Regional Art Gallery | Geraldton, WA | 17 February - 14 April 2024

Bunbury Regional Art Gallery | Bunbury, WA | 11 May - 23 June 2024

For interviews and media enquiries please contact

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Images and credit information

Therese Ritchie, *Simply did not happen*, 2021 | Courtesy of the Artist

Pigment print

80 x 110cm unframed

105 x 75cm framed

Franck Gohier, *The Rescue*, 2021 | Courtesy of the Artist and James Makin Gallery

Synthetic polymer paint on board

125 x 82cm

About the curator

Wendy Garden is an independent curator and Assistant Director Access & Engagement at the Library & Archives NT. She has held numerous curatorial positions including Curator of Australian Art at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. She holds a doctorate in art history from the University of Melbourne and a Masters of Arts research degree. Her writing and research interests focus on contemporary Australian art and photography. Previously Senior Curator at the Mornington



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Peninsula Regional Gallery in Victoria, Garden has over twenty years' experience curating exhibitions including solo artist retrospectives, group shows and touring exhibitions. Recent curatorial projects include 'Therese Ritchie: burning hearts' (2019-20) and 'Between the Moon and the stars' (2019) both held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory; 'On the beach', Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (2015), 'Storm in a teacup', Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (2015) and 'A curious evolution: Rose Farrell & George Parkin', Deakin University Art Gallery (2015).

About the artists

Franck Gohier b. 1968 Brittany, St Nazaire, France arr. Australia 1972

Franck Gohier has developed a national profile for his satirical paintings and prints, which are informed by his political and social consciousness honed from living in Darwin.

Gohier was born in Brittany, France and arrived in Australia as a child with his parents. They moved to Darwin in 1975 in the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy. Gohier completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in printmaking at the Northern Territory University (Charles Darwin University) in 1991 and has had an ongoing exhibiting career since 1987.

He was a lecturer and technician in the Printmaking Department of the Northern Territory University in the 1990s and together with George Watts and Leon Stainer set up print workshops, later known as Northern Editions. During this period Gohier collaborated on limited edition prints with various Indigenous communities and setup an art program for Aboriginal inmates at Berrimah Prison in collaboration with Correctional Services and 24HR Art. He established Red Hand Prints with Shaun Postie in 1997, an open access studio that held community workshops and actively supported the printmaking activities of Indigenous artists.

Gohier has exhibited widely around Australia and in Germany and Indonesia. He was the subject of a major retrospective held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in 2018 entitled 'Franck Gohier: A thousand miles from everywhere.'

His work has been included in numerous group exhibitions including 'Streetwise: contemporary street culture', National Gallery of Australia, 2015 and 'The Phantom show' – which travelled to regional galleries in New South Wales from 2015 to 2016.

Other exhibitions include the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Canberra Museum and Art Gallery; Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney; Fremantle Arts Centre; Cairns Regional Gallery; Griffith Regional Art Gallery; Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery; Tweed River Art Gallery; Tamworth Regional Art Gallery; Wagga Wagga Art Gallery; Dubbo Regional Gallery and Hazlehurst Regional Gallery amongst others. He has held residencies at the University of Wollongong and Casula Powerhouse Museum.

His work is held in major institutional collections around Australia and private collections in New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, France, Germany, Netherlands, South America and the United States. Mitchell Fine Art in Brisbane and James Makin Gallery in Melbourne represent Gohier.

Therese Ritchie b. Newcastle 1961

Therese Ritchie is critically acclaimed for her astute social commentary combined with pathos, humour and an unwavering eye for the poetic resonances in the everyday.

She moved to Darwin from Sydney in 1981 and has been an exhibiting artist since 1986. She completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Northern Territory University (Charles Darwin University) in 1985 and undertook further studies at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne. She completed a

Graduate Diploma in Film and Television/Animation in 1999 and in the same year was awarded the Australian Children's Television Foundation Best Animation. She completed a Masters by Research in Visual Arts at Charles Darwin University in 2004.

Ritchie was a freelance photographer for the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Time and Who Magazine amongst others. She has worked as a designer/illustrator and photographer on assignments including projects for the Darwin Legal Service and Territory Health Services. She was inaugural co-director of Green Ant Research Arts and Publishing with Chips Mackinolty in 1991 and was the photographer and designer for three publications published by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission including the 1997 Royal Commission into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families. She lectured in Graphic Design at the Northern Territory University between 2000 and 2002.

Ritchie won the Fremantle Print Award in 2000 for a collaborative work with Chips Mackinolty. In 2007 she was awarded an Australia Council for the Arts, Australian Artist in Residency at the 18th Street Arts Centre in Los Angeles where she spent three months making work in response to the plight of people on Skid Row.

An exhibition with Chips Mackinolty was held at the Charles Darwin University Gallery in 2010 and in 2019 a major survey exhibition of her work, 'Therese Ritchie: burning hearts', opened at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. In 2012 she was invited to participate in the exhibition 'Contemporary Australia: Women' at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art and other group exhibitions include the Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney; Perth Institute of Contemporary Art; Fremantle Arts Centre; Lismore Regional Art Gallery; Flinders University Art Museum and Mosman Art Gallery amongst others. She was invited to exhibit in France and Indonesia. Her work is held in several major collections in Australia.

About Artback NT's Visual Arts Department

Artback NT is the Northern Territory's visual and performing arts touring agency. Our Visual Arts Program collaborates with artists, curators, organisations and communities throughout the Territory to co-create and co-present touring exhibition projects, which showcase the unique talents and perspectives of the region. We tour Northern Territory generated exhibitions to remote, regional and metropolitan galleries, sharing quality visual arts experiences with diverse audiences across the country.