

firstdraft

Gallery 4

3 February – 19 March 2023

A Leakage of Wholes (iterations)

Betty Russ

Popular culture uses speculative science fiction, fantasy and horror as a means to both ferment, and ignore, mounting eschatological terror. Within the context of imminent global catastrophe, speculation around plant consciousness and monstrous plants, as manifested in both philosophy and popular culture, is a site of productive tension concerning the vegetal, the more-than-human, and the future. Compelled by the unreal, unimaginable, the weird and eerie, queerness, and provocative ideas, experimental material investigations emerge of other possible worlds to describe these tensions.

While mining the polyvalent discourse of retro speculative science fiction as a site of research, the vegetal frequently emanates signs of what has been and what is to come. Weeds, or rather, plants supposedly out of place, have an immutable loquacity in the knowledge they hold of the capitalocene, and tell clairvoyant, veracious narratives of where we are headed.

Betty Russ is an artist and arts worker living on Bundjalung country / Lismore. Working across sculpture, assemblage, installation, sound, and embodied research, her practice ferments between and around the philosophies and renderings of eschatological terror, speculative +/- science fiction, hauntology, spirituality, the-weird-and-the-eerie. Material manifestations protrude from hypnagogic subconscious fantasy, searching for psychological mitigation to the abject shock of the past, and the sweaty white-knuckled fear of the future.

Presented by Firstdraft in partnership with Metro Arts, Brisbane

Metro Arts

Gallery 1
Conversion
EO Gill

Gallery 2
Anna May Kirk
Year Without A Sun

Gallery 3
The Visible Invisible
Yvette Hamilton

firstdraft
gadigal land
13–17 riley street
woolloomooloo
nsw 2011
+61 2 8970 2999
firstdraft.org.au

we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.

firstdraft is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW; and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



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Artwork

For sales enquiries, please
email bettymaryruss@gmail.com

A Leakage of Wholes (iterations), 2022–23

H₂O, chlorophyll, nutrient, UV LED, electric pumps,
PVC, steel, copper, soy silk, acrylic, found objects,
water hyacinth, salvinia, audio
dimensions variable

Live plant matter should not be taken from the
gallery. These are extremely voracious plants and
can have gross negative impacts on waterways.

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