

THE COLLECTIVE JOURNEY PROJECT

Curated by Crystal Schubert and Halle Warrender

The Collective Journey Project is a joint exhibition that explores the deep-rooted collective consciousness we share as young adults studying arts and slowly growing out of what we would socially define as “childhood”. Through this exhibition, curators Crystal Schubert and Halle Warrender aim to unpack the impacts of what has been left behind during the metamorphosis into “adulthood”.

Childhood memory for most of us is something that we treasure. However, there is nativity in the natural yearning for times of innocence, thus resulting in our “adult” facade to shatter under society’s standard. Consequently, forcing our-selves into shoes that are ill-fitting.

As we move forwards from this black-and-white thinking learnt through childhood, we struggle to let go of these ingrained understandings. These understandings bind us to our conscious outlook of society, even though we wish to push towards onto the path of maturity. There are many ways of navigating and carrying memories into your adulthood, and *The Collective Journey Project* explores this concept.

Collective Journey: Suspended Space, curated by Crystal Schubert features a group show of five artists undertaking a Bachelor of Fine Arts here at Monash University. Exploring what it means to be “adult-like” by untangling how critiques of our current sociopolitical climate permeate in artworks of students that reminisce on the past. Schubert’s exhibition explores the struggle of maturity, born from an interest in how artists who study in institutions find solace in subject matter of youth. However, they feel the need to distance themselves from their childhood as a form of displaying individual strength – the main factor that often defines “adulthood”.

Collective Journey: Mother’s Footsteps, curated by Halle Warrender aims to break this expectation, by curating their Mothers' physical expressions of love. Gifted to family and friends, and moved into the gallery space, these glass pieces mean more than just their creation. Wanting to follow in the footsteps of their mother, Warrender continues to question the memories of growing up and the desire to uphold family legacies. Displaying the physical journey of growth into adulthood.

COLLECTIVE JOURNEY: SUSPENDED SPACE

Curated by Crystal Schubert

Reflecting on the once seemingly mundane aspects of our childhood and the roles they play in cementing our perception of the systems we live within as adults, *Collective Journey: Suspended Space* invites you to ponder the systems of currency, systems of standards, and systems of memory that creep into every inch of our consciousness.

Facing the realities of adulthood whilst still trapped within the naivety of youth – the exhibition explores the space carved out by the layered recollections we hold close to our hearts or smother with shame. All of these memories become irreplaceable parts of our being and bring together a generation of artists defined by their growing awareness of the systems we exist in by asking each other “Do you feel like an adult?”.

Similarly, Schubert argues the formative nature of childhood memories as something that does

not get resolved, but rather an entity that is continuously being processed and recontextualised as we grow as individuals. Furthermore, identifying how this is specifically analysed within the works of artists who practice in this specific moment in time at Monash University.

The inability to make mistakes, the struggles of defining yourself in relation to those who raised you, and the hyper-individualism that pushes people away are all undeniable aspects of what we consider “adult-like”. However, through this exhibition, Schubert questions why adulthood is examined in contrast to childhood. Therefore, obscuring the importance of the suspended space between these two states of being that define most of us here at Monash University.

When we recall these once heartwarming moments under the guise of our new-found understandings of the world we encompass, these very memories we once saw as priceless can become “tainted”. However, how do these hazy memories we grasp at to justify our current state of metamorphosis impact our perception of “adulthood”?

A group exhibition featuring entirely Fine Arts students at Monash University, Schubert unravels the way these ideas exist in our institutional artistic thinking. Alongside emphasising a strong feeling of compassion for this younger version of ourselves in times of hardship. Bringing to the forefront the different iterations of a single being over a stretch of time, *Collective Journey: Suspended Space* is a reminder of the lives our generation has lived. Reflecting the purely temporal nature of its subject, Schubert unpacks a specific moment that cannot be replicated outside of the cycle of nostalgia for this moment we may harbour in the future.