



# ***Nimbostratus***

30 September - 16 December 2023

Bundoora Homestead Art Centre

Aleshanee Faery, Larissa MacFarlane,  
Penny Pollard, Woz, Joanna Kiriazis, Nicole  
Tsourlenes, Jane Tomlinson, Dinithi De Alwis  
Samarawickrama & Leeann Preddy.

Nimbostratus clouds often form along warm weather fronts. The low, grey cloud is usually near-uniform in appearance, producing steady rain with the absence of lightening or thunder. Neither delicate nor chaotic or threatening, the clouds signal good weather for making things grow. It's an apt metaphor in the case of this exhibition.

The artists meet and work at Nimbus studio at Bundoora Homestead accessible studios. Nimbus is facilitated by Arts Access Victoria (AAV). AAV provide opportunities and support for Deaf and Disabled Victorian creatives. While Nimbostratus has a range of artists with different interests, there are common themes in their work. Portraiture is a repeating theme. Nicole Tsourlenes captures a joyous interaction between the photographer and smiling subject in her series *Julia* 2023. Also playful is *Fina* 2023, a portrait by Woz (Warren Loorham) of Nimbus facilitator Fina Po. The painting is based on a photograph taken by Tsourlenes, who is a founding member of Nimbus. Po's dress is pattered with bricks like the brick background. This might be a comment on how people can seem built into the spaces they are in and communities they are part of.

Artists are exploring possibilities of mediums and making. Aleshanee Faery has extended her work in sculpture and printmaking to create a series of paper-based works. She has weaved small-scale sculptures with lomandra longifolia (basket grass). Faery created impressions on thick paper by running them through a printing press. The result is a delicate abstract form reliant on light and

shadow—a kind of expanded drawing. This play with process is also in Joanna Kiriazis's paintings of abstract forms. Kiriazis says she can start off doubting and uncertain when making her paintings but if she has faith it ends up in something playful and uplifting.

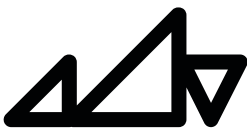
Jane Tomlinson forages for ochre and experiments with tones and paint-making. She has created a series of abstract paintings that reveal the grain of the canvas, another layer of medium-based play. Tomlinson says the paintings are a consideration of the layers of growth she has found in healing from trauma. She encourages viewers to make their own interpretations of the forms and think about their relationship with the earth. Dinithi Samarawickrama's series *Love of a Swan in the Garden* 2023 is about storytelling and tradition, recontextualising traditional illustrations from ancient Sri Lankan ruins and Buddhist architecture. They filter these through their own memory and style.

Icons and symbols from contemporary culture are also questioned in Nimbostratus. Larissa MacFarlane's *Philately as a strategy for embracing life (and Autistic Identity)* 2023 is a funny and impactful series. It includes found objects making political messages, using postage stamps and slogans to make new meanings. With comparable wit and impact, Penny Pollard uses small-scale sculpture to explore the Deaf experience. *What?* is a set of dangling ear impressions with the word "what" repeated—a humorous kind of concrete poetry.

Both Fiona Taylor and Leeann Preddy's work use Australian nature and iconography.

Preddy takes inspiration from images found in Australian photography and art history books. She paints Australian landscapes and trees, and makes them personal. Preddy's *The Old Gum Tree* 2023, has a dreamlike quality and shows a well-trained eye for detail. Taylor's animated cockatoo *Cockadoododo* 2023 brings an iconic Australian native bird to life. In constant flight, it might be a kind of mascot for the exhibition. It is like the studio's playfulness in motion, and in making and moving through ideas and spaces.

Nebula is a space used by the Nimbus Studio, an innovation of Arts Access Victoria. Nebula is a portable arts space, adapting to the artist's needs. This is interesting when also thinking about the current cost of living and rental crisis. The spirit of innovation behind Nebula comes together with the projects that have developed from the program. Despite the mix of mediums and methods, there are similar aesthetic and conceptual confluences in the artworks. This is seen in the shared interest in experimenting, and re-making, and the playfulness and wit throughout the exhibition. It is a testament to what can be achieved with access to the community and the resources that make art possible.



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Image on cover: Jo Kiriazis *Flag 2* 2023. Acrylic on paper. Courtesy the artist.