

KINGS Artist Run acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We offer our respect to Elders both past and present and extend this offer to all First Nations people.

KINGS

*Janet Burchill, Keiichi  
Nakamura, Nina Gilbert,  
Tara O'Conal, π.o. (Pi O)*  
WORD PICTURE

JULY  
04.07.24-04.08.24

Artist Run

Established in 2003, KINGS Artist-Run provides a location for contemporary art practice, supporting distinctive experimental projects by artists at all stages of their careers.

Open 12-5pm Thursday,  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
69 Capel Street,  
West Melbourne VIC 3003

## GALLERY ONE

### Janet Burchill, Keiichi Nakamura, Nina Gilbert, Tara O'Conal, π.o. (Pi O) Word Picture

*Word Picture* considers the ways that artists work with language, with an interest in how personal narratives can be expressed through experimental interactions between text and image. Coming together at an intersection of photography, print media and performance, the exhibition presents a diverse group of artists, exploring modalities of diaristic practice, concrete poetry and references to literary texts. These artists examine the dynamics of language, investigating how words register phenomenologically, either as thoughts, read, or spoken, and conversely how communications are received and interpreted. Through a series of creative interventions, the artists propose playful configurations of text and image, generating unique expressions of subjectivity and the personal voice.

JANET BURCHILL was born in Melbourne in 1955. She studied visual arts at Sydney College of Arts, completing a Bachelor of Arts in 1983. Since 1985 Burchill has frequently collaborated with artist Jennifer McCamley and they have had numerous individual and collaborative solo exhibitions both in Australia and overseas. Their practice engages with the legacies of modernism and traverses a wide range of references from psychoanalysis to film, minimal and conceptual art, literature, feminism, and political and artistic manifestos. Janet Burchill is represented by Neon Parc, Melbourne.

KEIICHI NAKAMURA was born in 1960 in Okazaki, Japan. In 1982 he received a business degree from Hokkaido University. In 1994, introduced to the network by Shozo Shimamoto, he started to send out mail art. Today he lives in Tokyo making collages, visual poetry, artist stamps, artist books and objects. He enjoys working with other mail-art artists.

NINA GILBERT is an artist living in Melbourne, she studied Fine Art at the Victorian College of the Arts, graduating in 2014. Her work uses photography and video to investigate the relationship between images, encounters and events. Recent exhibitions include, *Come Closer* at Mejia (2024), *Condensation* at rushes (2022), *Major and Minor Things* at Mejia (2021), *Image Reader* at CCP (2019). From 2017-2019 she was a co-organiser of *recess*, an online platform for video and moving image works with Olivia Koh and Kate Meakin.

TARA O'CONAL is an artist working with images and writing. Her work draws on autobiographical experiences, exploring the phenomenological modalities of daily life. Tara's work considers the poetic resonance of the everyday, utilising found materials and documented imagery to construct layers of narrative subtext. Tara completed an MFA at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2019; she engages curatorial practice alongside her work as an artist, presenting work in galleries locally and participating as an artist in residence at international institutions.

π.o. (Pi O) is a Greek-Australian, working class, anarchist poet. He is a legendary figure in the Australian poetry scene; born in Greece and brought up in Fitzroy; the chronicler of Melbourne and its culture and migrations; a highly disciplined Anarchist who has worked as a draughtsman for forty years to support his family and his art. He is the publisher of *Unusual Work* by Collective Effort Press, a long-time magazine editor, a pioneer of performance poetry in Australia, and the author of many collections, including *Panash*, *Fitzroy Poems*, *Big Numbers: New and Selected Poems*, and the two epic works *24 Hours* and *Fitzroy: The Biography*. *Heide*, the third book in this monumental trilogy won the 2020 Judith Wright Calanthe Award, Australia's most prestigious poetry prize.

#### List of works

#### Clockwise:

Janet Burchill, *I am I because my little cat knows me*, 1994, screen-print on dyed black passepartout paper, 76 x 52.5 cm. Edition 1/10.

Tara O' Conal, *untitled: paper pulp and carbon ink*, 2024, paper pulp and carbon ink, dimensions variable.

Nina Gilbert, *outside it is snowing*, 2024, 9 x 8 x 10' gelatin silver prints mounted on mat board, 101.6 x 60.7 cm.

Keiichi Nakamura, *Keiichi Nakamura 2024*, 2024, mixed-media works on paper, dimensions variable

π.o. (Pi O), *Narcissism*, 45 x 62 cm, digital print, 2024. Previously published in *The Number Poems* (Collective Effort Press, 2000).

π.o. (Pi O), *Shangri-La*, 45 x 62 cm, digital print, 2024. Previously published in *The Number Poems* (Collective Effort Press, 2000).

KINGS Artist-Run is generously supported by City of Melbourne through the Arts and Creative Partnerships Program, and Burnley Brewing, Heaps Normal and Little Brunswick Wine Co. through their ongoing drinks sponsorship.



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