

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

*Erin Hallyburton*  
SALT LICK

JAN-FEB  
*29.01.26-22.02.26*

*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  
12 - 4pm, Saturday - Sunday  
69 Capel Street,  
West Melbourne VIC 3003

*Erin Hallyburton*

## Salt Lick

*Salt Lick* explores energy dense and processed foodstuffs and the layered sensory and emotive responses that they evoke. These foods are frequently conceived as high calorie, unhealthy, fattening or junk foods in mainstream discourses. They are commonly associated negatively with fat and working-class communities. Using processed cheese, animal fats and collagen hotdog casings as materials, the exhibition engages with the material and emotive potency of stigmatised foods. As substances, they contain high concentrations of fats and energy. Their concentrated material form evokes strong emotional responses in individuals, shaping cultural perceptions of bodies and communities that consume them or abstain from them. The exhibition highlights the potency of 'fattening' foods to explore how substances influence cultural perceptions and contribute to anti-fat and classist ideologies in contemporary culture.

Higher rates of fatness in low socio-economic communities are frequently attributed to the affordability and convenience of energy rich, long-lasting foods. Over-simplified understandings of the relationship between class, fatness and food assume that affordable, accessible and long lasting foods lead to the accumulation of fat on bodies. This perception attributes fatness to individual choice and fails to examine how structures of oppression are manifested on the body. Sweet, starchy, salty, and oily foods are considered 'bad' for their potential to fatten the body, but also because they are desirable. They are delicious, indulgent, satisfying, and moreish and can tempt us to eat more of them than we believe we should. They often produce fear because they are linked to the loss of control over one's body and desires. The practice of refusing, resisting and abstaining from fattening foods is therefore linked to moral virtue, a person is being "good" by limiting how much of these foods they eat. Conversely, fatness becomes a visual indication of moral weakness and lack of self-control.

The cultural perceptions of energy rich, convenient foods demonstrate how fatness and class politics are closely enmeshed. The exhibition playfully and curiously engages with these stigmatised foods to complicate classist and anti-fat ideologies. The installation features sprawling hotdog links and large panels of charred plastic cheese. The sculptures have a subtle oily sheen and faint savory scent that inspire sensations of taste and touch. These sensory resonances invite the viewer to question their underlying biases about fatness and class. By using foods that evoke layered sensations of fear, disgust, desire and pleasure the exhibition develops critical perspectives on fatness and class to combat anti-fatness in dominant discourses.

Artwork details (left to right):

*Gut Twist*, 2025, collagen hotdog casings, tallow, glass funnel, powder coated aluminum

*Extrusions*, 2026, processed cheese slices, plywood.

Erin Hallyburton is an artist based in Naarm (Melbourne). Her sculptural practice engages with fat studies and intersectional theory to examine how the conceptual and material limits of the body are produced and negotiated in specific sites. Working with transforming substances, Hallyburton stages processes of decay and seepage within the gallery space, unsettling assumptions that objects and bodies are coherent, discrete, and autonomous.

Hallyburton is a current studio resident at Gertrude Contemporary. She has exhibited at galleries across Australia including Gertrude Contemporary, Firstdraft, Latrobe Art Institute, Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Lilac City Studios and Blindside. In 2022, Hallyburton participated in the Hatched National Graduate Exhibition at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts and received the prestigious Schenberg Art Fellowship.