

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

E. Salmon
NEVER CAN SAY
GOODBYE

JUNE
18.06.26–12.07.26

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

GALLERY TWO

E. Salmon

Never Can Say Goodbye

Never Can Say Goodbye brings together new and old drawings, prints, videos and installations. It deals with remembering, processing, twining and untangling (im) permanences. I'm trying to honestly depict my personal experience of Indigeneity in the city. Holding wallaby sinew taut and wringing out the blood / getting woken up by muscle spasms and potent dreams / joking 'I've never gotten over anything in my life' / watching the stones get dug up next door / feeling shame / "it's that same old dizzy hang up"

/ take care before I see you again

Artwork details (left to right):

I want a jacket with a pocket on the inside,
2026, Linen, cotton interfacing, ink on
paper, drypoint on aluminium, pocket radio

*"Living with the wind" (after Fiona Foley):
suspicion*, 2026, Drypoint on paper. Charred
Tassie Oak frame by Hugo Russell. \$660

*"Living with the wind" (after Fiona Foley):
mangroves*, 2026, Drypoint on paper.
Charred Tassie Oak frame by Hugo Russell.
\$660

Boulder poem, 2026, Drypoint and ink on
paper, cotton thread. Charred Tassie Oak
frame by Hugo Russell. \$530

Lightning table, 2025, Welded galvanised
steel, monoprint on aluminium

Trayden Thirst: Greatest Hits, 2026, Single
channel video with sound

A letter to 'Never can say
goodbye'

To E.

A dear friend, housemate, Blackfella,
critical thinker,
leaves spacer, ,ballet
dancer.

rememberer, 'righter', righter,
fucking polls fits-ev,
ect ect.

Your exhibition brings together a
multidisciplinary experience of
meta work, prints, drawings, poetry,
string, fabric, charcoal, video and
more all so beautifully.

goodbye

Telling a story of the manipulation
of the other and the self.

Yanning with you, E, throughout
your cultivation of these works, it was
clear that this exhibition is
not only a showcase, but a ritual
of transformation.

Just as Country must be
burned to forge new
beginnings
so too does
ourselves.

Your deep consideration of materials
and functions to repurpose them
in dying with other works in the
collection, reflects the cyclical
Kulve system vs mob think and
know, gracefully.

Blackfella

, ballet
dancer.

As we all know, in many of the hundreds of languages across our countries, not many have a word for goodbye.

We will see each other again, that is a promise. In this life or in our dreaming.

If you remind us that whatever we notice or have unnoticed, to be let go, but does it ever truly leave us?

Never can say goodbye responds
to the great work of Richard Bell.
titled 'Popular Culture,' which displays
in white painted text
"KILL the white man
till he is DEAD"

Trauden Thirst was born and dead.
Heingered and crowded himself
on many a club room floor,
backyards and Fitzroy garage
house parties. He stalked like
a bitter ex and drank bitterer
beer.
Inhabiting a self that was
grime but his own.

He served a purpose to remind
ourselves where memory lies
is where we get to choose.

Where you store the memory
and it illumination can
live, die, or repurpose.

In this exhibition I explores
the concepts of all three.

It was an honour to write
this for you my dear friend.

I love you and wish you
the best in this life
with all it's memories
that it has to offer to to
- Ari

My name is E and I am an artist and student of Nyikina and Celtic descent. I live and work on Wurundjeri land, and was raised in Naarm's northern suburbs. I make string, weld steel, edit video, draw, read and write to complicate prescribed norms of identity, voice dissent, promote catharsis and undertake intergenerational healing. I have shown at Incinerator Gallery, 138 Gallery and Trocadero Projects, and have a BFA in Drawing and Printmaking from VCA.

*E. Salmon is the Victorian College of the Arts recipient of the
KINGS Graduate Award 2025*

Acknowledgements

Works made on sacred Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung land.

I pay deep respects to Kulin Elders, past, present and forever, as they are the sovereign custodians of these lands, skies and waterways.

Exhibition text by Ari Mills

Frames by Hugo Russell

CURATORIAL SUPPORT:

Kim Feng Cheong

Kate ten Buuren

“TRAYDEN THIRST GREATEST HITS” SCRIPT CONSULTANTS:

Elijah Money

Alanna Baxter

VIDEOGRAPHY:

Angelina Innocent (*Killing Trayden*)

Siri Hendrata (*Goodways, scrawny one!* and *Trayden's Slippages*)

Eden Bren (*Trayden's Slippages* and *Killing Trayden*)

Grace Auld (*Killing Trayden*)

Lauren Blundell (*Trayden's Slippages*)

Darcy McConnell (*Trayden's Slippages*)

SOUND: Gene Salmon

Note: The composition he scored was interpreted from a drawing I made while listening to *Never Can Say Goodbye* by Gloria Gaynor.

PERFORMERS:

Alanna Baxter (*Fumbled Baddies Testimonials*)

Ur Dad Daryl (*Killing Trayden*)

Grace Fuentealba (*Fumbled Baddies Testimonials*)

Siri Hendrata (*Fumbled Baddies Testimonials*)

Eden Howie (*Fumbled Baddies Testimonials*)

Alayna Kennedy (*Fumbled Baddies Testimonials*)

Lia Mills (*Fumbled Baddies Testimonials*)

Craven Moorehead (*Killing Trayden*)

Naimo Omar (*Fumbled Baddies Testimonials*)

INSTALL SUPPORT:

Bea Rubio-Gabriel

Naimo Omar

ADDITIONAL THANKS:

My family, blood and chosen.

DPM and workshop staff at VCA

Evelyn Araluen and the Wilin Centre

Freja Hvist Innes-ker and Water Closet

Firestation Print Studio

Uncle Neville

Everyone who has ever loved, endured or hated Trayden Thirst.



CREATIVE
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HEAPS
NORMAL