

About this exhibition

Sarah crowEST

Gian Manik

Natascha Stellmach



Easy Read

Linden New Art is a contemporary art gallery in St Kilda.

It is always free to go.

It is open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm.

There are lifts and an accessible toilet.

You can call us if you want more information.

There are three shows on in the main galleries.

Gian Manik, *Fantasy Chamber*, is on the bottom floor.

Sarah crowEST, *one thing becomes another again*, is also on the bottom floor.

Natascha Stellmach, *The Letting Go (2012 to 2026)*, is upstairs and in the foyer.

Sarah and Gian's shows are part of a program called Juncture.

Juncture is a prize run by Linden every two years.

It gives two artists money and an exhibition.



Gian Manik

Gian Manik makes paintings.

His paintings are often based on old paintings.

He grew up in Australia.

His family are Sikh and Dutch.

His work is often about family, love and queerness.



This painting is called *Knowledge doesn't make us better than others*.

It is a painting of a naked man holding a skeleton.

It is someone dead and someone alive.

Gian wants us to think about how things can be different but also the same.

Across from this work, Gian has built a false wall.

It cuts the room into two.

A painting hangs on a timber frame.

You cannot see the front of it.

You can only see the back.

There are rough sketches of people and some paint on the back.

You would not normally be able to see the back of a painting.



There are three paintings in this room.

This painting is called *Swami silver*.

It is a painting of a silver tea set.

Tea sets like this were often used by British people.

When you look closely, you can see Hindu gods on it.

Gian wants us to think about colonisation.

Especially what the British did to people in India.

This painting is called *Devotion without limits*.

It looks like a painting by the artist Johannes Vermeer.

Gian's work often looks at love.

Especially love between men.



This painting is called *Victory of faith*.

It is a painting of two lovers asleep in nature.

This painting is also about opposite things that are the same.

The centre of the painting is light and the edges are dark.

The old painting Gian is remaking was of two women.

In his painting they are two men.



There are two paintings in this room.

The bigger painting is called *Campaigns of assimilation*.

It is one naked man tattooing another naked man.

The man lying down is getting a tattoo of Pangaea on his chest.

Pangaea is a super-continent that existed two hundred million years ago.

It was all the land in the world joined together.

A tattoo is usually a celebration of who we are and what makes us different.

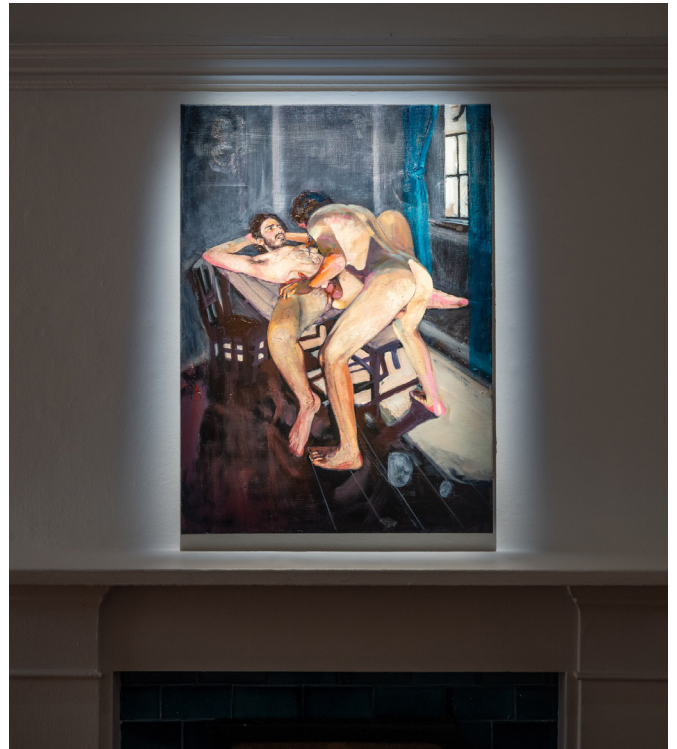
Assimilation is when a group of people are forced to give up what makes them different.

The small painting is called *Execution without judgement*.

It is a painting of a bullet.
Bullets kill people.

A bullet is a similar shape to a penis.

Gian wants us to think about men and violence.



Sarah crowEST

Sarah crowEST makes paintings, sculptures, prints and things you can wear.

She first studied textile design. Fabric is still a big part of her work.

She has been making art for more than twenty years.

She often puts words into her work.

She uses her own lettering to make them.

In Sarah's art, nothing stays the same.

She might paint on a piece of clothing.

Then she cuts it up to make a bag.

Then it becomes a cover for a chair.

For this show she has made three big installations.

An installation is an artwork that fills a whole room.

Everything here used to be something else.



This is the start of Sarah crowEST's show, *one thing becomes another again*.

These works are called *Gauzy Drop #1*, *Gauzy Drop #2* and *Gauzy Drop #3*.

They are tall pieces of silk.

They hang in the window.

The light comes through them.

Sarah wants us to notice what her art is made of.



These works are called *The Left Hand of Darkness* and *The Right Hand of Light*.

They are two sets of four panels.

They hang high on the wall.

They face each other across the room.

There are lots of different things in them.

There are lots of pictures in them you might have seen before.



These works are called *Chair Painting #1* and *Chair Painting #2*.

They are two old chairs.
Sarah has covered them in fabric
she painted.

The chairs face opposite ways.

Parts of them used to be a
painting.

Sarah wants us to think about
what things are, what they have
been, and what they might be.



This work is called *Middle Earth*.

It is a shelf with many objects on it.

It stops you from going through the room.

You have to go back and around to see the rest of her art.

Some of the objects come from Sarah's studio.

Some she found on the street.

There are dried plants and seeds.

There are coffee grounds and rock salt.

There are old chocolates.

Sarah wants us to think about the stuff we keep and the stuff we get rid of.



These works are called *Word Bags*.

They are bags with words painted on them.

They hang in the room.

Each side of a bag has a different word.

You see different words from different places in the room.

These works are called *ONE THING BE COME AN OTHER AGAIN*.

They are pictures of people wearing the bags.

When the bags are worn together they make sentences.

The sentences change as people move around.



Natascha Stellmach
The Letting Go

Natascha Stellmach has been making art for thirty years.

She also trained as a therapist.

She starts with an idea.

Then she works out how to make it into something.

For fourteen years, Natascha asked people what they would like to let go of.

Then she gave them a tattoo of that word, if they wanted one.

The tattoo was done without ink.

It never left a mark.



This show is the end of that project.

There are lots of things in it.

There are photographs

There is fake blood on an old Christmas decoration.

There are the artist's fingernails.

There are cushions you can sit on.

There is a book of people's stories.

There is a clear ball that glows.

It is made with the artist's burnt hair.

There is a curtain you walk through downstairs.

They are all her artwork.

Natascha is thinking about our bodies.

She is thinking about pain.

She is thinking about letting things go.

She is thinking about how hard that is.

