

The artists proposed for the City of Yarra Billboard Commission are Cameron Clarke and Ria Green. Both artists are based in Melbourne and have shown exceptional development in their practice in the early stages of their careers.

Extending and exploring our connection and relationship to place, the artists will engage and draw interest from locals and visitors to the City of Yarra. Whilst Clarke’s photographic work is calculated and documentary in nature, Green provides a conceptual approach, questioning the intricacies of association and recollection.

**Cameron Clarke**    
Cameron Clarke is a documentary photographer specialising in large format landscape and portrait photography. Investigating the connection between people, place and time, Clarke’s clean and balanced compositions narrate stories from both natural and man-made environments.   
  
Recently commissioned to partake in *The Sievers Project* with the Centre for Contemporary Photography, Clarke explored industrial sites once documented by Sievers and the changed relationship between Australian workers and their machines. In *405 Miles to Chesapeake Bay,* 2012, Clarke documented people and sites along the Potomac River, a significant waterway in the United States. In *Where Waters Meet,* 2010 Clarke explored a fundamental shift in the Australian immigration policy following the Second World War. Investigating the Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre, Clarke uncovered the journeys of European immigrants to Australia via Bonegilla. Bonegilla; translated to Where Waters Meet by the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land, is a reference to where the Mitta Mitta and Murray Rivers join.

In 2013 Clarke was a finalist in both the *Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award* and *William & Winifred Browness Prize*. Initially completing a Bachelor of Photography at RMIT University in 2009 Clarke has exhibited solo shows in Melbourne and participated in group exhibitions locally and abroad. His work is held in the Macquarie Group Collection.

**Ria Green**   
Ria Green is a multi-disciplinary based artist, working with found objects, print, photography, video and installation. Green’s work responds to our dialogue with the environment in both built and natural space. Her practice investigates and translates the complexity of memories and associations.   
  
Green's photographs highlight that memories transform and evolve; that we search for meaning but the process of forgetting is beyond our control. In the series *Attempting transcendence once again,* 2012Green investigated the complexity of associations imbedded in the images we make and keep. Green represents our desire to transcend the visual picture plain, in an attempt to bring us closer to meaning.

Ria Green graduated from RMIT University with a Master of Fine Arts in 2013 and has recently completed a residency at CAMAC Art Centre, Marnay-sur-Seine, France. Green will present *The Relationship of Things*, at Platform Gallery in 2015. Recent exhibitions include *Solent Summer Salon*, Mettricks, Southampton, England, 2014; *Give and Take*, c3 Contemporary Art Space, Abbotsford Convent, 2014; *Everyday Monument*, White Night, Melbourne, 2014; *A Tale of Two Cities: A Duet of Hong Kong and Melbourne*, Hong Kong Visual Art Centre, Hong Kong, 2013; *Mapping Time*, First Site Gallery, Melbourne, 2013; *Summer Show*, Counihan Gallery, Brunswick, 2012; *Gather / Return*, Tinning Street Gallery, Brunswick, 2012; and *Fit to Print*, No Vacancy Gallery, Melbourne, 2010. Ria was shorted listed for the *Fremantle Print Award* in 2013 and 2009, and the *Libris Artist Book Award*, Artspace, Mackay in 2010.

**Laura Thompson *(lt)***

Over the past 5 years I have worked with renowned leaders in the arts both locally and abroad including Anthony d’Offay (Gallerist and founder of ARTIST ROOMS) and Anna Schwartz (Owner/Director Anna Schwartz Gallery). I have collaborated with significant local and international museums and galleries and with artists including Emily Floyd, Mikala Dwyer, Shaun Gladwell, Boris Mikhailov and Ron Mueck.

During my time in London I coordinated projects for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games whilst undertaking an internship at Michael Hoppen Gallery. Working with Anthony d’Offay I administered projects for ARTISTS ROOMS; a collection of international contemporary art donated to Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland. The donation includes works by Joseph Beuys, Damien Hirst, Richard Long and Andy Warhol, and is exhibited at museums and galleries throughout the United Kingdom. I further assisted with photographic projects involving 20th Century Social History and Ron Mueck’s solo exhibition at Hauser & Wirth Gallery, London.

Initially undertaking a Bachelor of Scientific Photography in 2009, I completed a Masters in Arts Management with High Distinction at RMIT University in 2014 whilst working full time at Anna Schwartz Gallery. I applied my sound planning and management skills to successfully coordinate exhibitions and commissions involving the represented artists. I was regularly required to liaise with the artists and contractors to ensure outcomes were achieved on time and within budget. Notable projects managed during my time at Anna Schwartz Gallery include; Kerrie Poliness; *The Drying Green Public Art Commission,* Green Square, the City of Sydney, 2014 (forthcoming); Emily Floyd: *Far Rainbow,* Heide Museum of Modern Art, 2014; Angelica Mesiti, *The Calling*, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, 2014; Shaun Gladwell: *Morning of the Earth*, Anna Schwartz Gallery, 2013; and Daniel von Sturmer: *After Images,* the Centre for Contemporary Photography, 2013. Additional study includes Exhibition Design at the NODE Centre for Curatorial Studies, Berlin and Gallery Management and Exhibition Studies with Stim.u.lus Workshops, London.   
  
I have consulted and curated exhibitions for RMIT’s Artist Run Initiative, *Coalesce* and am continually sourcing and engaging with early career artists to develop an understanding of their practice.

In June 2014 I resigned from Anna Schwartz Gallery to work independently. My focus is to engage, educate and cultivate support for early career artists. I curated a private exhibition, titled *Oblivious Ends* that was hosted in collaboration with *House+Universe* this September. The work of six artists utilising different mediums explored our attempts to define boundaries, our connection to and detachment from place, and the continuation and interconnection of cycles. Forthcoming exhibitions will be hosted in collaboration with *A Staple Space;* a wellness centre located in Melbourne’s CBD, and *IDES*; a collective of emerging chefs hosting temporary dinners.

My strong communication, negotiating and interpersonal skills have been essential in all my working positions and the diversity of my experience demonstrates the broad range of people I have engaged with; from high-end professionals, to younger audiences. I am focused to utilise the diversity of my skills and experience to strengthen and enhance the arts environment within Australia. I am motivated to showcase the work of early career artists and forge new opportunities and exposure.