MEDIA RELEASE
30/7/2019
For immediate release

Cynthia Schwertsik
UTE-ilitarian
29 July – 30 August 2019

Guildhouse and Flinders University Art Museum are delighted to present UTE-ilitarian by Austrian born, Adelaide-based artist Cynthia Schwertsik as part of the 2019 SALA Festival.

Commenting on Australia’s ecological footprint, Schwertsik will present new video and performance work at Flinders University’s Bedford Park campus, with an official launch on Thursday 8 August 2019.

Schwertsik’s work traverses the genres of visual art and contemporary performance, while also incorporating active inclusion. In her practice she engages with and navigates the everyday world utilising common objects (such as chairs) and public spaces (such as footpaths), often subverting their familiar functionality and societal roles with humorous interventions.

This new work has resulted from the Guildhouse Collections Project with Flinders University Art Museum, an initiative which provides South Australian artists with unique opportunities to research and respond to extraordinary State collections.
Schwertsik explored the Post-object and Documentation collection held by Flinders University Art Museum. Initiated by Donald Brook, the collection includes photographs, artist books, prints and audio-visual material that document Australia’s conceptual art making of the 1960s and 70s within the context of the international movement. Schwertsik’s new work specifically responds to artworks in the collection by Aleks Danko, Tim and Vivien Johnson, and David Thorp.

Cynthia Schwertsik says “In Australia, my ecological footprint as a daily commuter consists of numerous bitumen-laid carparks. In my new work I reimagine chairs as cars and consider bitumen as an inscription on the earth for societal convenience. UTE-llit is my absurd, unsustainable grappling of Australian everyday norms.”

Guildhouse Chief Executive Officer Emma Fey and Flinders University Art Museum Director Fiona Salmon say, ‘By opening the collections in this way, not only do artists benefit from direct and extended engagement with works of art, but their readings and responses facilitate alternative ways of seeing, experiencing and understanding artworks and their histories for both the Art Museum and its audiences.’

EXHIBITION LAUNCH
Thursday 8 August | 4 – 5.30pm
Flinders University
Level 1 | Student Hub
Bedford Park | South Australia

GUEST SPEAKER
Associate Professor William Peterson
Creative & Performing Arts | College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
Flinders University

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
Performative artist talk in conversation with curator Nic Brown
Thursday 8 August | 3 – 4pm

Curator talk and artist performance
Tuesday 13 August | 12 – 1pm
Level 1 | Student Hub (near The Tavern)
Flinders University
Sturt Road | Bedford Park

Getting to Flinders University  Public transport | Parking | Map
Level 1 is located at H10 on the map

The Collections Project is a collaboration between Guildhouse and Flinders University Art Museum that provides artists with the opportunity to engage with the Museum’s collections and staff to create new work for exhibition. Guildhouse is the leading South Australian organisation supporting and creating connections for South Australian visual artists, craftspeople and designers for 53 years. This initiative is generously supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and the Government of South Australia through Arts South Australia.
For more information or interviews, please contact:

Victoria Bowes  
Executive Officer, Guildhouse  
T 08 8410 1822  E communications@guildhouse.org.au.

Madeline Reece  
Exhibition and Public Programs Assistant, Flinders University Art Museum  
T 8201 3247  E maddie.reece@flinders.edu.au

Media images and captions are available here:  
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c8acutppve9f7kb/AACHeMWga1fR1VJCXL64PlmTa?dl=0


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