

## Dr Bindi Magill, Opening Speech 'Lines of Sight'. New work by Nick Hannaford

Thanks to Ron and Sonya for generously creating a beautiful gallery in the heart of Port Elliot. As patrons, mentors and creative practitioners we are fortunate to have a hub for artists. More than just a gallery, but a space where artists thrive and grow.

This aptly named exhibition *Lines of Site* -references the fishing grounds found by triangulating the Bombora and Constitution hill at Middle River whilst out at sea. This body of work not only captivates a connection between art and the maritime world, but also the personal history of Nick, his relation to his Father and Grandfather, presenting a captivating historiography through the lens of his life.

The Phases of the Moon are marked on several works and include the compass signifying a dodge tide – when the fish do not bite. The fish represented in these works have an intaglio quality. The line work outlining the fishing grounds moves from foreground to background but creates a seamless connection in this collage of mixed-media work, including a hint of Sir James' favourite delights such as, recipes from the classic Green and Gold cookbook, Angostura bitters and Tolley's Brandy. Colour scoping was reduced to sepias furthering a sense of reduction that help build a narrative through harmonising these various mediums into a complex text.

These works denote a lost archive, revived through accurate detailing of the lines of site despite the diminished landmarks that have disappeared over the last 40 years. Regardless, the aesthetic quality of these works is strengthened by the juxtaposition of the various elements of the tonal rendering of watercolours, the washed out torn texture of the paper and balance of line work. These works stand firmly alone, but collectively they evoke analytical archival work used to describe certain species of fish. They also highlight the huge number of fish that was caught during our childhood on Kangaroo Island.

A small anecdote that evidence this is a story about Nick's grandparents fishing together: As James proudly presented his impressive haul of fish, it was Pru, his wife, who bore the responsibility of scaling and filleting the enormous load. Whilst their journey back to shore was underway, James remained fixated on reaching their destination, unaware of Pru's stealthy actions at the stern who silently slipped off fish. Oblivious to Pru's efforts, James often remarked with certainty that he had surely caught more fish than what was left

This body of work by Nick holds many stories. The sepia maps, the archaic texts and the occasional splashes of fish blood in these works act as a palimpsest over the memories of propriety embedded in these journeys where Nick was not only taught to catch fish, know where to catch them, but also the importance of time with family and friends.

Whilst creativity never failed Nick, this new body of work represents a move away from the traditional practice in which he was apprenticed by Uncle Robert Hannaford. These works also represent more than fishing grounds, they reveal the power of influence of his grandfather Sir James Holden and his well-recognised father Ian Hannaford. Recognising that we need to triangulate our lives by those that have shaped us, Nick has produced something new and original.

Instead of sitting in the shadows of the influential giants who shaped Nick's life, this exhibition serves as a testament to his own remarkable journey as an artist. It showcases how Nick has skilfully carved out his own unique legacy, presenting his artistic prowess and individuality to the world.