

Media Release

Date: Thursday 11 July, 2013

3 VITREOUS BODIES

objects – historicism – making – materiality

George Aslanis – Nadia Mercuri – Bethany Wheeler

Another stunning exploration of the beauty and innovation of glass as an experimental artform opens to the public this weekend in the National Art Glass Gallery at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. **3 Vitreous Bodies** features recent works from three of Australia's most exciting and innovative glass artists, George Aslanis, Nadia Mercuri and Bethany Wheeler.

These artists are each in their own ways exploring ideas and concepts of the physical, spiritual, and historical, and in **3 Vitreous Bodies** they unveil the human face of glass as an artform and a way of life in a sequence of individual works and collective installations.

George Aslanis states that his work, "is a discussion about glass, its inherent material properties; these include the sensual and metaphorical. Glass is a material in a state of becoming, an endless multiplicity of potentials." Meanwhile Nadia Mercuri's art explores the history of the *Wunderkammer*, or cabinet of curiosities. Nadia describes the *Wunderkammer* as "an encyclopaedic collection of types of objects whose categorical boundaries were yet to be defined."

"My collection of antique scientific glass and blown glass installations and sculptures are an ominous forecast to the future where museums and private collections will be the only place to view these ancient techniques. My *Wunderkammer* speaks of glass blowing techniques becoming extinct in Australia."

Bethany Wheeler explores the physical concept of memory, as residing "within the whole body. The physical actions required to articulately use glass specific hand tools lie in procedural memory; this memory cannot be physically taught or expressed in words, only acquired. When procedural memory is perfected the hand tool becomes an extension of the body and visual language."

3 Vitreous Bodies will be officially launched on Friday 12 July, at 6pm, and the exhibition will be open to the public until Sunday 20 October, 2013. A special **Artists' Conversation** will be held on Saturday 13 July, at 11am in the National Art Glass Gallery at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. This is a free event, and all are welcome to come along hear the artists discuss the techniques and ideas behind this wonderful exhibition.

Exhibition Dates

When: Saturday 13 July – Sunday 20 October, 2013

Exhibition Launch

When: Friday 12 July, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Where: National Art Glass Gallery, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Cost: Free

Artists' Conversation

When: Saturday 13 July, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Where: National Art Glass Gallery, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Cost: Free