

15 May 2020

To the Australia Council panel members,

I am delighted to write this letter of support for Belinda Michael and Tiffany Titshall.

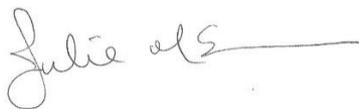
I have been watching the progress of their recent collaborative series *The Chosen Vessel* with interest. *The Chosen Vessel* is a series commenting on physical and sexual violence against women and explores this through examining this region's history and turning long-held ideas about the colonial history of the goldfield on its head.

I am pleased to confirm their involvement in a forthcoming exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. *Upside-Down Country*, held at the end of 2021, is a group exhibition which will explore personal and collective histories, both real and imagined. Themes included in the exhibition include environmentalism, feminism, culture and belonging through an exploration of the landscape of the goldfields surrounding Ballarat.

'Upside-down Country' is a Dja Dja Warrung term used to describe the landscape of the goldfields – referring to the fact that the earth has literally been turned upside-down in the hunt for gold. This concept connects firmly with Belinda and Tiffany's use of clay from the region within their collaborative work. I am aware that the artists are dedicated to working with the First Nations Custodians of the Country on which they work to ensure that they are collecting and using their materials in an appropriate manner.

Belinda and Tiffany are artists who have shown themselves to be dedicated to their practice, and would benefit greatly from any further support provided by the Australia Council. I see great opportunity for the artists to develop their work further through receiving a 2020 Resilience Fund Grant and wish them all the best with their application.

Kind regards,



Julie McLaren  
Curator  
Art Gallery of Ballarat