

This exhibition is held on the unceded lands of the Arrernte People.  
Always was, always will be.

Mathew Dargan, Sara Maiorino and Georgie Mattingley have responded to the Old Alice Springs Gaol site through three solo exhibitions. The three artists each present new bodies of work that explore the personal, the systemic and the tensions that lie at the heart of our society.

EXHIBITION DATES  
6 - 20 April 2024

WOMEN'S MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA  
2 Stuart Terrace, Alice Springs NT 0870



# CELLBLOCK

Mathew Dargan

Mathew Dargan (Dargs) is a Darug artist who grew up on Yorta Yorta country. He started painting and learning ceramics while incarcerated in Victoria. He is now free and a practicing artist based in Garamilla (Darwin). Dargs' artwork is an expression of his conflicting identity, with both White and Aboriginal heritage. He uses bold colours with striking pattern work to explore connections with his culture, as well as his love for engines, motorsports and nature.

@dargs88

Sara Maiorino

Sara is an Italian Australian artist and commercial photographer based in Mparntwe/Alice Springs. They explore the way societal structures impact human beings and their sense of identity, culture, class and gender. Their practice encompasses both digital and analogue photography with the aim of creating connections, provoking critical reflection and telling stories.

@\_sarafoto

Georgie Mattingley

Georgie Mattingley is a visual artist based in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Her practice spans across photography, film-making, painting and social practice. She uses kitsch aesthetics and beauty to destabilise the everyday values assigned to people, places and social structures. Through this method of 'beautifying' complex spaces, she aims to suspend our moral judgments so they can be viewed with a deeper empathy and new understanding.

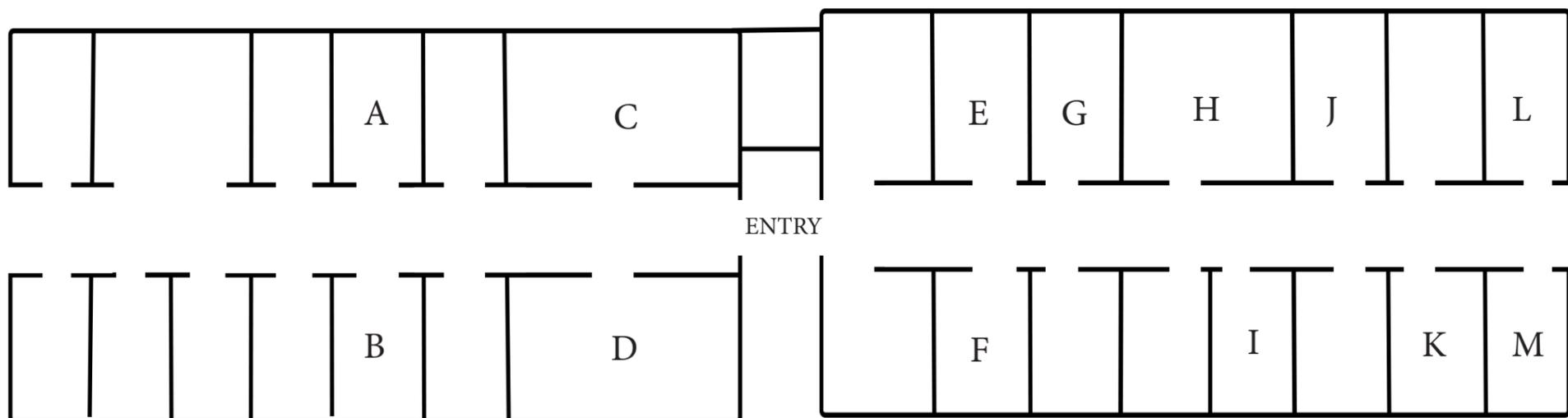
@georgmat

Kirra Voller

Kirra Voller is a singer/songwriter/pet/activist and proud Wirangu/Kokatha woman who lives in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Kirra is the cultural advisor for the Cellblock Artist Residency Program.

@kirravoller\_xo

# EXHIBITION MAP



A *Once Upon a Time*, 2024  
Georgie Mattingley  
Oil on silver gelatin print in hand-poured resin frame  
\$3000 ed 1/3

Once upon a time a centre called Don Dale housed youth in detention. The children were moved to a neighbouring facility and the old site was left unoccupied after a Royal Commission recommended its closure. The jungle began to take over.

B *Big Rig*, 2024  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on cotton sublimation  
\$2200

Dargs' father is a truck driver. His mother is an aboriginal artist and teacher. This painting is an expression of the power in both worlds that have shaped his identity.

C *Observations on Surveillance*  
Sara Maiorino

Through a series of black and white film images, developed in the cell blocks of the Old Alice Springs Gaol through the Women's Museum of Australia residency program, Sara turns the camera on itself. Documenting methods of surveillance and methods of seeking 'safety' in Mparntwe, 'Observations on Surveillance' aims to open up space to reflect on the ethics and effects on our community that the use of prisons and surveillance has, as well as space to reflect on the urgency to imagine alternatives. *Please see exhibition catalogue for extended artist statement and sale prices*

D *Prison Landscapes I-VII*, 2024  
Georgie Mattingley  
Oil on silver gelatin prints in hand-poured resin frames  
\$800 each, unique editions

D In 2017 Georgie was granted access to photograph the construction of one of the largest and newest prisons in Australia with 35mm film. This series of hand-tinted photographs document the artworks that were chosen for display inside the new prison. Please enjoy the ambient soundtrack courtesy of Centerlink's call waiting.

E In 2023 Georgie travelled to Bengaluru in India to study under artist and photographer Krishanu Chatteree. These works were created through a series of intensive workshops on methods of alternative photography.

*Prison Landscape VIII*, 2023  
Georgie Mattingley  
Cyanotype print on cotton rag  
\$200, unique edition

*Prison Landscape IX*, 2023  
Georgie Mattingley  
Albumin print on cotton rag  
\$200, unique edition

*Visits*, 2023  
Georgie Mattingley  
Albumin print on cotton rag  
\$150, unique edition

*Matty*, 2023  
Georgie Mattingley  
Tri-colour gum bichromate print on cotton rag, NFS

F *The Arrest*  
Mathew Dargan and Georgie Mattingley  
Ripped Chicago Bulls t-shirt  
Framed charge sheet  
Crime stoppers portrait, dual-colour gum bichromate print on cotton rag  
NFS

Dargs was on the run for 27 days. His mug shot (portrait) was proliferated by Crime Stoppers. On 30th May 2017 he was captured by the Armed Robbery

F Squad at an abandoned farmhouse in country Victoria. The t-shirt worn by Dargs shows the extent of his resist, resulting in a violent arrest.

G Film room/Drying room  
This cell was used by the artists in residence to inspect 35mm negatives on the light box. Their silver gelatin prints are hung up in here to dry.

H Darkroom  
This cell was used by the artists to develop silver gelatin prints.

The works hanging were created by students at the Owen Springs School at the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre

I *Devil Head*, 2021  
Mathew Dargan  
Terracotta, porcelain and light  
\$1000

*Untitled*, 2024  
Mathew Dargan  
Welded steel shipping nuts found in the bin, \$100

J *The Mighty Murray*, 2020  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on canvas, NFS

*Butterfly*, 2022  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on canvas, NFS

*Slow Freedom*, 2020  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on canvas, \$450

*Teapot*, 2022  
Mathew Dargan  
Hand-thrown ceramics, NFS

*Tea, coffee and sugar jars*, 2022  
Mathew Dargan and Slinger  
Dargs threw these black ceramic pieces on the wheel and collaborated with his mate Slinger who etched tattoo-like designs on the surfaces using an old nail. NFS

K Dargs' Cell  
Dargs has set up this cell as close as he could to the maximum security cell he lived in for 3 years of his 6 year sentence.

*Territory Dreaming*, 2023  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on Canvas  
\$1000

Various ceramic pieces, 2021  
Mathew Dargan  
\$80 - \$300, enquire @dargs88

*Brothers Behind Bars*, 2018  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on canvas, NFS

*Didgeridoo* 2018  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic and wood burning on wood, NFS

L *Dragon Flies*, 2020  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on canvas, \$700  
Two artists stay connected while separated by incarceration.

*Happy Birthday Georgie*, 2018  
Mathew Dargan  
Acrylic on canvas, NFS

Various ceramic pieces, 2021-2022  
Mathew Dargan  
\$80 - \$300, enquire @dargs88

*Logodile*, 2024  
Mathew Dargan  
Epoxy resin on found wood  
\$50

M *Smoko Break*, 2023  
Framed cyanotype print on cotton rag  
\$700, unique edition

*Accoutrements*, 2023  
Georgie Mattingley  
Framed cyanotype print on cotton rag  
\$700, unique edition