

## **EN ROUTE: WONA BAE AND CHARLIE LAWLER**

*Heide Museum of Modern Art presents an immersive exhibition that transforms the iconic modernist building Heide II*

9 November 2019 – 2 February 2020



**Melbourne, Australia:** Heide Museum of Modern Art presents *En Route*, an immersive exhibition by artists Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler from 9 November 2019 to 2 February 2020. Marking their first public museum presentation, these large-scale installations create an experiential journey within the iconic modernist building Heide II and encourages viewers to consider what the relationship between human activity and the environment might hold.

South Korean-born artist Wona Bae and Australian artist Charlie Lawler, founders of the acclaimed Loose Leaf Studio, are known for their concept-driven artworks that challenge conventional ideas about the landscape and navigate visceral and symbiotic connections between people and nature.

For *En Route* the artists respond spatially and temporally to Heide II's spaces through a series of site-specific sculptures. Bae and Lawler have experimented with botanical material using a language of texture and reduction — deconstructing familiar forms and devising new landscapes to be considered and explored.

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**Artist Wona Bae said,** *“Heide is one of our favourite architectural sites and it is a privilege to have had such incredible access to this historic space, creating contemporary work that engages with the vision that John and Sunday Reed had for the house.”*

**Artist Charlie Lawler added,** *“Through a series of site specific interventions, we present the natural world as the protagonist with an active voice and central role. With En Route we invite visitors to imagine a time when these familiar yet foreign natural forms gradually engulf the building at Heide II, rolling down hallways and over walls.”*

The exhibition includes a series of photographic works, a continued collaboration with photographer Sean Fennessy documenting ephemeral interventions made by the artists over several months both within and outside the Heide II building and the wider urban surrounds.

**Heide Museum of Modern Art Artistic Director Lesley Harding says,** *“Heide is delighted to present this exciting exhibition by two Melbourne-based artists that presents the natural world as active and central at a time of polarisation, inequality, inaction and apathy.”*

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of limited-edition prints created by the artists in collaboration with Sean Fennessy and Heide Museum of Modern Art, as well as a diverse public program including:

## **Art Talk**

**Saturday 9 November, 2pm**

Artists Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler explore the role of nature and its interaction with the built environment. Bae and Lawler will join Heide’s Artistic Director Lesley Harding for a conversation about their exhibition and remarkable site-specific project in Heide II.

Included in museum admission

## **Studio Visit**

**Saturday 23 November, 3 to 4.30pm**

See behind the scenes of Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler’s studio environment to learn about their art practice and processes.

Adult \$48—Concession \$45—Member \$40 (Museum admission, talk and a glass of wine are included)

Venue: Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler studio, Collingwood

**-ENDS-**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** For further information or interview requests please contact Claire Martin, [claire@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:claire@articulatepr.com.au), 0414 437 588 or Megan Bentley, [megan@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:megan@articulatepr.com.au), 0452 214 611

**IMAGES:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ny69q28yu9kmsas/AADYPrCdFerXzpTK0G1zNiTya?dl=0>

**IMAGE CAPTION:** Installation view, *En Route: Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler 2019*, courtesy of the artists, photograph: Sean Fennessy

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## Exhibition Details:

*En Route: Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler*

9 November 2019 – 2 February 2020

Heide Museum of Modern Art

7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen, VIC 3105

Museum opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm. Closed Mondays

Admission fees apply: Members free | Adult \$20 | Concession \$15 | Children (16 and under) free

[heide.com.au](http://heide.com.au)

## WONA BAE AND CHARLIE LAWLER

Artists Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler specialise in experiential and concept-driven installations. Using a language of texture and reduction their immersive artworks explore the connections between people and nature.

Their artistic approach draws on the structures, patterns and systems of the natural world. Bae and Lawler's large-scale installations encourage interaction and participation, blurring the line between art and the viewer. Their public art projects take their practice beyond the context of the traditional gallery, exploring the role of nature and its interaction with the built environment

Through their artworks Bae and Lawler investigate the importance of the human-nature relationship, and the impacts over time of human activity. By facilitating a meaningful reconnection with natural systems, this bond can be both preserved and respected.

In early 2019 Bae and Lawler collaborated with Melbourne artist Rone in his takeover immersive work *Empire* throughout the abandoned Burnham Beeches art deco house in the Dandenong Ranges. Bae and Lawler created botanical installations that referenced the seasons and reflected the perpetual life and death cycles of nature and the estate's surrounding gardens.

## ABOUT HEIDE

Set on sixteen acres of parkland with Yarra River frontage, Heide Museum of Modern Art, or Heide as it is affectionately known, is one of Australia's most important cultural institutions. Once a significant Wurundjeri gathering place, the property was later a dairy farm before becoming known as a hub for Australian modernist art and writing after it was purchased by art patrons John and Sunday Reed in 1934.

The Reeds opened their home to the most progressive artists of their era, including Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker, Joy Hester, John Perceval, Charles Blackman and Danila Vassilieff. Nolan's famous Ned Kelly series (1946–47) was painted in the dining room of the Heide farmhouse.

Continuing this spirited legacy, today Heide works to inspire creative talent, collaborating with emerging and mid-career artists as well as celebrating those who have made major contributions to Australian and international art.

[heide.com.au](http://heide.com.au)