

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Michelle Nikou: a e i o u opens 23 April at Heide***

**Heide  
Museum of  
Modern Art**  
*Heide*

## **Michelle Nikou: a e i o u**

Opening on 23 April 2016 in the iconic modernist building known as Heide II, a new exhibition by Adelaide-based artist Michelle Nikou presents new and recent works that transform mundane domestic objects and materials into sculptures of humour and marvel.



Michelle Nikou, Untitled [Basket with neon] 2012, cane basket and neon, 67 x 46 x 30 cm (irreg.), Courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Photograph: Sam Roberts, © Michelle Nikou

Utilising surrealist strategies such as chance, psychological metaphor, deadpan wit and juxtaposition, Michelle Nikou inventively mingles high and low art sources and cultural references. Her work intentionally blurs and extends the boundaries between fine art and craft and often invests unremarkable or overlooked facets of daily existence with new and unexpected significance.

Nikou's practice is also characterised by a deep engagement with language and she forges connections between art and literature that invoke suburban life, family interactions and food. Seemingly disparate concepts and materials are regularly combined to produce unsettling and sometimes absurd effects, such as the fried eggs made in bronze that lend the exhibition its title, the flattened egg forms suggesting the vowels of the alphabet.

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Michelle Nikou, *a e i o u* 2012, bronze, edition of 3 (with variations), 5 parts, 124 x 16 x 1.5 cm overall, Courtesy the artist and, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Photograph: Sam Roberts, © Michelle Nikou

As a result of imaginative exploration Nikou has evolved a distinctive visual vocabulary and sophisticated practice with a strong conceptual basis in its play of poetics, aesthetics and forms. Her work is particularly apposite to the domestic context of the modernist Heide II, the former residence of Heide founders John and Sunday Reed.

**Curator: Kendrah Morgan and Melissa Keys**  
Heide II

*Michelle Nikou and curators are available for interview. High res images are available upon request.*

### EXHIBITION

Michelle Nikou: *a e i o u*  
Saturday 23 April – Sunday 28 August 2016

### EXHIBITION TOURS

Every Thursday, 28 April – 26 May, 2pm  
Sunday 15 May, 2pm  
Saturday 28 May, 2pm

### RELATED PROGRAMS

#### ART TALK

*a e i o u*

Saturday 23 April, 2pm

Adelaide-based artist Michelle Nikou draws inventively on the traditions of Surrealism, Pop art and Arte Povera to transform everyday items into objects of humour and marvel. In this exhibition of new and recent work she comments on aspects of domestic life, family interactions and our relationship with food, often investing overlooked aspects of daily existence with unexpected significance. Join the artist for a discussion of her exhibition *a e i o u* with curators Kendrah Morgan, Heide Museum of Modern Art, and Melissa Keys, Senior Exhibitions Manager, NETS Victoria.

**FREE** with admission

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The exhibition is supported by the Visions regional touring program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to cultural material for all Australians.



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**- END MEDIA RELEASE -**

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Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm. Closed  
Mondays (except public holidays)