

Isadora Vaughan

Bilirubin Bezoar

23 May - 22 June 2019

Gertrude Glasshouse

44 Glasshouse Road, Collingwood

Open Thursday–Saturday, 12–5pm

The title of Isadora Vaughan's solo presentation at Gertrude Glasshouse co-joins the names bilirubin – a chemical compound formed by the breakdown of dead blood cells in the body, inherent in the yellow colourisation of bruises – and bezoar – a small stony concretion formed in the stomachs of certain animals, and historically used as an antidote to particular poisons.

Bilirubin Bezoar overwhelms the parameters of the gallery's interior, delineated into three interconnected areas (*Sterilisation / Harvest / Taphonomy*), reminiscent of separate zones within a laboratory, each testing out a different variation of an experiment. In the central chamber, all of the elements are entangled together, with new compositions coexisting with elements from past experiments from the artists oeuvre, embedding a historical trajectory of making and connecting the current project to past undertakings.

Bilirubin Bezoar extends Vaughan's interest in expanded material experimentation and elaborating a visceral interpretation of anatomical surface, composition and transformation. In this installation, the artist blankets the surface of the floor to create an environment that forms a skin upon which audiences must navigate a pathway. Appearing as an environment evoking at once a forest floor and pigsty, yet one that also connotes an infestation or infection of a bodily or topographic surface, the installation takes form like an alchemist's manufacture of a new form of anatomical and environmental situation. Departing purposefully from the physical representation of the human form, Vaughan instead presents a setting of unnerving viscosity, metamorphosis and decay that suggests a conduit between and a collapsing of the body and the environment.

GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY

Isadora Vaughan completed a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from The Victorian College of Arts, Melbourne, in 2013. Selected recent solo exhibitions include *Metabolic Rift*, Station, Melbourne (2018); *Recalcitrant Bodies*, The Honeymoon Suite, Melbourne (2017); *Tess* (with Clementine Edwards), 55 Sydenham Road, Sydney (2017); *Cunjevoi*, Station, Melbourne (2016); *Slatey Cleavage*, Chapter House Lane, Melbourne (2015); *Soil Slag*, TCB art inc., Melbourne (2015); and *Slippery Mattering* West Space, Melbourne (2014). Selected recent group exhibitions include *From Will to Form: TarraWarra Biennial*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville (2018); *Material Politics*, c3 contemporary art space, Melbourne (2017); *Erotisch*, Private residence, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2017); *Erotic City*, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, USA (2016); *First thought*, *Best thought*, Space Space, Tokyo, Japan (2015); and *Soft Eyes: Part One*, TCB art inc., Melbourne.

Isadora Vaughan is represented by STATION, Melbourne and Sydney.

Isadora would like to thank Mia Kelly, Aaron Carter, Mel and Jamie, Tyler from Umami Mushrooms, Eleanor Langford and Deb Kunda.

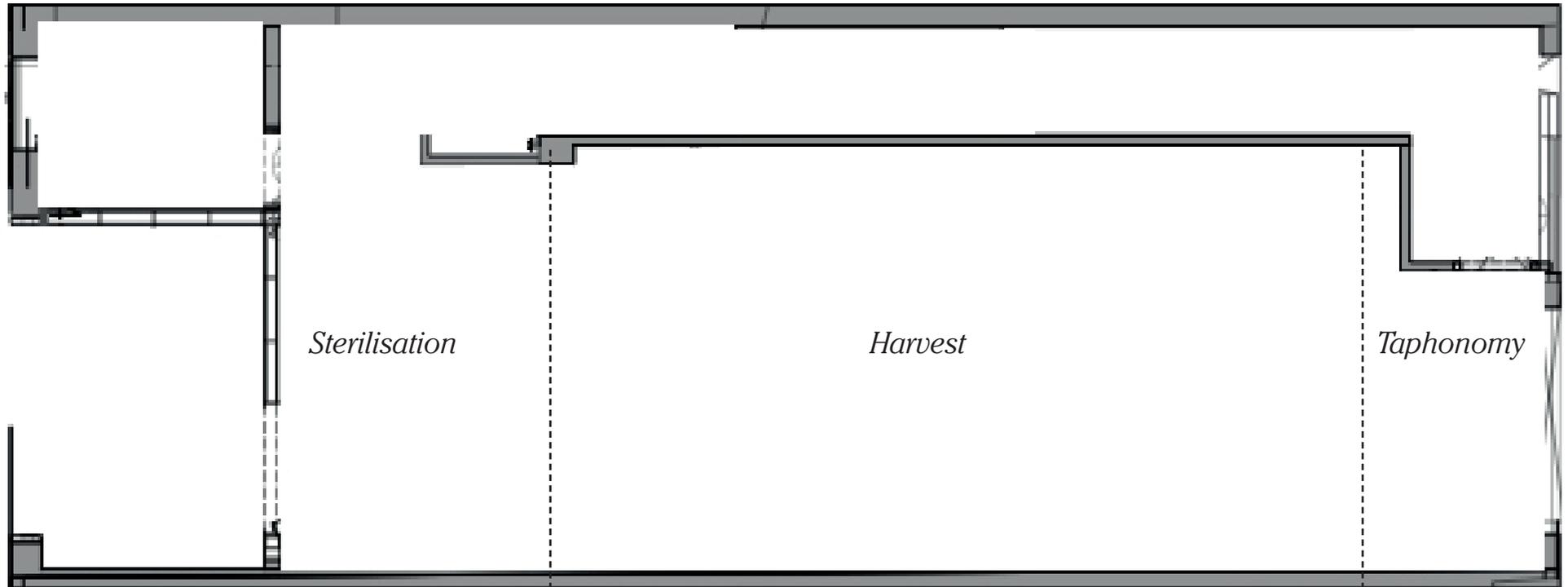
Gertrude Glasshouse is a project space of Gertrude Contemporary used to present solo exhibitions by artists involved in Gertrude's two-year Studio Program. Gertrude Glasshouse is generously supported by Michael Schwarz and David Clouston. Isadora is a current Gertrude Studio Artist (2018 - 2020).

Additional funding for this project has been enabled through *The Big Idea*, an annual initiative supporting the production of new work at Gertrude Glasshouse, and a City of Yarra Small Project grant.

The 2019 Gertrude Glasshouse program is supported by the City of Yarra.



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Bilirubin Bezoar, 2019

Sterilisation

Dutch trollies, stoneware with beeswax and oxide

Harvest

Builders plastic, lucerne hay, grass hay, synthetic yellow oxide, gravel, black aquarium sand, sawdust, acrylic, slumped glass, vegetable oil, salt, crushed limestone, polyurethane mould fragment, silicone mould skirt, feta bucket, kapok fibre, porceline stoneware, thermoplastic, hemp and lime, unfired clay, kiln shelf, woodchips and lime, mycelium and charcoal

Taphonomy

Spent mycelium, steel and wires