

## Tides turn project description 2015

### Handle

Artists, Kirsten Wolf & Fern Smith present a queer take on mermaids 'tides turn' with a selected collection of drawings, digital art prints and watercolour on paper and cotton.

Considerations for this body of work is twofold. Firstly, drawing and watercolour are mediums that capture transience and immediacy. Secondly; the works have a softer environmental imprint through the choice of materials and being a frame free exhibition.

Tides turn explores new ways of thinking about 'mermaids' these creatures of the sea; one of diversity, sexuality, body image, gender.

### Project Description

Artists Kirsten Wolf & Fern Smith would like to present a queer take on mermaids 'tides turn' at Counihan Gallery through an extensive collection of drawings watercolours and digital art prints.

Wolf (Newcastle NSW) & Fern (Moreland VIC) have previously exhibited together in a group show at ANCA Gallery, Canberra. Recently they discovered via social media that they were both working on images of mermaids.

Wolf is producing both black & white drawings and graphic watercolours with the aim of one day producing an adult colouring in book.

'I try and draw my creatures of the deep with agency. These are not objects of desire to be looked at and catalogued, but characters who would rip you to pieces or spear you through the heart in the blink of an eye.'

Considering the environment and quality, Fern's new body of artworks are created through the use of a centuries old technique of watercolours on cotton and the twenty first century digital art print.

Fern sees mermaids as the hidden folklore story relating to all facets of life from death, love, strength, gender politics and the environment. The exploration of mermaids started appearing in Fern's personal symbolism whilst travelling the Western Australian coast line in the late 1980's.

The collective experience and expertise of Wolf and Fern present a wonder filled exhibition of drawings and paintings. It's time we were given a new way to think about these creatures of the sea; one that explores diversity, sexuality, body image and gender.