

# Message in a Bottle|2021

Alina TANG + Bodie HARTLEY | Leonie BRIALEY + Layla  
| Jessica MCLEOD + Edward J. GRUG III |  
Elizabeth MARRUFFO + Campbell WHYTE +  
Tale Town Residents |

**Message in a Bottle** is the third exhibition as part of the annual Perth Comic Arts Festival (PCAF), showcasing four collaborating artist duos from Perth. Their works explore comics narratives, small sculptural vessels, and poetry. This exhibition features the strong but delicate connections that bond and bind us together.

Curated by **Elizabeth MARRUFFO**  
Officially opened by Councillor **Joe FERRANTE**, City of Stirling

**Spectrum Project Space**

Opening: 29th July 5pm - 7pm  
Exhibition dates: 13 Jul - 19 Aug 2021  
Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am - 4pm  
Building 3, 2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

For all sale enquiries of works please contact the curator directly via  
[lizmarruffo@hotmail.com](mailto:lizmarruffo@hotmail.com)



ECU Galleries



## Exhibition Statement

*Signed, sealed and cast out to sea.*

In our creative lives we set ourselves adrift with the pure hope that our message will be found on some distant shore. If we're lucky, that message is found by just the right kindred soul.

**Message in a Bottle** showcases four collaborating artist duos from Perth, who were lucky enough to find their kindred soul. Their works explore comics narratives, small sculptural vessels, and poetry. This exhibition features the strong but delicate connections that bond and bind us to one another.

Although each individual artist retains their own unique voice, together they weave their practices into a whole that is greater than the sum of their individual parts. Through their art they find ways to connect with one another, support each other, move across materials and send their messages out into the world.

## Artists' Biographies

### Elizabeth MARRUFFO

[www.elizabethmarruffo.com](http://www.elizabethmarruffo.com)

Elizabeth Marruffo is from the small border town of Agua Prieta in Sonora, Mexico. In her painting practice, Marruffo engages with ideas of self-representation along with themes of collective grief, loss and love. Her paintings appear as dreamlike images where the earthly and the otherworldly co-exist. With an increasing interest in folkloric traditions, she uses the techniques of a traditional painting practice and creates works that have a distinctive and contemporary voice.

In her work with children's community groups she uses poetic and gentle techniques in ways that encourage a child's ability to develop their own creativity and sense of self.

Elizabeth currently lives and works in Perth, Western Australia. She is also the director of Milktooth Arts Space, where she develops and runs children art classes and adults art workshops. She is a sessional lecturer in painting at Edith Cowan University, has been a finalist in numerous national painting awards including The Portia Geach Memorial Prize and is represented in various collections.

### Campbell WHYTE

[www.campbellwhyte.com](http://www.campbellwhyte.com)

Campbell was born in Perth and has lived here for most of his life. He has a deep love of comics and believes that they are a profound and accessible storytelling medium.

His own comics works include the award-winning graphic novel series Home Time, that is a children's fantasy story set in Perth. Shaun Tan describes it as "Beautifully realised, funny, smart, weird and surprisingly epic in scope, Home Time is also just plain brilliant."

He is a Co-Founder of the Milktooth: Children's School of Art and Stories along with his wife Elizabeth Marruffo, where he teaches comics-making. He is also a Co-Founder of the Perth Comic Arts Festival.

## **Alina TANG**

[www.pansy-shop.com](http://www.pansy-shop.com)

Alina Tang works across ceramics, printmaking and illustration, she runs Pansy, a shop & studio space based in Amsterdam celebrating colourful, handmade objects made in the studio and also by other artists and makers.

She studied Fine Art and Design at Curtin University from 2011 - 2013 and managed creative business & printmaking studio Beau Est Mien Prints and Designs in Northbridge from 2011 - 2018.

She also collaborates with best friend Johanna Acs on several projects including Bead Friends Forever.

## **Bodie HARTLEY**

[www.slowquest.com](http://www.slowquest.com)

Originally from Perth and currently residing in Amsterdam, Bodie mostly creates illustrated content for people to use in their role playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons, as well as creating a variety of small fantasy books and artworks. His creations usually fall somewhere between sinister and whimsical and he loves classic fantasy tales, exploring the cliches and tropes that make the fantasy genre what it is.

## **Jessica MCLEOD**

<http://www.jessicamonster.com/>

Jessica McLeod works in a number of art forms and media including ceramics, textiles, illustration and comics. Her work is informed by many influences including prehistoric sculpture, twentieth century children's books and Japanese character design. She is particularly interested in pareidolia, surface decoration and linework. She has made many comics (together with and separately from her partner Edward J. Grug III) but currently enjoys the process and sensory experience of working with clay, and the tactile nature of ceramics. Her comics background is reflected in her ceramic work. For her, "making things out of clay is as much a mental health process as an art practice." Jessica lives and works on Whadjuk Noongar land.

## **Edward J. GRUG III**

<https://www.instagram.com/edwardjgrug/>

Edward J. Grug III has been reading and making comics for most of his life, publishing dozens of mini-comics and appearing in several anthologies. His art and writing are influenced by Jim Henson, James Kochalka, Joann Sfar and classic newspaper comics. He lives in Perth on Whadjuk Noongar land with his wife Jessica McLeod and his comics-obsessed son.

## **Leonie BRIALEY**

<http://linesloinslions.tumblr.comBiography>

Leonie Brialey is a cartoonist and writer who sometimes also works with clay and screen printing. Psychic Hotline is her most recent comics work, published by Glom Press in 2018, it's about a ghost calling a psychic hotline, also a woman and her dog.

She likes going for walks and looking at things and looking at Layla looking at things. She currently lives and works on Wurundjeri Country where she writes a sporadic newsletter called Lonely Times.

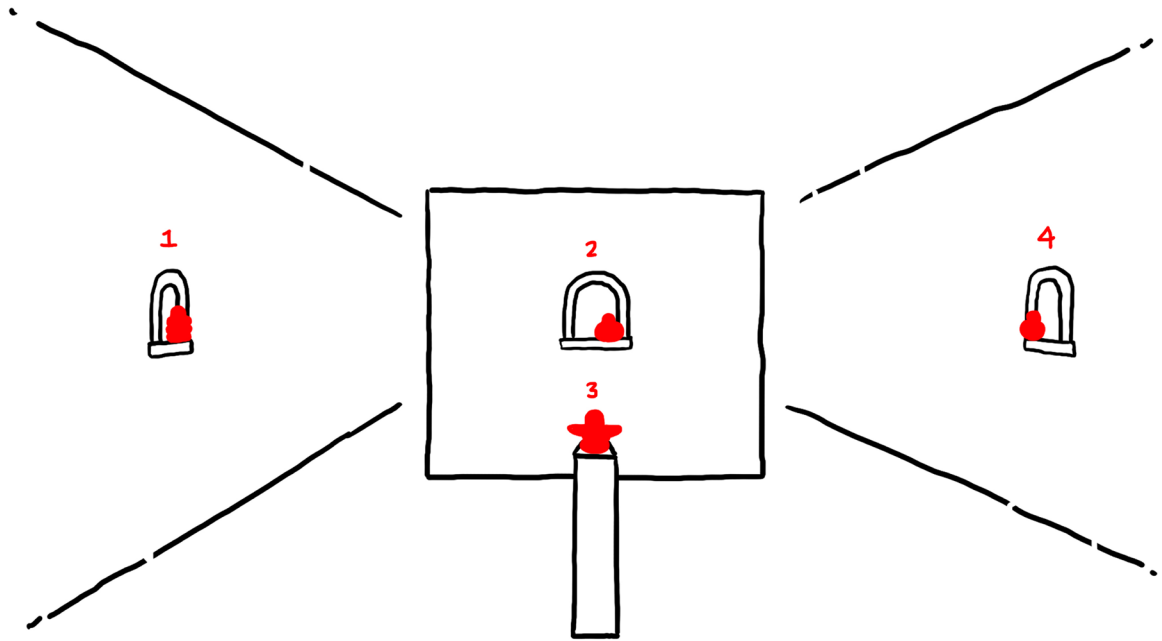
## **Layla**

Layla is a 6 year old stumpy tail cattle dog from Walwa, New South Wales (Dhudhuroa Country). Not much is known about the first 5 years of her life or how she wound up at the pound. She was described as having a "huge heart" and this has proven to be true.

She loves rolling around in the grass on her back, going for long walks and the smell of fresh coffee.



- 1 Leonie Brialey. **Lonely Times Newsletter**. 2020. NFS
- 2 Leonie Brialey. **Kiss From Layla**. 2021. NFS
- 3 Leonie Brialey. **Klayla #1**. 2021. NFS
- 4 Leonie Brialey. **Klayla #2**. 2021. NFS
- 5 Leonie Brialey. **Klayla #3**. 2021. NFS
- 6 Leonie Brialey. **Klayla #4**. 2021. NFS
- 7 Leonie Brialey. **Puppercino**. 2021. \$25
- 8 Leonie Brialey. **How to Hold a Dog #1**. 2021. \$50
- 9 Leonie Brialey. **How to Hold a Dog #2**. 2021. \$50
- 10 Leonie Brialey. **Solid as a Rock**. 2021. \$30



1

Alina Tang & Bodie Hartley. **Ceramic Wall Vase #1**. 2021. \$125

2

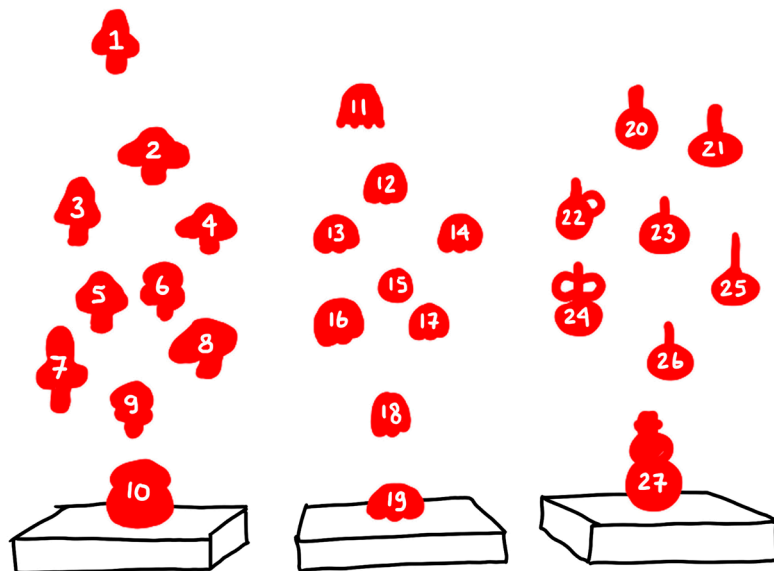
Alina Tang & Bodie Hartley. **Ceramic Wall Vase #2**. 2021. \$125

3

Bodie Hartley. **Gobbo**. 2021. NFS

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Alina Tang & Bodie Hartley. **Ceramic Wall Vase #3**. 2021. \$125



1

Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #1**. 2021. \$20

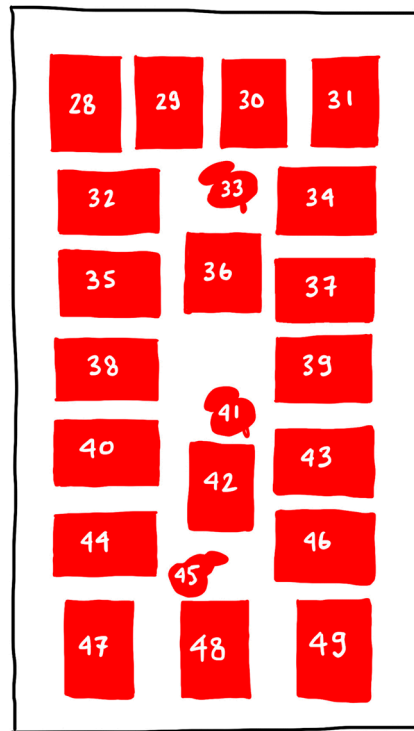
2

Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #2**. 2021. \$20

3

Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #3**. 2021. \$20

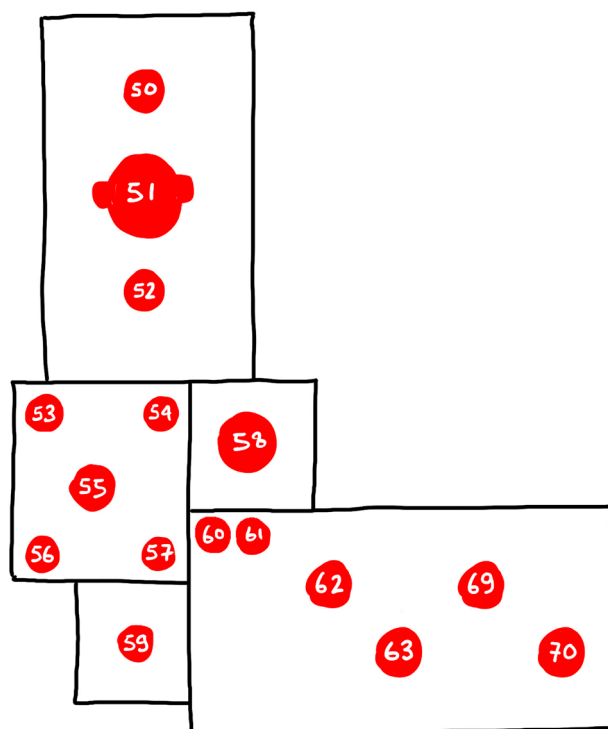
- 4 Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #4.** 2021. \$20
- 5 Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #5.** 2021. \$20
- 6 Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #6.** 2021. \$20
- 7 Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #7.** 2021. \$20
- 8 Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #8.** 2021. \$20
- 9 Jessica McLeod. **Mushroom #9.** 2021. \$20
- 10 Jessica McLeod. **Face Vessel #1.** 2021. \$60
- 11 Jessica McLeod. **Wall Ghost #1.** 2021. \$20
- 12 Jessica McLeod. **Wall Ghost #2.** 2021. \$20
- 13 Jessica McLeod. **Wall Ghost #3.** 2021. \$20
- 14 Jessica McLeod. **Wall Ghost #4.** 2021. \$20
- 15 Jessica McLeod & Robert Charles Forrest. **Scared Face.** 2021. NFS
- 16 Jessica McLeod. **Wall Ghost #5.** 2021. \$20
- 17 Jessica McLeod. **Wall Ghost #6.** 2021. \$20
- 18 Jessica McLeod. **Wall Ghost #7.** 2021. \$20
- 19 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost #1.** 2021. \$26
- 20 Jessica McLeod. **The Vessel is Separated from its Meaning #1.** 2021. \$22
- 21 Jessica McLeod. **The Vessel is Separated from its Meaning #2.** 2021. \$22
- 22 Jessica McLeod. **The Vessel is Separated from its Meaning #3.** 2021. \$22
- 23 Jessica McLeod. **The Vessel is Separated from its Meaning #4.** 2021. \$22
- 24 Jessica McLeod. **The Vessel is Separated from its Meaning #5.** 2021. \$22
- 25 Jessica McLeod. **The Vessel is Separated from its Meaning #6.** 2021. \$22
- 26 Jessica McLeod. **The Vessel is Separated from its Meaning #7.** 2021. \$22
- 27 Jessica McLeod. **Bottle #1 (Gourd).** 2021. \$85



- 28 Jessica McLeod. **Yeti Party**. 2008. NFS
- 29 David Garrett & Edward J. Grugg III. **A Big Fish in a Little Pond**. 2007. NFS
- 30 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grugg III. **Love Puppets Vol1**. 2007. NFS
- 31 Edward J. Grugg III. **Two-Fer**. 2005-2006. NFS
- 32 Edward J. Grugg III. **Intrepid**. 2007. NFS
- 33 Jessica McLeod. **Gumnut #1**. 2021. \$28
- 34 Grant Watson & Edward J. Grugg III. **Henry & Gil vs The Infinity Engine**. 2008. NFS
- 35 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grugg III. **Love Puppets Vol2**. 2008. NFS
- 36 Jessica McLeod. **Space Rabbit (German Edition)**. 2008. NFS
- 37 Edward J. Grugg III. **Cross that Bridge**. 2010. NFS
- 38 Jessica McLeod. **Mungo Bean Vol2**. 2009. NFS
- 39 Various. **Wedding Comics**. 2009. NFS
- 40 Jessica McLeod. **Mungo Bean Vol3**. 2010. NFS
- 41 Jessica McLeod. **Gumnut #2**. 2021. \$28

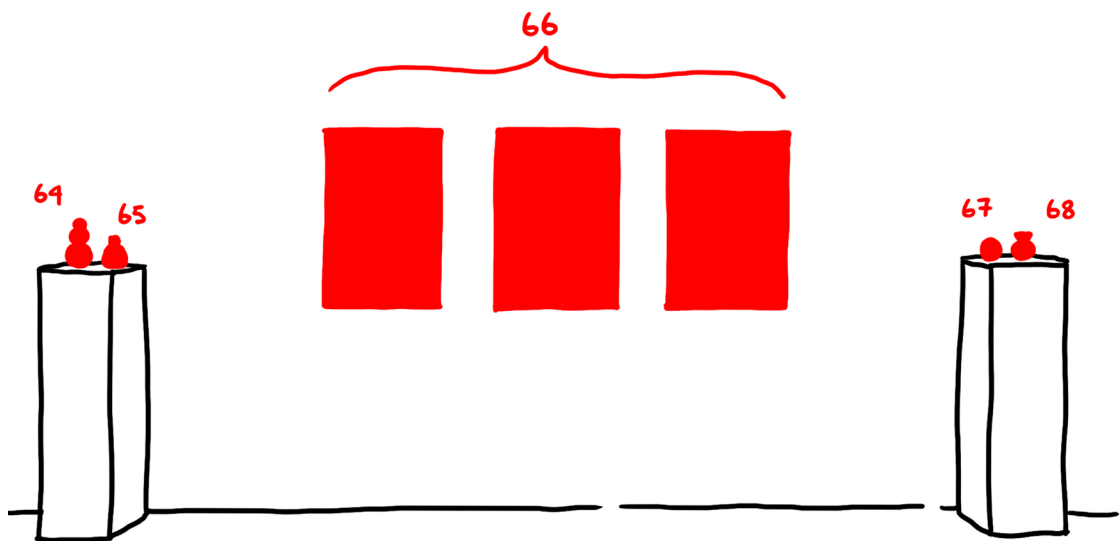


- 42 Alexander Danner & Edward J. Grugg III. **Bring Your Daughter to Work Day**. 2009. NFS
- 43 Jessica McLeod. **The Cat's Pyjamas**. 2010. NFS
- 44 Edward J. Grugg III. **Snapdragon Garden**. 2007. NFS
- 45 Jessica McLeod. **Pear**. 2021. \$28
- 46 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost Farm**. 2006. NFS
- 47 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost Farm (Deluxe Edition)**. 2006/2009. NFS
- 48 Jessica McLeod. **Danford**. 2011. NFS
- 49 Jessica McLeod. **Working Class Elf**. 2009. NFS



- 50 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grug. **Vase (Chicken Sunshine)**. 2021. \$65
- 51 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grug. **Ancient Artefact Telling of a Legendary Battle**. 2021. NFS
- 52 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grug. **Vase (Underwater)**. 2021. \$70
- 53 Jessica McLeod & Robert Charles Forrest. **Strange Ghost**. 2019. NFS
- 54 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost #3**. 2021. \$26

- 55 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grug. **Planter (Penguin)**. 2021. \$70
- 56 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost #4**. 2021. \$26
- 57 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost #5**. 2021. \$26
- 58 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grug. **Planter (Tadpole)**. 2021. \$70
- 59 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grug. **Vase (Dancer)**. 2021. \$60
- 60 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost #6**. 2021. \$26
- 61 Jessica McLeod. **Ghost #7**. 2021. \$26
- 62 Jessica McLeod. **Face Vessel #2**. 2021. \$60
- 63 Jessica McLeod. **Face Vessel #3**. 2021. \$60
- 69 Jessica McLeod. **Face Vessel #5**. 2021. \$60
- 70 Jessica McLeod. **Face Vessel #6**. 2021. \$60



- 64 Jessica McLeod. **Dream**. 2021. \$110
- 65 Jessica McLeod. **Face Vessel #4**. 2021. \$60
- 66 Jessica McLeod & Edward J. Grug. **Dungeon Crawl**. 2021. NFS
- 67 Jessica McLeod. **Jar #1**. 2021. \$60
- 68 Jessica McLeod. **Vessel for Small But Important Things**. 2021. \$85