

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: Friday 9 November, 2018

New Exhibition Focuses on Tasmania's Midlands

An exhibition which prompts and encourages conversation around Tasmania's midlands opens this weekend at City of Launceston's Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park.

The Midlands: Whimsy and Pathos by Mandy Hunniford aims to portray the historical and contemporary narratives that can be discovered in the landscape, architecture and flora of the Midlands and prompt the viewer to wonder: 'What secrets can be found in the hamlets off the highway? And, how does the history of this land influence our identity today?'

Artist Mandy Hunniford is the fourth generation of her family to come from Queenstown, a mining town situated on the west coast of Tasmania. As a child, this dramatic landscape had a significant impact and has created a lifelong artistic and ancestral pull.

After years of pushing the boundaries of what the Tasmanian landscape looked like, Mandy now asks the questions: 'How do we fit in this land? What are our stories? And what secrets do the towns hold?'

Her aim is to delve more deeply into the mysterious, contested and beautiful Tasmanian landscape and into the complex histories of its towns and communities.

QVMAG Visual Art and Design Curator Ashleigh Whatling said this exhibition takes Tasmania's countryside and history and seeks to connect it with the local and broader community.

'Most, if not everyone in Tasmania has a connection with the midlands through commuting, travelling, living, and exploring. This exhibition will help to create conversations about the history, the changing landscapes, and the future of the midlands.'

The Midlands: Whimsy and Pathos runs from Saturday 10 November 2018 to Sunday 24 February 2019 at the Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park in Gallery 7.

You're invited to preview the exhibition and chat with artist Mandy Hunniford and curator Ashleigh Whatling today at 11am in Gallery 7, Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park.