

# Artist challenges perceptions of sex work and disability

Media release

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ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

Artist Toby Matheson's new exhibition, *Shades Within Melbourne Part 2*, celebrates people who work in the sex industry, challenging preconceptions that society has of sex work. The artwork explores perceptions of sexuality and the sex industry in Melbourne through the eyes of a person with a physical disability. The exhibition runs from 1 December 2017 to 4 January 2018 with the opening event on Thursday 30 November 2017, 6 to 8pm at G3 Artspace, Shirley Burke Theatre, 64 Parkers Road, Parkdale.

Toby Matheson's paintings juxtapose portraits of 'working girls' with iconic scenes of Melbourne to expose the hidden aspects of urban life. Matheson's use of block colours, layering of figure and landscape and the three dimensional quality of the paint's texture brings these portraits to life.

*Shades Within Melbourne Part 2* is supported by Kingston Arts and Arts Access Victoria (AAV).

Established in 1974, Arts Access Victoria is the peak body for disability in the arts. AAV aims to support all artists who wish to pursue an individual arts practice outside of AAV art groups and programs. It is the mission of AAV to advocate for all artists who have lived experience of disability to be included in the arts.

It is hoped that people from the local community in the City of Kingston, the sex industry community, Arts Access Victoria artists and the art community in Melbourne will be encouraged to attend to support and celebrate Matheson's work. Artworks will be available for purchase. Matheson's work brings visibility not only to the work and lives of people in the local sex industry but also for artists with a lived experience of disability.

Matheson plans to continue practicing his art, producing new artworks and projects around similar themes. Toby Matheson is available for interview with assistance from Geoff Robinson.

Relevant links:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/525869391094971/>

<http://www.kingstonarts.com.au/VISUAL-ART/Exhibitions/Toby-Matheson>

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