

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate release: January 2012



Exhibition title: FLOAT

Dates: 27 January ~ 24 February 2012

**Opening: Friday 27 January 2012,
6.30pm - 9.30pm**

OUT OF ADVERSITY COMES SHEER JOY. An exhibition which challenges defeat and celebrates life, the creative Innovation of GHOSTNETS AUSTRALIA alongside emerging Brisbane artist, JOANNAH UNDERHILL in their exhibition FLOAT.

Ghost nets are lost or abandoned fishing nets, tangling endangered species and drowning them as they travel the world's oceans. Made from non-degradable materials, they can continue this murderous cycle for years.

GhostNets Australia, an alliance of 22 indigenous communities from across coastal northern Australia, together with rangers and volunteers, **gather the nets as they wash up** on our northernmost shores, distributing them to remote Indigenous communities. There, they are turned into a range of colourful and creative works that commemorate life on the sea's edge.

Artists from **GhostNets Australia & Erub Erwer Meta (Darnley Island Arts Centre)** have **transformed** this lethal trash **into fabulous, colourful baskets and sculptural artworks,** ranging from **a giant fish & an octopus** to a traditional Torres Straits Men's headdress.

Joannah Underhill's paintings present a blooming, fertile **landscape of cellular growth**, rejuvenation and healing. Equally as vibrant and celebratory of life as the Ghostnets works, Johanna is clearly drawn to the eccentric beauty of wild Australia, which she references "with the curious fascination of an alien landing in paradise".

Diagnosed with cancer while living in London, the young artist fled home to Australia, to **paint her way to health.** Her sense of colour and joyous abandon bring "imagery from the sub-conscious mind to float to the surface and manifest as living, breathing possibilities in the realm of the new."

Please direct media enquiries to:

Cassandra Lehman-Schultz, Gallery Manager

Image captions: Joannah Underhill **Untitled**, detail 2012, ink and oil on canvas
Maryann Bourn, **Arti (octopus)**, 2011, 130 x 550 x 550mm, Ghost Net and shell
Ellarose Savage, **Turtle** 2012, 150 x 440 x 500mm, Ghost Net

Woolloomgabby Art Gallery

613 Stanley St Woolloomgabby Qld 4102

e: email@wag.com.au w: www.wag.com.au

p: +61 (0) 7 3891 5551 m: +61 (0) 4674 93848