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**CZECH  
& SLOVAK  
FILM FESTIVAL**



## Media Release

### The 2nd Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia Melbourne Exhibitions Announcement:

#### Scratching Surfaces

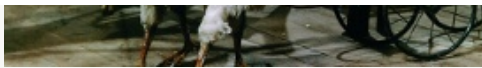
CaSFFA proudly presents ***Scratching Surfaces***, an evocative trio of exhibitions informed by the 2014 festival theme of *Resistance* and celebrating the singular career of legendary Czech surrealist filmmaker and artist, Jan Švankmajer. The exhibitions provide insight into oppressors and dissidents alike, while a sculptural exhibition by local artists forms an international dialogue with the rich themes and irresistible tactility of Švankmajer's oeuvre. The exhibition is open for the duration of the film festival and is complemented by a public program of events throughout.

**Yarra Gallery, Federation Square  
21–28 August**

Opening night 22 August 6–8 pm  
Open daily 10 am–6 pm

## Exhibitions





## Jan Švankmajer: Dimensions of Dialogue / Between Film and Fine Art

- A life and career overview in text and images celebrating Švankmajer's remarkably epic career and 80th birthday. Organised by Czech Centres with a concept and text compiled by Švankmajer's fellow members of the Group of Czech-Slovak Surrealists. Presented in connection with a Švankmajer film retrospective screening at ACMI Cinemas and co-presented by CaSFFA and the [Melbourne Cinémathèque](#).

## Prague through the Lens of the Secret Police

- Photos and text providing insight into the surveillance practices employed by the dreaded Czechoslovakian secret police.  
Exhibition prepared by The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague.

## Conspirators

- A homage to the limitless material potential and pleasure of sculpture, this exhibition of sculptural works by local artists forms an international dialogue with the rich themes and irresistible tactility of Švankmajer's oeuvre. Featuring automata and works made from a tantalising array of materials including glass, hair, food products, textiles, clay and found objects that resonate with the gothic and surreal undertones of Švankmajer's tactile imagination.

### Artists:

Aly Aitken | Eddy Carroll | James Cattell | Sarah Field | Duncan Freedman | Wanda Gillespie | Skye Kelly | Karla Pringle | Nadia Mercuri | Renuka Rajiv | Carmen Reid | Robbie Rowlands | Terry Williams and Jenny Bartholomew  
- curated by Carmen Reid

### For more information about the artists please visit these websites:

Aly Aitken: <http://thecupboard.com.au>

Eddy Carroll: <http://eddycarrollwork.blogspot.com.au>

James Cattell: <http://www.honeyweatherandspeight.com.au>

Sarah Field: <http://www.sarahfield.com.au>

Duncan Freedman: <http://duncanthefreedman.blogspot.com.au>

Wanda Gillespie: [www.wandagillespie.com](http://www.wandagillespie.com)

Skye Kelly: <http://www.skyekellyart.com>

Karla Pringle: [www.karlapringle.com](http://www.karlapringle.com)

Nadia Mercuri: [www.nadiamercuri.com](http://www.nadiamercuri.com)

Renuka Rajiv: <http://pithbull.blogspot.com.au>

Carmen Reid: [www.carmenreid.net](http://www.carmenreid.net)

Robbie Rowlands: <http://www.robberowlands.com.au>

Terry Williams and Jenny Bartholomew: <http://www.artsproject.org.au/blog/kmky-artist-talk-series-5>, <http://aarts.net.au/supportedstudios/blog/portfolio/terry-williams>, <http://www.jenniferbartholomew.com>

## Public Program





## Opening

Fri 22 Aug 6–8pm

Featuring performances of intricate automated works by exhibiting artist James Cattell and the compelling musical storytelling of Pete Reid.

## Artist and Curator Talks

Sat 23 Aug 4–6pm

## Gallery After Dark

Tues 26 Aug 6–9pm

Join the dialogue. Meet members of the CaSFFA team for an informal chat about all things film and festival and a leisurely wander about *Scratching Surfaces* – the trio of CaSFFA exhibitions in the Yarra Gallery. Additional guests to be announced – keep an eye on the CaSFFA website. With drinks and biscuits!

## Sincerely,

**Cerise Howard, Artistic Director; Carmen Reid, Exhibition Curator, and the CaSFFA Team, Melbourne:** Brendan Black, Denisa Sehnalová, Lilliana Hajncl, Linda Studená, Lenka Hadravová, Dean McInerney, Jack Russo, Miriam Fletcher, Jana Ridillová, Rochelle Siemienowicz, Olivia Hărgan, Sofie Ham

**For more information about CaSFFA 2014, visit our website:**

<http://casffa.com.au>

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**Instagram:** [@CaSFFA](#)

# Media Enquiries

For more information about the festival, **to arrange an interview with Artistic Director Cerise Howard or Exhibition Curator Carmen Reid**, or to request artist images or other publicity materials, please contact:

**Carmen Reid:** +61 432 915 626

**Email:** [carmen.reid@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.reid@gmail.com)

Email: [Carmen.reid@gmail.com](mailto:Carmen.reid@gmail.com)

Conspirators image, above:

**Terry Williams and Jenny Bartholomew**

***Untitled Talking*, 2013**

fabric, wool, found cricket ball & found play pipes

Dimensions variable

Courtesy of the artists and Arts Project Australia

Image by Penelope Hunt

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