

About the Artist

Cironis' solo exhibitions include Hammer and Honey, Albany Town Hall 2022, This Space Between Us, Art Collective 2021, Forest of Voices, PICA 2020 and Dislocation, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery (Perth Festival 2021). She has also participated in multiple group shows including the Bunbury Biennale 2021, Taipei Fine Arts Museum Taiwan 2019, Dead Centre touring Regional Galleries WA 2016 - 2017, Sappers and Shrapnel Art Gallery SA 2016, The Greek Dimension ANZAC Centenary Exhibition Canberra 2015, and System Error Biennale of Sydney 1996.

Her work is featured in numerous public and private art collections within Australia and internationally, including the Janet Holmes à Court Art Collection (WA), Art Gallery of Western Australia, Taipei Fine Arts Museum (Taiwan), Murdoch University Art Collection (WA), Volos University (Greece), Thessaloniki Art Gallery (Greece), John Curtin Gallery (WA) and Cities of Fremantle, Bunbury and Geraldton (WA).

Cironis is a member of the 'Art Collective WA'. In 2021, the collective published Olga Cironis: This Space Between Us, a monograph that covers much of her practise over the last 30 years, with essays from Curator, Lisa Slade (SA), Curator, Paola Anselmi (WA), and Jacqueline Millner (Vic).



Rockingham Arts Centre
11 Kent Street,
Rockingham

Gallery opening times:
Wednesday – Sunday
10am – 4pm

Contact:
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rockingham.wa.gov.au/exhibitions



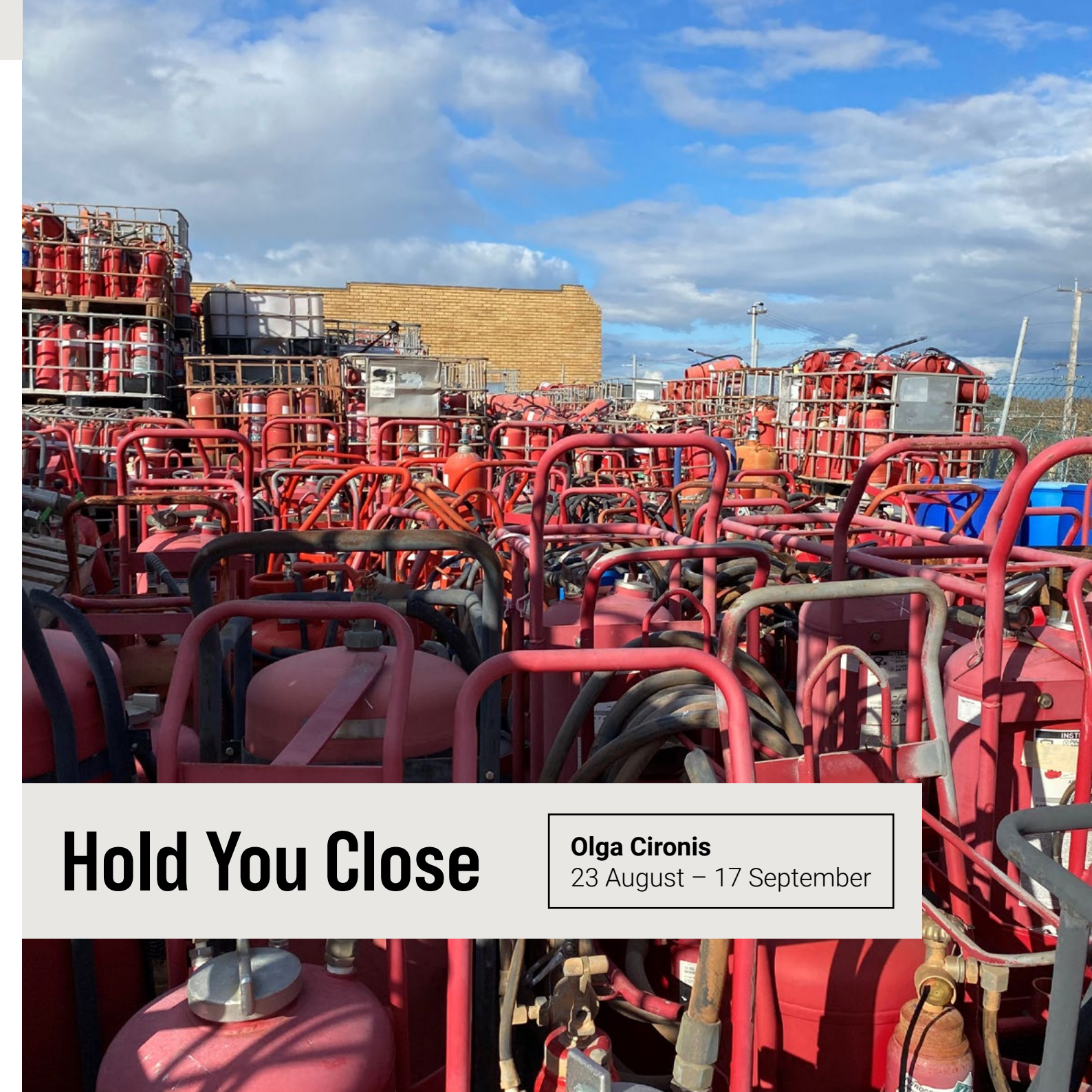
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Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Rockingham acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk, Nyoongar peoples and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.

Olga Cironis, *Fire extinguishers*, 2023, digital image.
Image credit: courtesy the artist



Hold You Close

Olga Cironis
23 August – 17 September



Olga Cironis

Olga Cironis is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist, living in Fremantle (Walyalup), Western Australia (WA). Since graduating with a Masters of Visual Arts from University of Sydney in 1995, Cironis has exhibited extensively.

Christophe Canato, *Olga Cironis*, 2023, digital image.

With thanks





Hold You Close

by Olga Cironis

Hold You Close is about humanity, our interconnectedness and human reliance on nature, and the earth's ecosystem. By using archetypal symbols to disturb cultural and social norms, the work speaks about human fragility and strength, and the unbridled desire to belong.

As humans, we are acutely aware of our reliance on the environment and our relationship to it. And yet we treat it as if it's our enemy. This new body of work is about a journey of environmental and individual change, and daily heroism.

Olga Cironis, *Emergency blanket* (detail), 2023, digital image.
Image credit: courtesy the artist

The installation in this room highlights and responds to our present global environmental issues. The 150 fire extinguishers are deliberately placed on the floor in a grid-like format. They reference soldiers marching into or holding back a disaster. These red coloured containers are hollow and echoey – perhaps an unsung hymn.

Surrounding the extinguishers are gold emergency blankets with red text that question and confront the viewer, whilst holding them in comfort. Both the wall and floor works in this room respond to each other, much like a bombed dam that floods its surroundings. This unstable space between nature and human actions is left for the audience to ponder on and interpret from their own perspective

In mythology, fire can be regarded as a gift and/or punishment. The defining element of desire, love, passion, renewal, survival and power. Throughout history, fire has symbolised both energy and destruction, science and mysticism. This dichotomy of positive and negative undertones troubles the theory that "The use of fire by humans... is considered a defining property of intelligence separating us from other animals" (Scott, 2018).

This installation invites audiences to question their interconnectedness and dependence to their surroundings.

Olga Cironis, *I hold you close for a reason*, 2023, emergency blanket and red text, 210 x 140cm.
Image credit: Tony Bowers

