



Jon Campbell

yEAH / dUNNO

Geelong Art Gallery

2026

DARREN  
KNIGHT  
GALLERY

With his use of words and phrases as imagery, Jon Campbell captures aspects of popular culture that are both lived and observed, local, national and international, and spoken, written, sung or read. Campbell works across paintings, drawings, neon lighting, tea towels, flags and songs to demonstrate his love of suburbia and its vernacular. His works define not only the look of the world in which he lives, but the accent and humour of its language.

YEAH / dUNNO brings together works spanning over four decades of the artist's practice that can be experienced inside and outside the building: just as Campbell draws from the everyday, so too does his work become part of our daily experience. Three major commissions anchor the exhibition: Campbell's signature YEAH on the Gallery's front windows; the foyer wall painting IT IS WHAT IT IS; and the five panel work DUNNO that wraps around the Gallery's rear facade.

Bookended by the positivity of YEAH and the uncertainty of DUNNO, selected works are presented through the central galleries, variously reflecting the visual potential of words and language, the broad range of materials Campbell employs, and the diverse sources he draws from. From the precariously stacked letters of Dodgy that visually suggest the idea of something not being quite right, and the painted stacked letters of Sam Kerr's left calf that record a moment in recent sporting history that held the attention of Australians worldwide, to the neon glow of Pure Bewdy, a nod to influential American Conceptual artist John Baldessari (1931-2020) whose signature phrase 'pure beauty' is given a decidedly Australian inflection in Campbell's hands.

Campbell's connection to Melbourne's west and our region is also evident: Celebration depicts partygoers in Lorne; Setlist (Magic Dirt) brings together song titles from one of Geelong's most loved bands; Backyard inspired Campbell's major public sculpture commission at the Duncans Road interchange on Princes Freeway, Werribee; Save our pool records the artist's active participation in long running community efforts to prevent the closure of the Footscray Pool; and in the adjacent room, Footscray Halal Meats 100% / Ned Kelly, provides alternative perspectives of the Australian experience to the imagery on souvenir tea towels.

Works on paper also feature in Campbell's practice: a thematic installation of drawings, collage, and printed material range across the figure, landscape, music, and text, revealing the diversity and evolution of the artist's practice.

With humour, honesty and optimism, Campbell provides a vibrant and inclusive celebration of the small, the overlooked and the commonplace.

A Geelong Gallery exhibition

Curated by Lisa Sullivan, Assistant Director, Curatorial

Photographer: Andrew Curtis

JON CAMPBELL



*Yeah* 2004

handstitched polycotton flag, flag fittings

88 x 182 cm; Collection of the Artist.

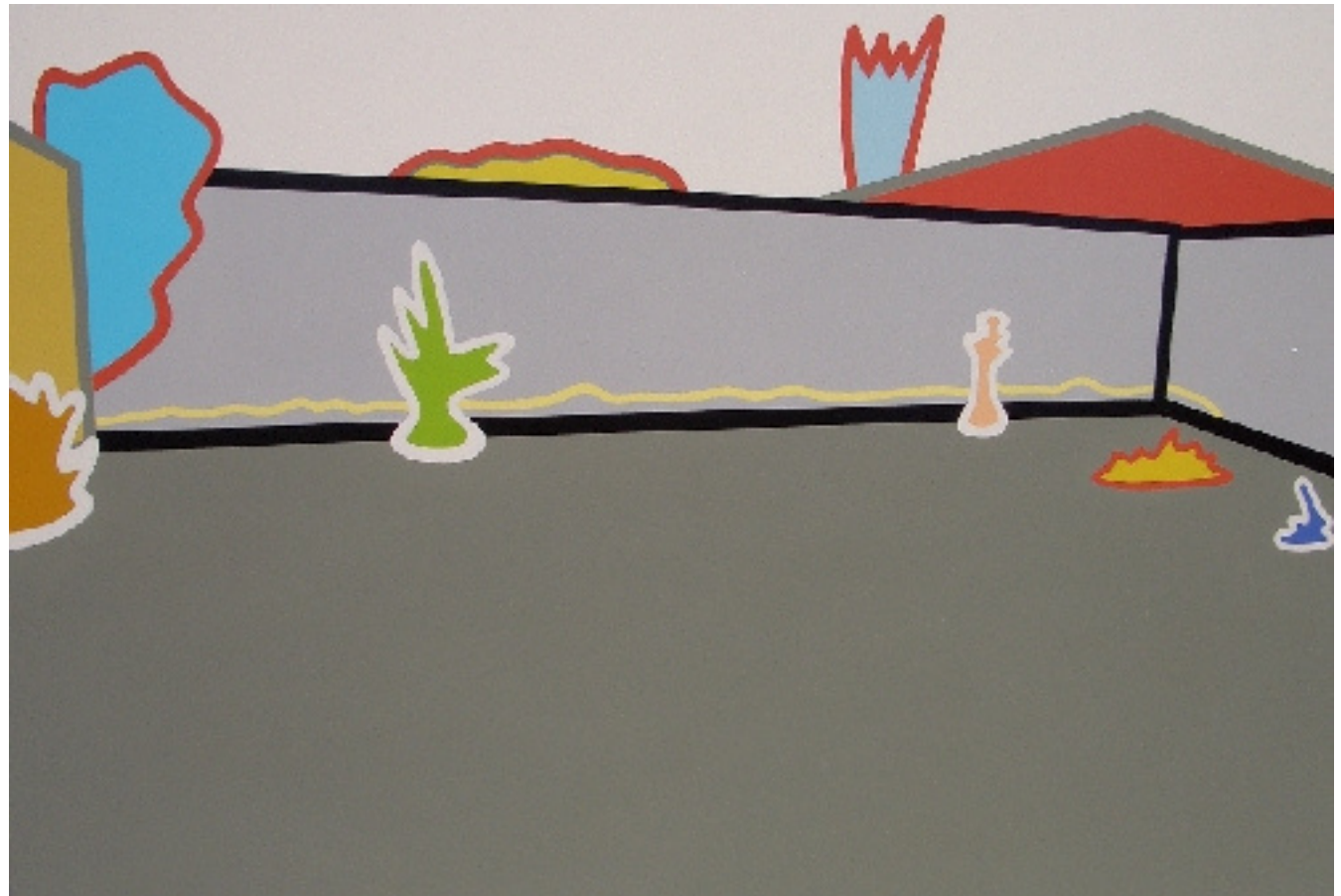
Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis



*Save our pool 2002*  
acrylic and enamel paint on plywood  
51 x 45.7 cm  
\$5,500.00

*Fuck knuckle* 2019  
acrylic paint on linen  
214 x 140 cm  
\$25,000.00





*Backyard* 2005  
enamel paint on cottonduck  
98 x 157 cm  
\$20,000.00



Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis

what have I done?

X-ray

Short black

shrinko

murder

she-riff

poem

rabbit

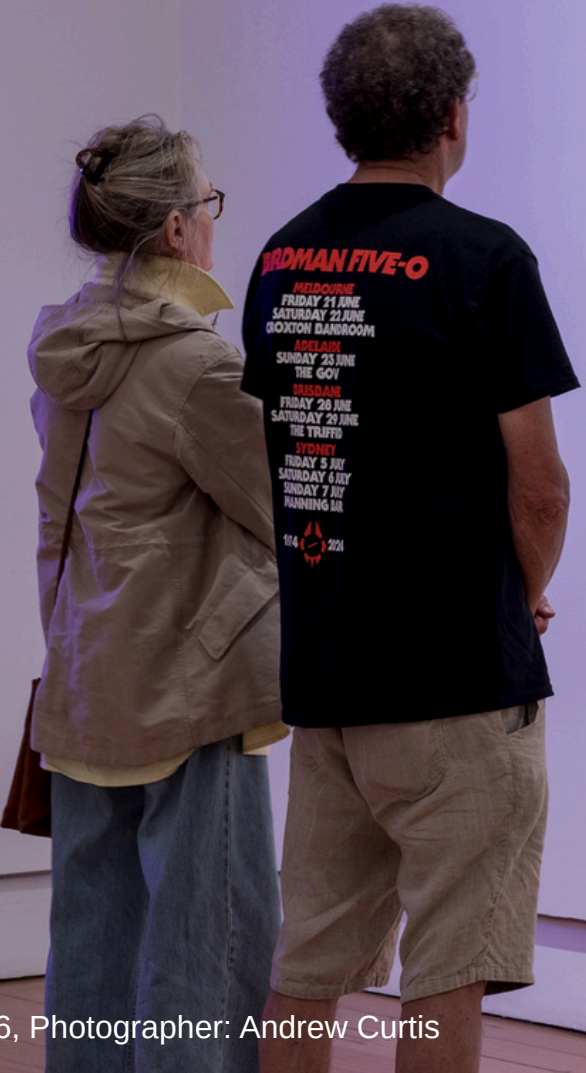
p.c.

*Setlist (Magic Dirt) 2000*  
acrylic paint on cottonduck  
153 x 74 cm  
\$15,000.00

reak



what have I done?  
X-ray  
Short black  
shrinko  
murder  
she-riff  
poem  
rabbit  
p.c.



Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO

With the use of words and phrases in images, Jon Campbell captures moments of popular culture that we both love and dislike. His work is a celebration of the everyday, often using the words of Jon Campbell to create something new, something that is both familiar and strange.

Jon Campbell brings together words appearing over the decades of the artist's practice that will be presented in a new and subtle way. The words are taken from the artist's work, often from the same time period, but they are presented in a new and subtle way.

Responding to the quality of light in the gallery, Campbell selected words and phrases that will be presented in a new and subtle way. The words are taken from the artist's work, often from the same time period, but they are presented in a new and subtle way.

Campbell's selection of words and phrases is a celebration of the everyday, often using the words of Jon Campbell to create something new, something that is both familiar and strange.

With the use of words and phrases in images, Campbell captures moments of popular culture that we both love and dislike. His work is a celebration of the everyday, often using the words of Jon Campbell to create something new, something that is both familiar and strange.

A Gallery Sales assistant  
Contact: Sue Fisher, Assistant Director, Curatorial

Exhibition Partners  
The Arts Centre Foundation  
The Arts Centre Foundation  
The Arts Centre Foundation

104 2024

Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis



*Pennant 2002*

acrylic paint on masonite

35 x 60 cm

\$5,500.00

*Hair of the Dog* 2017  
acrylic and watercolour on paper  
29.7 x 21 cm  
\$1,400.00





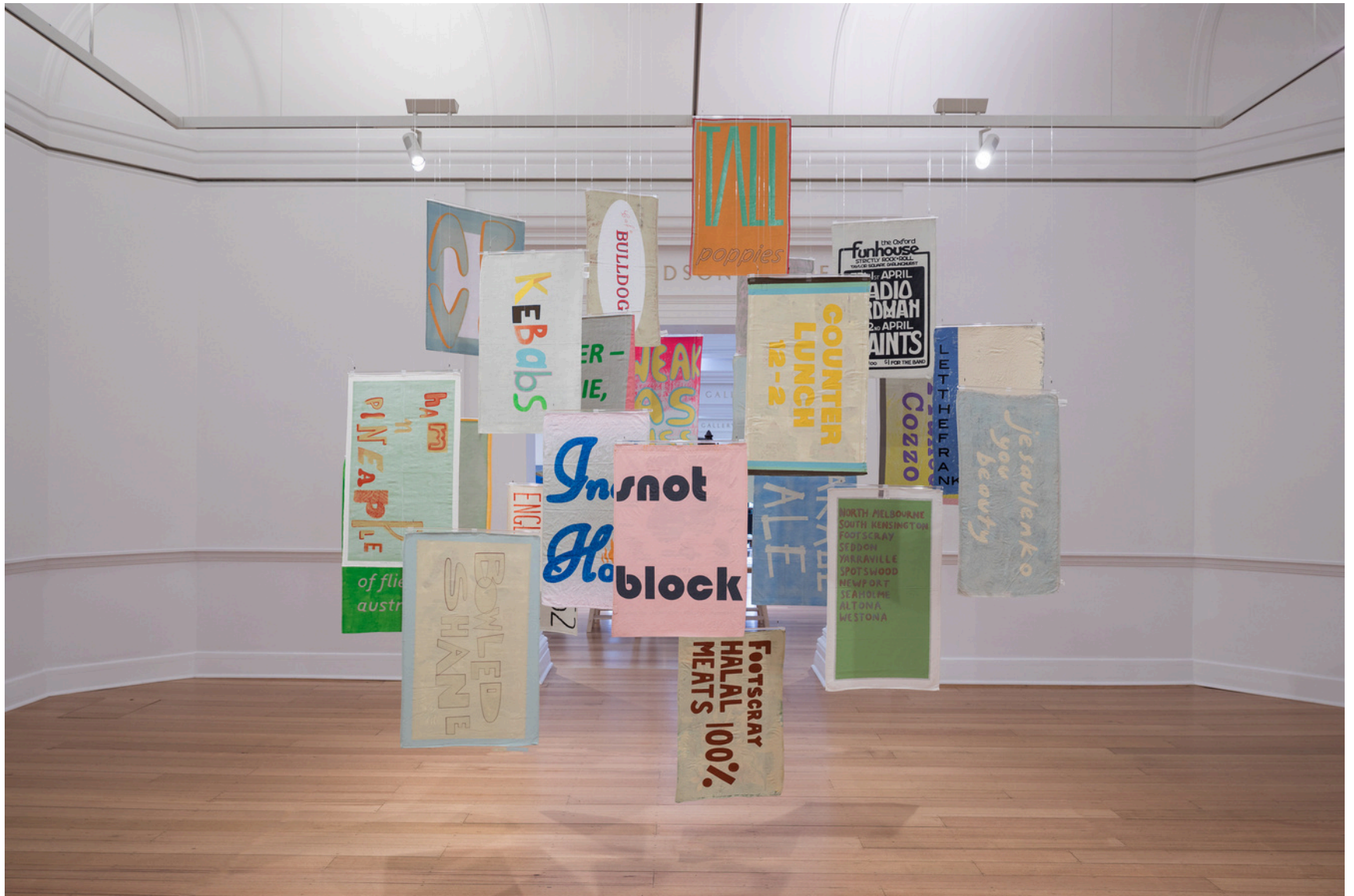
*Footscray Halal Meats 100%/Ned Kelly 2008-2009*

enamel and acrylic paint on cotton and linen teatowels; 25 pieces

dimensions variable

\$50,000.00

Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis



*Footscray Halal Meats 100%/Ned Kelly 2008-2009*

enamel and acrylic paint on cotton and linen teatowels; 25 pieces

dimensions variable

\$50,000.00

Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis



*It's a World Full of Lying Bastards* 2017-2020

enamel paint on plywood; 28 panels

246 x 432 cm overall

\$60,000.00

Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis

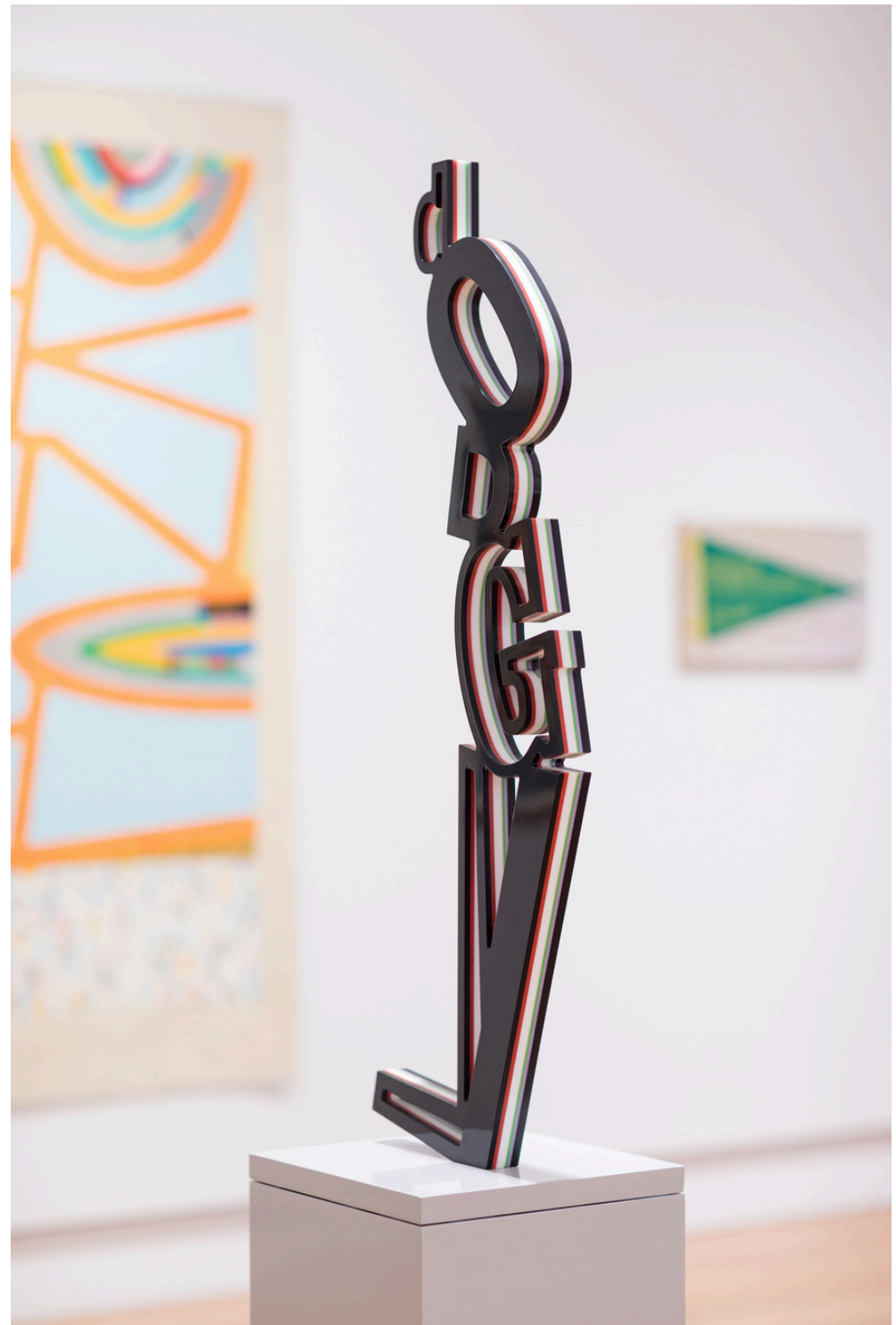
*Dodgy* 2022

acrylic, Edition 2 + 1 Artist Proof

95 x 32 x 3.5 cm

\$6,500.00

Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026,  
Photographer: Andrew Curtis





*Sam Kerr's Left Calf 2024*

acrylic paint on linen

180 x 120 cm

\$25,000.00



Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis



Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis

*Pub Rock* 2024  
acrylic paint on cottonduck  
88 x 62 cm  
\$7,000.00





*Celebration (study 1)* 1985  
oil and enamel paint on Masonite  
30.5 x 30.5 cm  
\$4,500.00



*Celebration (study 2)* 1985  
oil and enamel paint on Masonite  
30.5 x 30.5 cm  
\$4,500.00



H P DOUGLASS GALLERY

Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026, Photographer: Andrew Curtis



Collection of works on paper

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Collection of works on paper

Jon Campbell—yEAH / dUNNO, installation view, Geelong Gallery, 2026.



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