

MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release

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PUTTING THE ABERRATION INTO COLLABORATION

Toowoomba-based visual artist Danish Quapoor thrives on wordplay and collaborating, so it comes as no surprise that his latest illustration project combines these two elements.

Featuring collaborations between the lead artist and seventeen local, national and international artists, *Danish Quapoor & Franz* will present a unique exhibition model - all artworks in '*collaberration*' will feature the lead artist, and most have been physically mailed back and forth between the stages of their creation.

As the artist described, "it's Postman Pat meets Mr Squiggle... meets The Ferals.

"I'm particularly excited to present this exhibition at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery in March 2018, as this reflects a kind of repatriation for me and my creativity. I returned to Toowoomba in August 2017 after three and a half years in Melbourne, and I have met a lot of interesting artists in both places. Collaboration helps me to meet new people and to get my creative juices flowing again".

Quapoor has not met all of the artists featured however, having approached some of them via their websites, dating apps and social media.

"It's one way to make the connectedness of the internet work for me, when I consider the cliquey-ness of many art spheres, and the disconnectedness of the world at large. At the same time, there is something isolating about collaborating from a distance - while the essence of the other artist is palpable, it can often be like creating a standalone artwork."

Melbourne's Lauren Guymer has described the process as a fun and effective learning experience. "I normally create work on my own... but integrating our two styles has been a valuable challenge."

The nature of this project and the number of artists also means that the artwork is varied. *collaberration* features illustrated portraits, stippled landscapes, screen-printed paper works and watercolours. The unifying aesthetic, of course, is that of Quapoor's signature stylised line-work.

In the lead up to the exhibition, invitees to the exhibition are also encouraged to participate and to collaborate with Quapoor. The physical invitations to *collaberration* present an unfinished artwork that recipients can add to and share on social media, or upload to the artist's website.

Danish Quapoor was previously featured at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery in the *Biennial Emerging Artists' Award* in 2012, and has since exhibited in galleries in Toowoomba, Brisbane and Melbourne. Quapoor will be exhibiting at the *Biennale of Australian Art* (Ballarat) later this year.

collaberration will be on display from 17 March to 15 April 2018 at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, 531 Ruthven St, Toowoomba. The official opening will feature a collaborative artist talk on Sunday 18 March at 1.30pm. For further information or to request an invitation, visit www.danishquapoor.com/collaberration