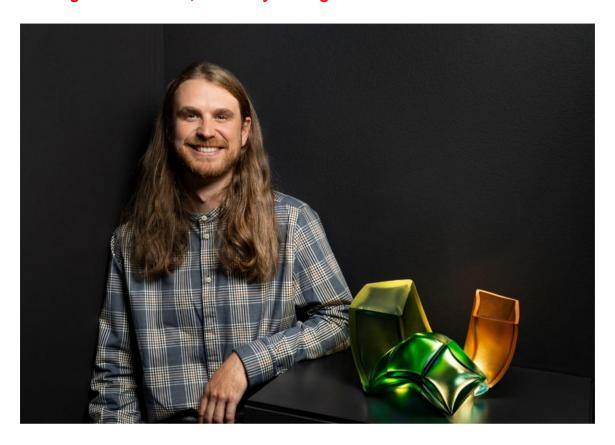# AGSA

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MEDIA RELEASE
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2021 Guildhouse Fellow announced, glass artist Liam Fleming explores what it is to deconstruct and relinquish control.

Adelaide, Australia: Guildhouse, the Art Gallery of South Australia and the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation are delighted to announce South Australian glass artist Liam Fleming as the 2021 Guildhouse Fellow – a twelve-month fellowship valued at over $50,000.

The Guildhouse Fellowship was inaugurated in 2019 with the generous support of leading philanthropists, the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation, to recognise and elevate South Australian artistic ambition. The annual fellowship offers a transformative opportunity for one mid-career South Australian visual artist each year, awarding funding to support research and development, including the creation of new work, and a presentation outcome at AGSA.

This year's Guildhouse Fellow, Adelaide-based glassblower, artist and designer Liam Fleming, is recognised for his unique sculptural objects which playfully test the constraints of glassblowing. Using a kiln to perform 'controlled demolition' of his work, he explores the complicated relationship between craft, art, design and architecture. A graduate of the prestigious JamFactory Associate program, Fleming is a finalist in AGSA's Ramsay Art Prize 2021 and has exhibited extensively including internationally at London Design Week, Milan Design Week and in Berlin for *Australia Now.*

Liam Fleming says, "The Guildhouse Fellowship is really coming at a critical moment for me, when I've invested a great deal of energy into taking my work in new directions…I feel a shift occurring. Such belief and encouragement will afford me time and space to refine my practice and focus my energy entirely on making. The James & Diana Ramsay Foundation open up a spectrum of opportunities that are profoundly important for and deeply valued by artists."

The Fellowship's 2021 selection panel, comprised AGSA Assistant Director, Artistic Programs Dr Lisa Slade, Guildhouse Chief Executive Officer, Emma Fey and guest judge, Jose da Silva, Director of UNSW Galleries, were united in their decision, noting the strength and diversity of South Australia's artistic community.

The selection panel commented, "Liam Fleming's works are captivating in their demonstration of expert technique, uncertainty and imperfection. Liam's work makes a vital contribution to contemporary Australian art through glass and we believe that he will take full advantage of this momentous opportunity to build momentum in his career."

James & Diana Ramsay Foundation Executive Director, Kerry de Lorme says, "Liam Fleming's practice demonstrates the clarity of purpose, ambition and experimentation we aspire to support through the Guildhouse Fellowship. We recognise how important and unique opportunities such as this are, particularly with a presentation outcome at AGSA. The Guildhouse Fellowship makes a unique contribution to the development of South Australian artists' careers and the state's cultural economy more broadly."

AGSA Director, Rhana Devenport ONZM commented, "The Guildhouse Fellowship is critical to the sustainability and growth of artistic excellence in South Australia. We commend the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation for their visionary support and we look forward to collaborating with Liam on a Fellowship outcome to be presented at AGSA."

Now in its third year, the Guildhouse Fellowship has had meaningful impact for previous recipients. Following travel and research in Berlin in 2019, inaugural Fellow Troy-Anthony Baylis developed a series of powerful new textile works using text as a vehicle to examine identity, colonial place making and Aboriginal sovereignty.

Current Guildhouse Fellow, Dr Sera Waters' compelling work is reaching audiences throughout Australia via several significant projects including *Eucalyptusdom* at Powerhouse Museum, a solo exhibition at Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide, and group exhibitions in Tasmania, Queensland and regional South Australia. Waters' work will also be featured in the international Climate Badges project at two venues in the United Kingdom.

The 2021 Guildhouse Fellow, Liam Fleming is a finalist in the $100,000 acquisitive Ramsay Art Prize, made possible through the support of the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation, currently on display at AGSA until 22 August 2021.

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Media images and captions are available here:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hu7mvomku0zlkrf/AAAKF_WvbV9IwUWeY7nU4u61a?dl=0

LIAM FLEMING BIOGRAPHY

Liam Fleming is a Tarntanya (Adelaide) based glassblower, artist and designer with an active practice of over ten years. Alumni of University of South Australia's visual arts program and the prestigious JamFactory glass training program, Fleming currently works part-time as Design Manager for JamFactory Glass Studio, a position he has held since 2015. Technically trained as a production glassblower, Fleming's art practice is characterised by his unique sculptural objects. His work is often an expression of his interest in the complicated relationship between craft, art, design and architecture.

Fleming's work has been exhibited extensively, including as an annual feature in Melbourne Design Week. Internationally, his work has been displayed as part of London Design Week, Milan Design Week and in Berlin during *Australia Now*. He has received numerous grants and scholarships in support of his work, including a full scholarship to attend the acclaimed Pilchuck Glass School in Washington, USA, in 2018 and an Art Gallery of South Australia artist bursary in 2020. A renowned artist in his medium, Fleming was invited as a speaker and demonstrator at the 2018 International Glass Art Society conference in Venice, Italy and the 2019 Australasian Glass conference in Whanganui, New Zealand. Additionally, he has been recognised as a finalist in several prestigious awards including JamFactory Fuse Glass Prize 2018, Art Gallery of Western Australia Tom Malone Glass Prize 2019, The Design Files Design Awards 2020 and Art Galley of South Australia Ramsay Art Prize 2021.

Fleming has been invited to undertake artist residencies in Delhi, India, Oaxaca, Mexico, Murano, Italy and Seattle, USA. In July/August this year, he will fulfil the acclaimed Artist in Residence position at Canberra Glassworks. Actively engaged in the creative community, Fleming has established an impressive network of collaborators working across disciplines, most notably with furniture designer and maker Jon Goulder in 2017and architect and designer Adele Winteridge in 2021.

Fleming works out of JamFactory and his personal studio in Adelaide, South Australia, a space he has shared with glass artists Janice Vitkovsky and Alex Valero since 2017. Within this space, Fleming facilitates a weekly drawing evening, an ongoing creative project he has hosted across studios and other spaces for over a decade. Fleming continues to exhibit frequently, with a selected piece from his *Post-Production* series currently on display at Art Gallery of South Australia as part of the 2021 Ramsay Art Prize. His works are held in private collections nationwide and in the public collection of the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

Image: Ramsay Art Prize 2021 featuring Liam Fleming with the work *Post-Production*. Photograph: Saul Steed.

The Guildhouse Fellowship is presented by Guildhouse and the Art Gallery of South Australia, with the generous support of the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation.

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