

## ARTIST STATEMENT

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The symbol for Gold on the periodic table of elements is **Au**. Here, these two letters are often read as Australia.

The influence gold has had in the changing of this country is undeniable; Gold (Au) is touted as playing a major part in the 'shaping' of **Australia**.

Sparking immigration, buildings, cities, further colonisation, movement of resources - the element gold and the gold rush, which followed, has an enduring presence today in continuing this dominant narrative.

Could these stories and histories be reshaped to help form new narratives?

Can 'Welcome Stranger'<sup>1</sup> shift from being the largest nugget ever found here to forming a welcome message to those fleeing war?

Will the 'golden triangle'<sup>2</sup> ever see its resources returned to the earth?

Will the brick homes of our sprawling suburbs continue to be what we strive for?

With a starting point of *prospects* (the possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring) and *prospecting* (the act of surveying or examining) the works under construction in this space reflect upon events of our colonial past, question what has changed, and explore ways of shaping future possibilities.

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<sup>1</sup> The Welcome Stranger is the largest alluvial gold nugget found in the world. It was found in Moliagul, Victoria in 1869.

<sup>2</sup> The Golden Triangle refers to an area in Central Victoria, which has consistently yielded significant finds of gold.