



FIELD OF THE UNWANTED

PRESENTED BY INTERNATIONAL ART SPACE & DADAA

TRANSFORMING A RAZED DEMOLITION SITE AT 8 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET FREMANTLE, FIELD OF THE UNWANTED IS AN UNCONVENTIONAL GARDEN, CALLING ATTENTION TO THE UNWELCOME AND UNDESIRABLE.

Presented by [International Art Space](#) and [DADAA](#) in collaboration with [St Patrick's Community Support Centre](#), *Field of the Unwanted* uses weeds or “plants that grow where they are not wanted” to question the hierarchies of value and displacement experienced by members of our own communities.

Led by artists Chris Williams and the Green Brigade, the group over the past five months has taken over and activated a former demolition site in central Fremantle. A weed rescue and resettlement service facilitated by the artists has collected weeds from across Fremantle and beyond, relocating them to the vacant lot on Queen Victoria Street. Acting as custodians of the various weed plots, the artists and the surrounding community have worked to tend, grow and create an emerging installation and garden, which now encompasses over 30 unique weed varieties.

Field of the Unwanted aims to elevate the status of weeds through the formation of an ordered garden that creates a home for the unwanted.

“*Field of the Unwanted* really began as we were looking for a site for another project. We

came across a vacant lot that was full of weeds, and one of the artist team commented that weeds were just “plants that grew where they were not wanted”, which began a conversation on how other members of the group felt like weeds within the community. Through this project we are considering the ways in which the treatment of weeds has parallels to society – especially to the way in which people are valued differently, contributing to social inclusion or exclusion.” - Chris Williams, Artist.

A series of roving events will be held over the next month, with local residents and the public invited to join the custodians as they harvest and unpack the uses [and non-uses] of the Field’s cultivated weed varieties.

Field of the Unwanted is presented by International Art Space for the *Know Thy Neighbour #2* program, in partnership with DADAA.

Know Thy Neighbour is a series of Perth-based temporary public art projects. The second series will see nine West Australian artists invited to develop and present projects in response to their own neighbourhoods including metropolitan sites in the north, south and east of Perth. Responding to their own locales in new and unexpected ways, artists will present a series of public interventions, actions and events across 2018 and into 2019 which will engage with, test and challenge our public spaces, streetscapes and infrastructure.

“The call to know thy neighbour is both an invitation and provocation to artists and audiences. All projects in this series will foster greater understanding and challenge our familiarity with certain locations, public spaces and communities. *Field of the Unwanted* is an exercise in trying to care for that which we would usually cast aside, remove or persecute.” - Katherine Wilkinson, Curator, International Art Space.

View the full *Know Thy Neighbour #2* program [here](#).

FIELD OF THE UNWANTED - EVENTS & OPENING HOURS

OPENING HOURS

8 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle [\[map\]](#)
Tues 9am – 12pm, Thurs 4 – 6pm and Sat 10am – 1pm

ROVING EVE

8 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle
Thurs 22 March, 5pm – 7.30pm

Join the Green Brigade for an evening survey of *Field of the Unwanted*. Rove through the garden plots with our custodians as they unpack the uses and non-uses of the Field’s cultivated weed varieties. Tours begin every two minutes.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CHRIS WILLIAMS

Chris Williams is an artist and Creative Producer for DADAA and has been a member of the pvi collective since its inception. pvi collective works in new media arts to initiate socially and politically motivated performances, exhibitions and interventions.

GREEN BRIGADE

Green Brigade is a fluid group of artists who come to the project through DADAA and seek to engage with the urban setting of Fremantle. Using green installations, practices and graffiti, the artists consider and explore ways of shifting their sense of ownership and belonging in the community. Over the long term, Green Brigade will work toward growing its numbers and membership, encouraging more people to enter the spaces of their own neighbourhoods, and take 'ownership' through creative and socially inquisitive activity.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ART SPACE

International Art Space is a leading West Australian arts organisation, presenting a program of ambitious and dynamic socially engaged and context-responsive art. We create diverse and challenging experiences for artists and communities through contemporary visual art.

Since its inception in 1998, International Art Space has run over 100 residency-based projects by artists from over 20 countries and organised four national touring exhibitions.

Know Thy Neighbour is International Art Space's new series of Perth-based temporary site-specific and public art projects featuring West Australian artists.

spaced.org.au

ABOUT DADAA

Working within a Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) framework, DADAA is a leading arts and health organisation that creates access to cultural activities for people with disability or a mental illness. DADAA offers targeted programs that include a broad range of traditional and new media projects in Western Australian communities.

dadaa.org.au



MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Katherine Wilkinson
Curator, Know Thy Neighbour
+ 61 8 9228 2444/ + 61 417 934 204 or Katherine@spaced.org.au



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**



International Art Space Pty Ltd is assisted by the Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. *Know Thy Neighbour* has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Image: Chris Williams & Green Brigade, *Field of the Unwanted*, 2018. Photo: Gary Parris.