



Presented in association with Anna Schwartz Gallery.

AUSTRALIA // VISUAL ARTS  
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## MIKE PARR

**Kindness is so Gangster (Specified  
Abstract Expressionism)**

The most recent incarnation of Mike Parr's long-running *Self Portrait Project* embraces a new medium: glass sculpture. These works are the result of a tremendous, continuous performance of 'blind negative modelling', in which the artist's physical sight is replaced by other senses.

Nineteen 'heads' have been scooped, kneaded and formed in clay hollowed out of dense blocks. The other senses – including memory as a kind of meta-sense – are substituted for that of seeing. In abstaining from seeing the positives produced during this demanding process, Parr cannot return to his 'educated' response as a visual artist. The 'blind dimension' of this work carries a powerful, far-reaching metaphorical resonance in relation to Parr's *Self Portrait Project*, representing the moment when the work is cast into the nameless void of collectivity and history.

The notion of blindness is accentuated as the key, totalising dimension of the work, requiring the foregrounding of performance, the residue of which will also be part of the exhibition.

Mike Parr, *Kindness is So Gangster (Specified Abstract Expressionism)*, 2018. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery.

**Media contacts:**

Rhiannon Broomfield // [rhiannon@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:rhiannon@articulatepr.com.au) 0410 596 021  
Kym Elphinstone // [kym@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:kym@articulatepr.com.au) 0421 106 139

**Anna Schwartz Gallery**  
**Fri 5 Oct – Sat 17 Nov**  
**Tue – Fri 12pm – 5pm**  
**Sat 1pm-5pm**  
**Free**

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