

Kate Scardified *ALARUM*, 2022 Exhibition view, FREE/STATE, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art Art Gallery of South Australia 14 adaptable textiles in one variation. Repurposed storm sails and spinnakers, ropes, hardware. Dimensions variable. Photo: Saul Steed



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Urgent is the Rhythm is the first exhibition of work developed from *The Metabolic Museum* project. Presented as part of the 2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, it aims to bring art, climate and materials science together, drawing attention to changing weather patterns and atmospheric conditions by charting the shifting material states of sailcloth and seaweed. Each is rich in symbolic meaning and entwined within ocean ecologies, maritime histories and sustainable material futures. The creative rationale imagines the art gallery as a metabolising body which enables these synthetic and organic entanglements to occur, and as a contested site where the politics of conservation and collection are teased out, speculating on the museum as a collector of carbon and as a future site for carbon storage.

Urgent is the Rhythm materialises C02 by giving it a physical presence as heavy, weighted blocks of carbon. It transforms over a tonne of algae biomass and oyster shell waste collected from aquaculture industries in NSW and QLD into a novel biomaterial with potential for architectural application and for possible use in building and construction.

Stacked and arranged as a fluted column, the structure is held under the tension of a single ratchet strap. The installation includes loaned algae specimens from the State Herbarium of South Australia who have supported the research of algae unique to Southern Australian coastlines and who are a crucial resource in conservation biology and the environmental management initiatives underway across the region.

The project has been supported by the Climate Change Cluster (C3), Faculty of Science, UTS, State Herbarium of South Australia, Appellation Oysters and Pacific Bio Australia. It has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.







MATERIAL RESEARCH / DEVELOPMENT / PROCESS























































