

*"I think it's good to remember that the aspirations and things that we imagined for this space and this experience never existed."*

Opening in March 2024, *With Urgency* centres on a newly commissioned collaborative video work by artists and close friends Daria Blum, Guendalina Cerruti and Mary Stephenson. Lending its title to the exhibition, the video marks the first time the trio have worked together to produce a single work and represents new terrain for each of their varied practices.

Developed over several months, *With Urgency* is an exploratory work that mediates the nuanced progression of the artists' friendship, its shared intimacies and dialogues, mirrored by a conscious investigation of the creative process. Throughout, liminal spaces act as sites of construction as the trio navigates the process of collective making. We witness the balanced tension of the individual desire to communicate the self, both socially and artistically, with the resolve to explore their united creative potential; intimated through footage combined from each of their own cameras – which in turn become accessory to their artistic personas.

As the group builds trust and cultivates ideas, informal conversations, shared action, and elements of risk lead to chance moments of poignancy and playful absurdity. In its opening scene, a fiercely competitive if haphazard tennis game unfolds on a netless, overgrown court before rapidly descending into play-skirmish, accidentally injuring Cerruti. This unexpected collision of planned action with the aleatory sets the enduring double-edged tone of the narrative. As the work progresses, we see them perform live-action shots, camera-in-hand, in which they sprint get-away style towards a car, run chaotically into one another with child-like abandon, and scripting discussions, punctuated by unfiltered micro-interactions of mutual tenderness and vulnerability.

Shown alongside *With Urgency*, Blum, Cerruti and Stephenson present works individually made in response to their collaboration, reasserting their individuality within the collectively conceived whole.

Entitled *Decollapse*, 2024 Daria Blum's series of works redeploy extendable light stands – used in her photography and performances – as surfaces upon which to wrap and warp images of past and new self-portraits; their facial expressions contorting from frown to grin with the viewer's position. These still objects subtly reassert Blum's connection with the viewer, destabilising assumed power dynamics by reperforming this relationship anew. Likewise, the functional props self-reflexively embody the interconnected nature of the artist and camera within the collaboration.

Created using the city-building game *Township*, Guendalina Cerruti's *My Town 1x1*, 2024, envisages a digitally rendered utopian garden, replete with a gallery, museum, amusement rides, lush plants and flowers, as well as a tennis court echoing the one seen at the opening of *With Urgency*. Encased by a dense black frame and metal grid, the scene is both delimited and alluring, denying access to the viewer and simultaneously resisting this imposition of authority as its landscape spills out across the grid.

Set in contrast, Mary Stephenson's *Tight Sponge*, 2023, transposes an everyday household object as an abstracted landscape, revealing at its centre a portal tautly bound by a fine thread. Intimate in scale, the vacancy of the scene evokes a psychologically charged, otherworldly plane upon which to map the self and unconscious desires – reflecting the covert role of the landscape as the fostering environment to the trio's collaborative venture.