



onespace

Jackie Ryan

Fever Dream

18 October – 16 November 2024

Catalogue of Works

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Jackie Ryan

Exhibition Dates | 18 October – 16 November 2024

Open Event | Saturday 19 October, 4pm – 7pm

Onespace Gallery Hours | Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm,

Saturday 12pm – 5pm

The woman I meet on the park bench is not Jackie Ryan. She has made that clear, or at least, someone claiming to be her did – the voice on the call I received from an anonymous number certainly sounded like Dr Ryan, despite her attempts to disguise it, with an accent pitched somewhere between Ulaanbaatar and Berlin. Swishing a wig that looks as though with one more blow dry it shall be reduced to smithereens, she hands me a briefcase.

‘Inside this is everything you need to know,’ she says, ‘about the artist Jackie Ryan.’

The briefcase is so heavy I wonder, for a panicky moment, if in fact it contains Jackie Ryan. Spilled onto my apartment floor I instead find video tapes, scrapbooks, six passports, four birth certificates, all annotated in the manic griffonage of a serial killer. *The beginning is now the end*, reads one such hieroglyph, and another, equally cryptic – *Mallory Towers made me a lesbian*. With a deep sigh I pop a dexamphetamine and begin to piece together Jackie Ryan: the artist, the woman, the mystery.

A true chronology is impossible to discern. At various points, Ryan has been an artist, a filmmaker, a writer, a historian – sometimes at the same time. Appraising the dossier, I wonder, is she a polymath? A Renaissance woman? Or are these merely cover stories, false identities worn and discarded? The defining feature of Ryan’s oeuvre is her affinity for masks and artifice, simultaneously camp and chic. The graphic monochrome of the *Burger Force* comics blurs into the lurid, Vaso-on-the-lens dreamworld of Fanciful Fiction Auxiliary. The most fanciful fiction of all, perhaps, is Dr Ryan herself.

Fever Dream

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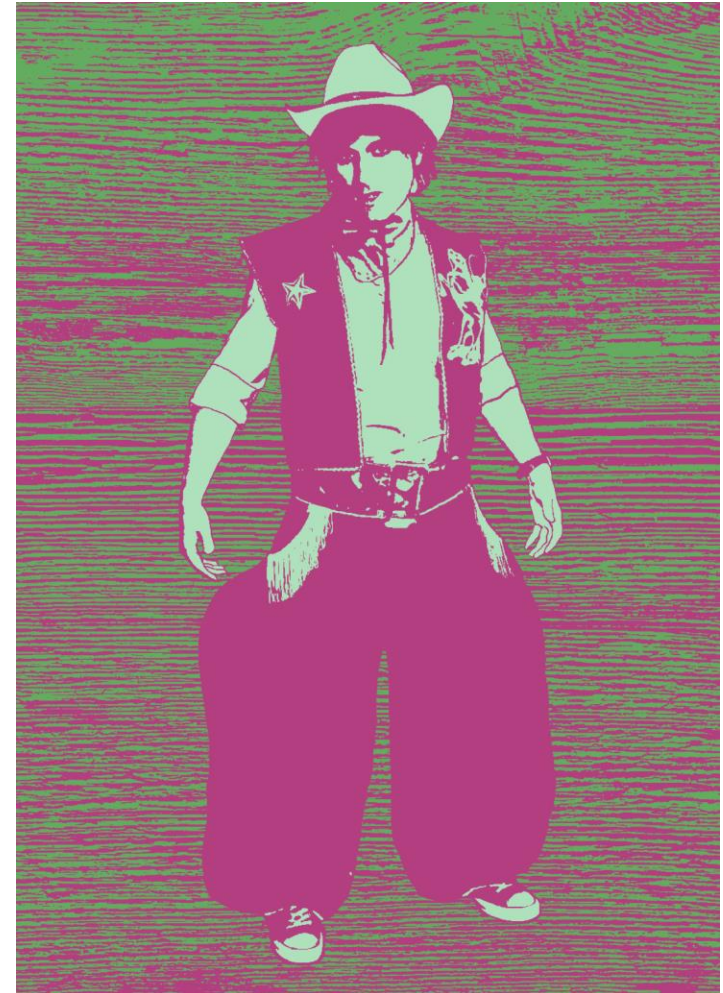


Image: *Howdy* (Second state, featuring Yalin Ozucelik), 2024, Dye sublimation on aluminium, 84 x 59cm. Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Take, for example, that Ryan began her career in graphic reproduction. This origin story is perhaps a tad convenient – in traditional four-colour printing, images are burnt onto metal plates, then pressed onto paper. In *Fever Dream* her digital artworks are presented on aluminium, the process becoming the product (the beginning is now the end?). The evolution of printing technology dovetails (again, suspiciously) with another motif of Ryan's work. Her predilection for retro aesthetics – the pre-colour seasons of the 1960s spy serial *The Avengers*; the glossy, draggish 1980s stylings of soap operas *Dynasty*, *Dallas* and their antipodean counterpart, *Return to Eden* – paradoxically refute nostalgia. In Ryan's work the retro represents the cutting edge; the viewer is reminded that fashions which might elsewhere be perceived as dated were in fact, in their time, the product of new technologies, new styles, new imaginative horizons. Collaging stock images and manipulating her photographed subjects from the command centre of her Apple iMac, Ryan replicates the feeling of giddy acceleration characteristic of the latter half of the twentieth century – the bewildering sensation of rapid technological advancement, wherein each seismic innovation is promptly succeeded by the next.

These innovations have served Dr Ryan well. She cannot, by her own admission, draw, though this may be one among so many misdirections. Among the briefcase's ephemera are childhood sketches on tracing paper, her upcycling approach to found art formed in the nursery (the beginning is now the end). Her limitations in this regard are, I suspect, overstated; the real constraint (and constraints are a necessary precondition for innovation) is fiscal. Ryan's big-budget imagination finds expression through the DIY ethos of indie. *Burger Force* is televisual, with Ryan using flesh-and-blood actors/models to update the aesthetics of *Modesty Blaise* illustrator Jim Holdaway. The liquid eyes of Holdaway's drawings are given depth and gravitas; these are real people, feeling real, fake things. And her Ben-Day dot colossi, her subjects dwarfing their ersatz backgrounds, are properly gargantuan – an effect which, if attempted in a summer blockbuster, would cost half a billion dollars and frankly look like shit.

My fingers trembling as I guzzle pharmaceutical speed, I wonder whether this is the real Jackie Ryan, Dr Ryan, whoever. Are the performers, the characters, her masks, façades she dons, a riff on Cindy Shermanesque self-portraiture? Or does the real Jackie Ryan exist in the space around the subjects, in the totalising vision at once enlarging and compressive? Is this masquerade or authenticity, the generous act of an artist who understands that in one's private world, we are all of us larger than life?

My eyes slide from the picture of a woman seemingly being swallowed by her own hair onto one of the dark azimuths tattooing my apartment floor; I squint. I know what the shadows are; the thing is, I don't have venetian blinds. At the very same moment I hear a phone ringing, a landline I also did not know I possessed.

'Hello?' I answer.

'Now,' Jackie, or someone...fuck it. This time, she is Irish. 'Now, do you understand?'

– Myles McGuire



Myles McGuire is a belletrist, a dilettante, a snob. In 2024 he received the Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Award and was a winner of the *Griffith Review* Emerging Voices competition. His most recent writings can be read in *Griffith Review* and *Australian Literary Studies*.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jackie Ryan

Fever Dream

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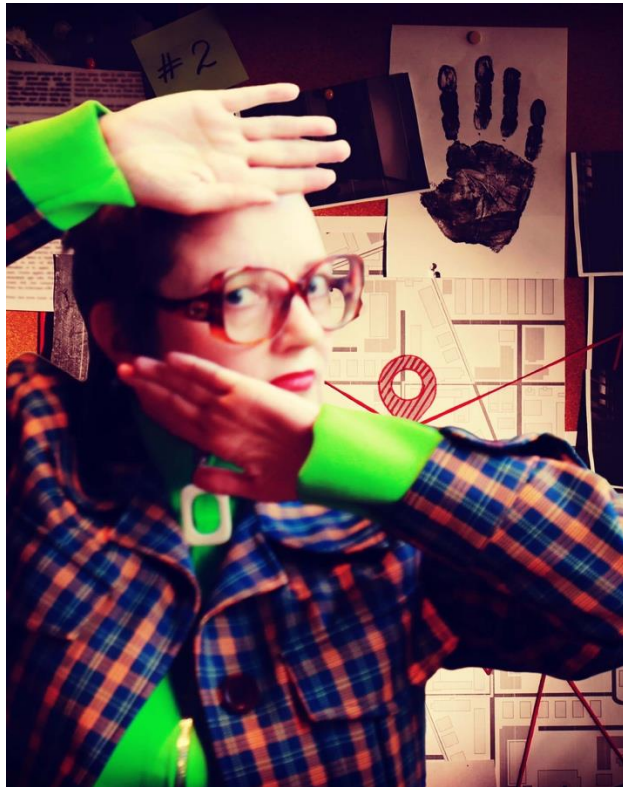


Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

The person playing the role of Jackie is a multi-award-winning Australian artist. She has an abiding interest in culture that connects her work across forms and genres, from writing and research to performance, arts administration, film work and visual design. She holds a PhD in History and Political Science from The University of Queensland, where she was also an Honorary Research Fellow.

*If she's to be believed...her book *We'll Show the World: Expo 88* (UQP, 2018) won two Queensland Literary Awards – the Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance and the History Book Award – and was also shortlisted for The Courier-Mail People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award. Her graphic novel series, *Burger Force*, has won an Aurealis Award and a Bronze Ledger Award and been shortlisted for the Russell Prize for Humour Writing. Her visual art has been the subject of solo and group exhibitions and is held in public and private collections. Her writing collective, the Fanciful Fiction Auxiliary (FFA), has sold out performance venues. *Allegedly.**

The websites for *Burger Force* and the FFA have been preserved by the National Archives of Australia as sites of cultural significance. Jackie has received funding from the Australia Council, Arts Queensland and Copyright Agency Limited and has *purportedly* had two art commissions from Brisbane City Council. She's also received a Queensland Writing Fellowship and a Lord Mayor's Writers Residency.

This construct of Jackie also happens to be the Artistic Director of the Brisbane Writers Festival.

In retrospect, her whole bio seems implausible. Jackie is either a fabulist or fabulous.



Jackie Ryan

Old Gods and New (Featuring Fez Fa'anana), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 84 x 118cm, 2AP + Edition of 5

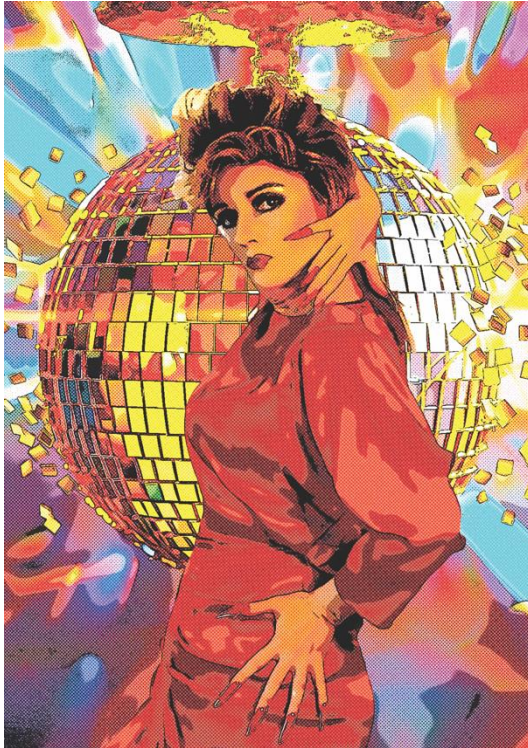
\$3,500

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Jackie Ryan

Fever Dream

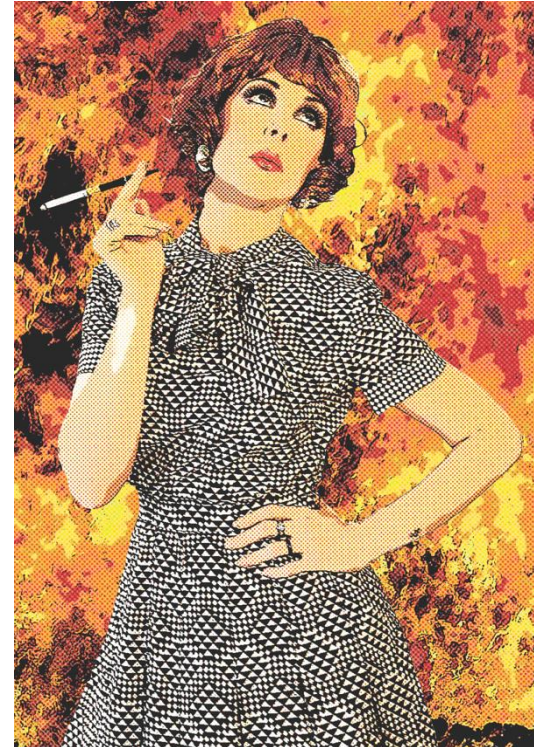
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Jackie Ryan

Atomic Disco (Featuring Jackie Ryan), 2024
Dye sublimation on aluminium, 84 x 59cm, 2AP +
Edition of 10
\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Smokin' (Featuring Carody Culver), 2024
Dye sublimation on aluminium, 84 x 59cm, 2AP +
Edition of 10
\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

How Often Do You Think About the Roman Empire? (Featuring Mark Winmill), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 84cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Out of Office (Featuring Carody Culver and Myles McGuire), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 84cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



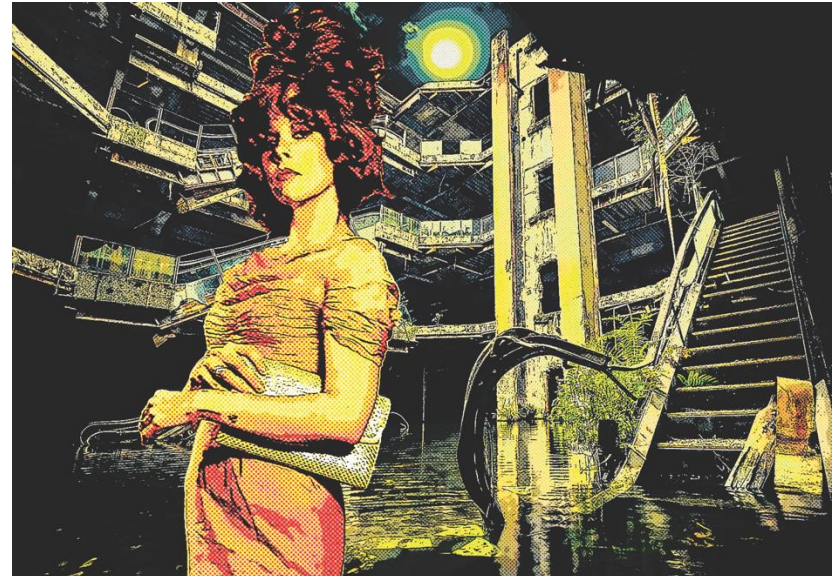
Jackie Ryan

Aflockalypse (Featuring Olivia Porter), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 84cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Mystery Shopper (Featuring Carody Culver), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 84cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Jackie Ryan

Underwater Operative (Featuring Mat Kesting and Michelle Grant-Iramu),
2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 84cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



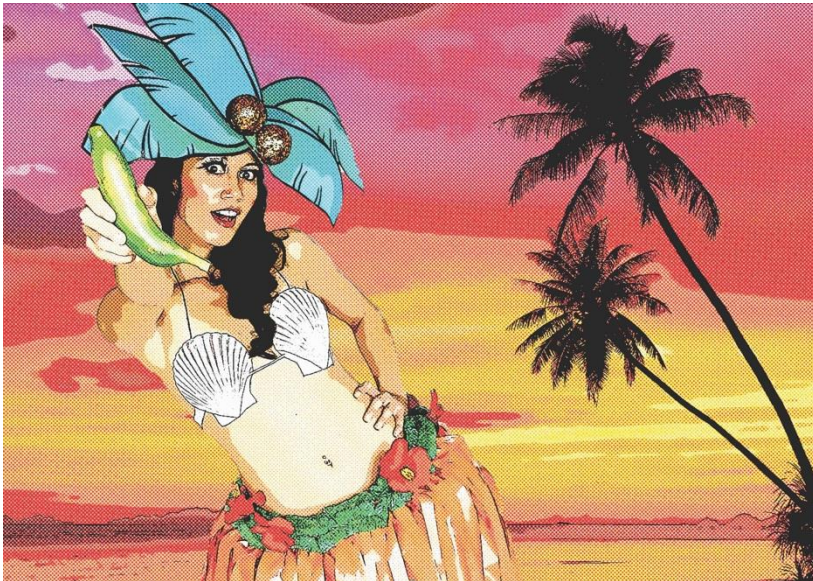
Jackie Ryan

Ghosted (Featuring Emma Pursey), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 84cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Picture Perfect (Featuring Lisa Fa'alafi), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Photo Finish (Featuring Natano Fa'anana and Lisa Fa'alafi), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Axe to Grind (Featuring Amanda-Lyn Pearson), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Out of This World (Featuring Kellie Vella), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

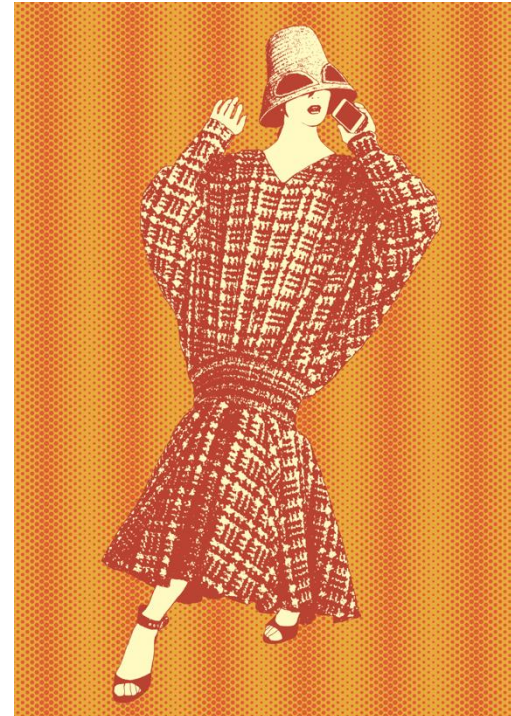
Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Howdy (Second state, featuring Yalin Ozucelik),
Dye sublimation on aluminium, 84 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10
\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Strut (Second state, featuring Emma Pursey), 2024
Dye sublimation on aluminium, 84 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10
\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Jackie Ryan

I'll Be the Judge of That (Featuring Lisa Fa'alafi), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 84 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10
\$2,300

Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Jackie Ryan

Game Over (Featuring Mat Kesting), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 42cm, 2AP + Edition of 10
\$950

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Start Your Engines (Featuring Leah Shelton), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 42cm, 2AP + Edition of 20
\$950

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

The Message (Featuring Lisa Fa'alafi), 2010

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 42cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$950

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Gia (Featuring Amanda-Lyn Pearson), 2011

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 42cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

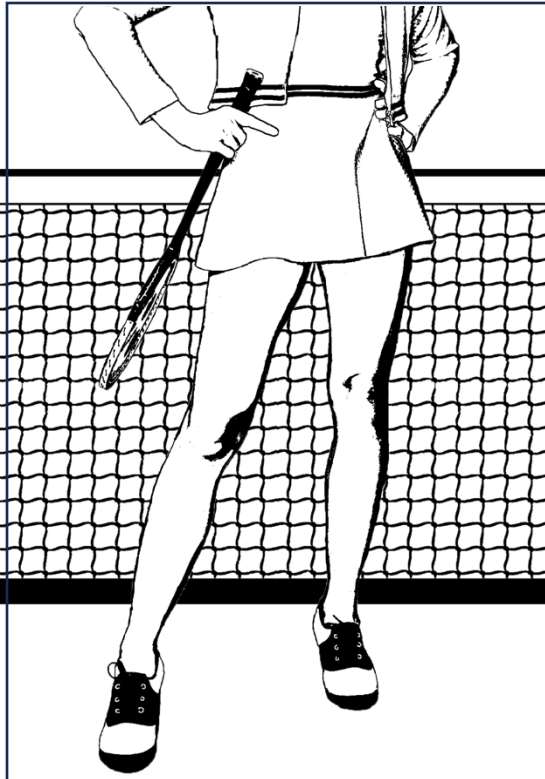
\$950

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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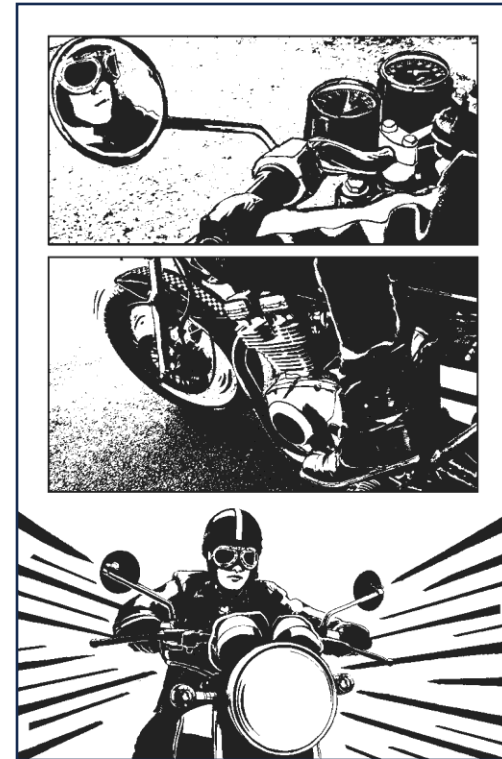
Jackie Ryan

Match Point (Featuring Michelle Grant-Iramu), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Incoming (Featuring Remi Hii), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

You Were Saying? (Featuring Leah Shelton), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

The Look (Featuring Lisa Fa'alafi), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Yes Way (Featuring Lisa Fa'alafi and Candice Storey), 2010

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20
\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Jackie Ryan

Maybe Later (Featuring Remy Hii), 2018

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Highly Strung (Featuring Nerida Matthaei), 2012

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Now's Not the Time (Featuring Candice Storey), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

That Doesn't Work for Me (Featuring Remi Hii), 2011

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 29 x 21cm, 2AP + Edition of 20

\$350

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Jackie Ryan

Burn (Featuring Myles McGuire), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Social Media (Featuring Michelle Law), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Financial Review (Featuring Pascale Burton), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

In Session, 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 42 x 59cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

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Jackie Ryan

Otherworldly (Featuring Emma Pursey), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 42cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

It's a Long Story (Featuring Myles McGuire), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 42cm, 2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,200

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Jackie Ryan

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Jackie Ryan

Redhead (Featuring Carody Culver), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminium, 59 x 84cm, 2AP +
Edition of 10

\$2,300

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Kindly supported by



Onespace is a Brisbane-based gallery that presents and sells contemporary art, including work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

We curate an exhibition program exploring diverse themes and media, showcasing emerging, mid-career and established artists whose works inform, stimulate and challenge. Onespace welcomes you to engage with the artists and artworks we exhibit.

Onespace is uniquely located adjacent to Maiwar beneath the Spice Apartments near the Go Between Bridge in South Brisbane. We are proudly surrounded by the dynamic buzz of the Queensland cultural precinct that is significant to this area of Brisbane.

Director, John Stafford: john@onespace.com.au

Director, Jodie Cox: jodie@onespace.com.au

Exhibitions Manager, Demi Conrad: demi@onespace.com.au

Onespace acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters, culture and community. We pay our respects to elders past and present.

onespace.com.au

[@onespace.au](#)

Gallery Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 10am – 5pm | Saturday: 12pm – 5pm

25A Bouquet Street, South Brisbane Q 4101 Australia