

# Grace Culley

## *Get Away*

Gertrude Glasshouse  
29 May – 27 June 2026

Grace Culley’s *Get Away* explores the desire for escapism, the means by which it can be carried out, and the factors that motivate this type of thinking. The exhibition’s title alludes to the choice of removing oneself from unideal circumstances, a statement telling someone to leave, and a common phrase referring to a holiday.

As a starting point, *Get Away* draws upon Culley’s experience of moving between regional Victoria and the inner-city suburbs, before returning to the outskirts of Metropolitan Melbourne. What began as a personal exploration was later expanded through lateral-thinking research into different cultural movements that were, in part, motivated by a desire to escape aspects of the times in which they existed. In this new installation, Culley patchworks botanical paintings and sculptures over airbrushed images of architectural remains of the British Industrial Revolution, cottages and references to her various homes.

By leaning into botanical shapes and naturalistic interior decor, Culley blurs the lines between internal and external spaces, both real and imagined. Layering these works over a backdrop of smoke-like paintings, Culley selectively covers or reveals specific memories and references driving her daydreams of escaping to an isolated cottage – each work forming a unique yet important piece of an incomplete puzzle.

### Artist Biography:

Based in Victoria, Grace Culley is an artist working in drawing, painting and sculpture. Her practice investigates the various roles that repetition plays in trying to understand oneself and one’s environment. Underpinned by Culley’s experience of repetitive behaviours resulting from Tourette’s Syndrome, her works are made through labour-intensive processes, emphasising how repetition intensifies sensations like pleasure, escapism, discipline, and damnation.

Culley completed a Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting) at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2021. Solo exhibitions and projects include *Closer to Nature* at Sutton Projects, Fitzroy, VIC, 2021; and major solo commission *Surprised face; Heart Eyes* at West Space, Collingwood, VIC, 2023. Select group exhibitions include *Various Small Fires* (2025) and *Gertrude Studios 2024* at Gertrude Contemporary, Naarm Melbourne; *The Possibilities Are Immense: 50 Years of the George Paton Gallery* at George Paton Gallery, Naarm Melbourne, 2024; *Exterminating Pencil Volume 3* at Caspar Gallery, Castlemaine, 2022; and *Accumulates in the throat, emerges from the mouth* at KINGS Artist Run, Naarm Melbourne, 2021. Culley contributed a sculptural work in collaboration with artist Raafat Ishaak for Ishaak’s exhibition *Eye Looking at Large Glass Broken*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Naarm Melbourne, 2023.

### Acknowledgements:

Gertrude is assisted by the Visual Arts Craft and Design Framework, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments; and by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Gertrude Glasshouse is generously supported by Michael Schwarz and David Clouston.

Gertrude acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.



CREATIVE  
VICTORIA



Australian Government  
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy

## List of works

1. *distance education 2026*  
acrylic paint on recycled plywood  
240 x 950 cm
2. *Althea 2026*  
steel band, steel wire, PVA glue  
and newspaper pulp  
dimensions variable
3. *leaves 2026*  
acrylic paint, biro pen, graphite  
pencil on recycled MDF & shellac  
ink on cotton rag paper  
dimensions variable

