

# MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release*



## **IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST JUST BEFORE DAWN** **A solo exhibition by Sim Luttin**

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1 – 6 SEPTEMBER 2015

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Launching Wednesday 2 September as part of Radiant Pavilion and Craft Cubed, *IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST JUST BEFORE DAWN* presents a multi-disciplinary solo exhibition by Sim Luttin, which explores the significance of handmade objects at a time when people are engrossed in digital culture and mass-produced products.

Artist, object maker and curator Sim Luttin documents moments in time. She says, "We live in a highly mediated society where the online world can be argued as replacing a more authentic, tactile one. We constantly upload photos and amass ubiquitous objects to validate our existence and create memories of ideal experiences. We live in the past and create unrealistic expectations for our future, leaving us in a general state of ambivalence and melancholy".

*IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST JUST BEFORE DAWN* is a highly considered, evocative installation of video, photographs, objects and jewellery, which originated from 365 six-second videos that Luttin made one a day for one year. The videos were uploaded to social media then downloaded, stills taken, digitally archived, printed and used as reference material to inspire a new collection of handmade, intimate objects. Several collections literally capture fleeting moments, while other pieces denote abstract interpretations that reflect on repetition found in the everyday. Each collection reflects things Luttin has observed, collated and presented through a melancholic lens.

Writer Ramona Barry says that, "Examining notions of ritual, personal authenticity, and materiality, [Sim Luttin] inserts meaning at each point on a highly personal internal map. Her practice is grounded in daily ritual and the first charted position is her gaze. A still or moving image is taken, uploaded, printed, and then distilled. A brief pause allows ideas, motifs and shapes to emerge that may then be translated into objects".

Sim Luttin began her time-based investigations in 2008, in an attempt to find greater meaning in the little things discovered in the everyday. *IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST JUST BEFORE DAWN* is the third iteration, and tries to find meaning in a time-poor world saturated with images and mass-produced objects. Luttin is probing ideas about inauthentic vs. authentic representation – imagery vs. object.

"Time can play havoc with memory" says Barry, "and we have almost no control as to what retains meaning and what gets sifted away...Luttin understands that what may have seemed insignificant at the time, upon reflection is perhaps the point where everything turned and changed".

*IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST JUST BEFORE DAWN* is programmed as part of the Craft Cubed Festival and Radiant Pavilion and has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. It was first exhibited at Gray Street Workshop gallery in Adelaide in May 2015.

Sim Luttin is a Melbourne-based contemporary jeweller, craftsperson and artist and is also the Gallery Manager & Curator at Arts Project Australia. Sim has over 15 years experience as a maker and finds her inspiration in nature and the everyday. She has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Australia and internationally, including Galerie Marzee, Netherlands; Velvet da Vinci, San Francisco; SoFA New York and Chicago; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; and Craft, Melbourne and has work in the collections of the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA), Australia and Galerie Marzee, Netherlands. She is currently represented by Charon Kransen, New York; Pieces of Eight, Melbourne; and Zu Design, Adelaide.

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LEFT: *Repeated impressions* 2015

RIGHT: *Moment of Truth* 2015

PRVIOUS PAGE: *Moment #1* 2015

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Sim Luttin is available for interview and can be photographed with her work. High-resolution images will be supplied on request. Exhibition runs 1-6 September at The Snug Space 447 High Street Northcote VIC 3070. Gallery hours are 12-6pm for the duration of the exhibition. Exhibition opens Wednesday 2 September 2015 from 6-9pm. The event is free and open to the public and the venue has disability access.

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### DETAILS

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EXHIBITION: [It's Always Darkest Just Before Dawn](#)  
DATES: 1-6 September 2015  
OPENING: Wednesday 2 September, from 6-9pm  
VENUE: [The Snug Space](#), 447 High Street Northcote VIC 3070  
FESTIVALS: [RADIANT PAVILION](#), [CRAFT CUBED](#)  
LISTINGS: [KLIMT02](#), [THE BITS IN BETWEEN](#), [GRAY STREET WORKSHOP](#)  
WEBSITE: [simluttin.com](http://simluttin.com)

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### EVENTS

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ARTIST TALK: The Snug Space, Saturday 5 September, from 2pm (free)

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### MEDIA

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For all media enquiries please contact:

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*Souvenir Series 2015*

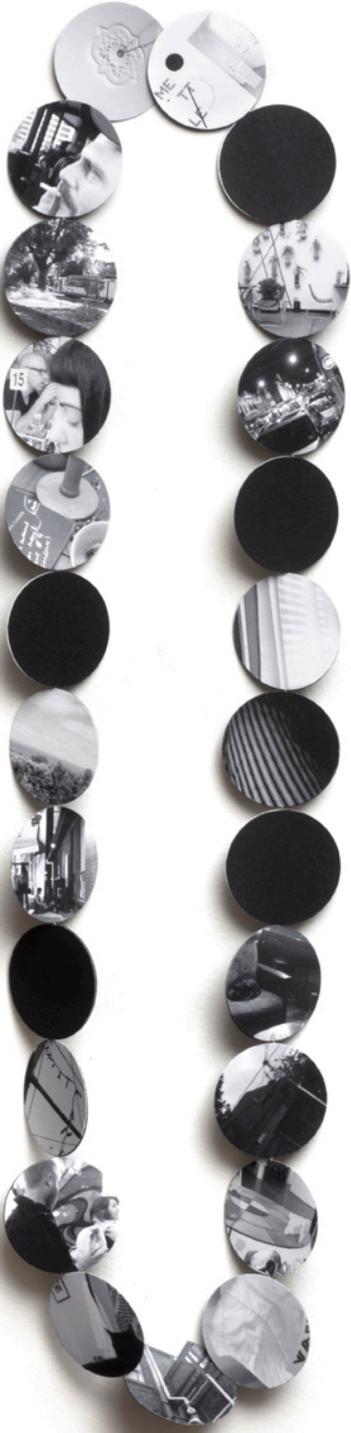


*Small Impressions 2015*

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*Souvenir Garland #2 2015*