GRAU PROJEKT is thrilled to present COMMON GROUND, the first Australian exhibition of Spanish rising star KEKE VILABELDA.

Exhibited works are a response to the context and circumstances, as Keke is exploring the physical connection between Valencia and Victoria, shifting his gaze from his established theme of urban and industrial landscapes towards nature, and focusing on the unique pink salt lakes.

COMMON GROUND is a hypnotic audiovisual experience as the installation includes a series of paintings, a textural floor intervention produced with 8 tons of local salt and two-channel video work with an ethereal soundtrack written by French musician ETIENNE HAAN.
‘When I first meet Keke, he is working across three very large canvases taped to the studio floor. His energy is as palpable as his smile is winning. We speak about Keke’s different working methods: collage, frottage, pouring, scraping, using brushes of all kinds from brooms to squirrel-hair, but finding alternatives to brushes such as windscreen-wiper blades taken from abandoned utes. Like all great artists, he has invented his own visual language and is forever honing and expanding its syntax. But Keke has soared – sometimes up through the eyes of a drone, or an eagle hunting its prey; sometimes down to the freeways through the lens of a surveillance camera, – beyond the closed language of painting and drawing and into the ‘open’ field of relational systems. Sometimes he is a psychogeographer, exploring the streets of whichever city he is based in. Sometimes he is an adventurer, forsaking the studio for the dried-up salt beds of distant Victorian lakes, or the floating orchards of Mexico City.’

Dr Peter Hill, writer, curator, artist, during the studio visit with Keke Vilabelda
KEKE VILABELDA got his MA St Martins London in 2011 and graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts of San Carlos, Valencia in 2009. He has exhibited his work in Spain, England, Belgium, Poland, Colombia and Mexico. Among his honours is the selection of SAATCHI New Sensations, the BMWs Scholarship for pictorial research, the Prize of the Royal Academy of San Carlos, the INJUVE arts aid of the Government of Spain, residency at Mexico’s artist retreat Casa Wabi and a current one-year residency at Casa de Velázquez. In October 2019 he was shortlisted for Spain’s most prestigious painting prize Premio BMW de Pintura.

GRAU PROJEKT represents KEKE VILABELDA exclusively in Australia.