The Cabinet of Curiosities stands at the beginning of the very idea of the collection. It is also the result, in so many forms (that are sometimes, though not always obvious) of the tangible accumulation of values invested in objects by individuals, and the special conversations about value and identity created by their juxtaposition. It is a way of making sense of the world and, more deliciously, of material culture making worlds of sense that are unhindered by the constrictions of scientific method. The surrealists, of course, knew this very well. But we all (or nearly all) do this in quotidian life, in the objects that we choose in our homes and work environments; spaces in which formal taxonomy and labels are alien things. This exhibition translates this essentially private practice to the public space of the gallery. More especially, in a gallery devoted to Self-Taught and Outsider Art, it encourages conversations about the known and the unknown, the interrelationships between the trained and autodidactic hand and eye, and the territories that stretch across the vernacular. There are no labels here; no guidance for viewers except through the rich presence of objects, which range from works by art professionals to autodidacts from all over the world, from the known to the anonymous, and from the handmade to the mass produced.

The exhibition is on display from Thursday 24 October to Thursday 21 November and can be seen any time between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, by appointment (please contact Linda O’Malley on 9351 1002 to arrange).
Callan Park Gallery

ARTISTS
Slim Barrie
Yvonne Boag
Mikala Dwyer
Matthys Gerber
Michael Goldberg
Anne Marie Grgich
Philip Hammial
Jana Hawkins-Andersen
Mr Imagination
Lee Pedersen
Jungle Philips
Colin Rhodes
Tom Rhodes
Ody Saban
José dos Santos
Reece Tong
Wart
Chris van der Weterling

Plus a large number of unknown and anonymous creators