

Artist Statement

Fascinated by the potential for unexpected narrative, Melinda Young's exhibition work has a carefully considered use of colour and often a sly, subversive sense of humour. Inspired by the landscape, the social condition of the body and her everyday surroundings, which also frequently provide materials for her work. Young generally works to self-set projects, which may provide a particular thematic or even impose rules or constraints on the approach to making.

Young's particular interest lies with re-presenting the natural state of the body and many of her works have an unsettling plasticity or tactility. She uses the written and visual language of the object, the body and botany alongside colour and material to refer to the interior and exterior landscapes of the body in her jewellery. Recent work toys with ideas of permanence and impermanence; using artificial plant foliage - cut up, reassembled and redeployed with gems and other found materials, to become a metaphor for the fragility of life, relationships and our cultural denial of the ageing, diseased or decaying body. These works have several reference points including the faded beauty of artificial flowers left on gravesites and roadside memorials and the substitution of real flowers for fake in ritual and ceremony.

C.V

Selected Education

2000-2002 Master of Visual Arts, (Jewellery and Object Design), Sydney College of the Arts (SCA)

1995-1999 Bachelor of Visual Arts, Honours, (Jewellery and Object Design), SCA, University of Sydney

Selected Professional Experience

2014 Curator: Poetics of Place – Contemporary Jewellery from Australia, Atta Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand; Workshops presented at: Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney & Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery

2013 Casual Lecturer, Sydney College of the Arts; Conference Paper presented at: JMGA Conference, Brisbane; Workshops presented at: Powerhouse Museum, Studio 20/17 & Object Gallery Sydney, Pocket Studios Queanbeyan NSW; Art Forum Talk, ANU, Canberra; Gallery Assistant, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney

2012 ObjectLab workshop tutor, Sydney College of the Arts; Workshops presented at: Object Gallery & Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Artist Talks at Object Gallery, Sydney & Craft, Melbourne.

2011 - present Sessional Design Lecturer, Jewellery, Faculty of Art & Design (COFA), University of NSW

2011 - 2013 Co-curator: unnatural acts, Velvet da Vinci Gallery, San Francisco, USA (exhibition toured to 4 venues in New Zealand & Australia) with Lauren Simeoni

2011 unnatural, Naturally Workshop presented at: JamFactory, Adelaide with Lauren Simeoni

2010 Guest Tutor, Whitireia Polytechnic, Porirua, New Zealand; Speaker, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Craft Forum; unnatural, Naturally Workshops presented at: Pieces of Eight, Melbourne, Vic & Manukau School of Visual Art, Auckland, NZ; Workshop Coordinator & Jewellery Tutor, metalab, Sydney; Gallery Assistant, Studio 20/17

2009 Take a ball of thread... Workshop, metalab, Sydney & Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW; Artist talks: Pecha Kucha, Sydney; metalab, Sydney & JamFactory, Adelaide, SA; Artist talk & workshops, Craft Victoria, Melbourne

2006-2010 Full Time Teacher, Jewellery and Object Design, Design Centre, Enmore, TAFE NSW

2004 Curator: Forty, Object gallery, Sydney; Curator: metal element seven, Quadrivium, Sydney

2003 Curator: metal element six, Quadrivium, Sydney; Otto Kunzli Master Class Participant, SCA

Mel Young

2002-2004 Sessional Design Lecturer, Jewellery, College of Fine Arts, University of NSW
2001 Casual Tutor, Object Art and Design Studio, Sydney College of the Arts
Selected Solo and Two Person Exhibitions since 2008
2013 the world is a pearl... Studio 20/17, Sydney, NSW; unnatural Tendencies, The National, Christchurch, NZ & Studio 20/17, Sydney (with Lauren Simeoni); Fruitopian Dreams, Curio Cabinet @ gaffa Gallery, Sydney
2012 unnatural Tendencies, Craft, Melbourne (with Lauren Simeoni)
2011 unnatural, Naturally, JamFactory, Adelaide; unnatural Tendencies, Fingers, Auckland, NZ (with Lauren Simeoni)
2010 threadworks, Pablo Fanque at the Sherman Art Foundation, Sydney; unnatural, Naturally, Quoil, Wellington & Masterworks, Auckland, New Zealand & Pieces of Eight, Melbourne (with Lauren Simeoni)
2009 unnatural, Naturally, metalab, Sydney (with Lauren Simeoni); Take a ball of thread... Craft Victoria, Melbourne, Vic & Zu Design, Adelaide, SA
2008 Take a ball of thread... Pablo Fanque, Sydney
Selected Exhibitions since 2008 (participant in over 125 group exhibitions in Australia & overseas since 1997)
2014 Summers Jewels, Waiheke Island Community Art gallery, Waiheke Island, New Zealand
2013 Over here from over there, Lopdell House Gallery, Auckland, NZ; Artisans in the Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney; Fingers Annual Group Show, Fingers, Auckland, NZ; Earth to Earth, Ashes to Ashes, Studio 20/17, Sydney; The year of the snake, The National, Christchurch, NZ; Unsettled: Recent Acquisitions of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia
2012 – 2013 Life in your hands, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, Booragul, NSW & national tour; Once More with Love, Studio 20/17, Waterloo, NSW, Bilk Gallery, Canberra, Act & NorthCity4, Melbourne, Vic
2012 20 Years: Rhianon Vernon-Roberts Collection, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA; Fingers Annual Group Show, Fingers, Auckland, New Zealand
2011 – 2013 Unnatural Acts, Velvet da Vinci Gallery, San Francisco, USA; craft, Melbourne, VIC; The National, Christchurch, NZ; Artisan, Brisbane; Studio 20/17, Sydney
2011 - 2014 Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor, Artisan, QLD & National Tour
2011 – 2012 New Australian Contemporary Decorative Arts, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA; Woohoo! Contemporary Jewellery, Touring to galleries in Hong Kong, Sydney, Taipei & Bangkok
2011 Pieces of Fate, Pieces of Eight, Melbourne; The Art of Engagement, Objectspace, Auckland, NZ; Made in the World, Norwegian Museum of Art, Architecture & Design, Oslo, Norway
2010 – 2011 The Box Project, gaffa Gallery, Sydney; The See Here, Wellington & Masterworks, Auckland, NZ
2010 Blue, Object Gallery, Sydney; By Example, The Museum of Arts and Crafts, Itami, Japan
2009 Precious Pendants, Object Gallery, Sydney; Crafting Landscape, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW;
2008 refashioning the fashion, Object Gallery, Sydney; recycled, renewed, reborn, Pablo Fanque, Sydney
Selected Grants, Awards & Residencies
2014 Artist in Residence, Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery, Broken Hill, NSW, Recipient of Country Arts Support Program Grant, Regional Arts NSW
2008 Profile Award 2008 - Established Artist, Jewellers and Metalsmiths Group of Australia NSW
Public Collections
The Art Gallery of South Australia; Norwegian Museum of Art, Architecture & Design, Oslo, Norway
Selected Publications since 2009
Audio Design Museum: Accessible online at: http://www.audiodesignmuseum.com/#/sydney/surry_hills_&_darlinghurst/

Mel Young

Zoe Walker, 'Sisterhood of the Travelling Sketchbook', Viva – The New Zealand Herald, 17 February 2010, p.21

Susan Kasson Sloan, 500 Plastic Jewellery Designs, Lark Books, Asheville NC, USA, 2009

Alice Blackwood, 'Getting Hands On', DQ (Design Quarterly), June/July 2009

Damien Skinner, The Icky and the Crappy – Considering Jewellery by Lisa Walker & Melinda Young, March 2009 <http://pauadreams.co.nz/texts/the-icky-and-the-crappy/>

Andy Lim (ed), The Compendium Finale of Contemporary Jewellers, Darling Publications, Cologne & New York, 2009