

Artist Statement – Vicki Mason

Making jewellery fulfils a need I have to create objects that hold special meanings. These objects can potentially provoke in the wearer and viewer a need for a response or interaction of some kind. A dialogue is opened up – jewellery then acts as a portable tool for the communication of ideas.

My work references my passion for plants as subject. I'm interested in notions of place, belonging and the life cycle and I use plants as metaphors to represent these ideas. Plants native to Australia, exotic plants, plant forms found in the fine and decorative arts and plants used in gardens are just some sources referenced and researched. Botanical motifs have a long history within jewellery's imagery so are a rich source for reinterpretation and investigation

I combine flexible pedestrian plastics (upholstery and stationery remnants), textile processes and materials alongside metal and metal techniques to create a cross media/material discourse that works across traditional classifications of what jewellery and textiles should be.

EDUCATION

2007 – 2011 Australian National University, Master of Philosophy (Research) Gold and Silversmithing, Canberra, Australia

2006 Box Hill Institute, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Melbourne, Australia

1993 – 1995 Otago Polytechnic, Diploma in Craft Design, (Major: Jewellery) Dunedin, New Zealand

1989 – 1992 University of Otago, Bachelor of Arts, (Major: Classical Studies) Dunedin, New Zealand

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Most recent achievements

Solo Exhibitions

2013 Vignettes from a suburban front yard, Craft, Melbourne, Australia
2011 Botanical Fictions, e.g.etal, Melbourne, Australia
2007 Offshoot, JamFactory, Adelaide, Australia
2003 Pacific Specific, Quoil, Wellington, New Zealand
2002 Pacific Specific, Object Galleries, Sydney, Australia

Group Exhibitions

2014 4th Buda Contemporary Textile Award and Exhibition 2014 Awards, Castlemaine, Australia
2013 Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Artisans in the gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia
Beyond precious... beyond the oceans, Helene Aziza Gallery, Paris, France
2012 mmmmm....., Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, Hong Kong (touring to Sydney 2013)
Once more with love, Studio 20/17, Sydney, Australia (touring 2012 - 2013)
The Waterhouse Natural History Prize, Finalist, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia
Diamond Jubilee, Association of Contemporary Jewellery, Birmingham School of Jewellery, Birmingham, UK (touring UK 2012)
SOFA: New York, USA, represented by Charon Kransen Arts
2011 VnX: Filigree to Flora, BILK, Canberra, Australia
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor, Artisan, Brisbane, Queensland (touring Australia 2011 – 2013)
SOFA: New York and Chicago, USA, represented by Charon Kransen Arts
2010 Signs of Change, FORM, Perth, Australia
Transmutations: Material Reborn, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, USA

Vicki Mason

SOFA: New York and Chicago, USA, represented by Charon Kransen Arts
2009 Bravura, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
Contemporary Wearables '09, Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba,
Australia
SOFA: New York and Chicago, USA, represented by Charon Kransen Arts

SELECTED GRANTS/AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

2014 Australian Tapestry Workshop, Artist in Residence, Melbourne, Australia
2012 City of Melbourne, Project Grant, Melbourne, Australia
2010 Arts Victoria, Artists in Schools, Grant, Melbourne Girls College, Melbourne, Australia
2009 Contemporary Wearables Biennial Jewellery Award and Exhibition, 2009 Award, First Prize,
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Queensland, Australia
2006 National Contemporary Jewellery Award, First prize: Jewellery using non precious materials,
Griffith Regional Art Gallery, NSW, Australia
2005 Australia Council for the Arts, VACB, New work grant
2004 Arts Victoria, International Program – Cultural Exchange. Towards 'North and South' exhibition
involving Australian/UK artists at Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool, UK

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2013 The Age newspaper, 22nd June 2013 - <http://www.theage.com.au/lifestyle/homestyle/the-nature-of-adornment-20130621-2onn7.html>
2011 Art Jewelry Today 3, Jeffery B. Snyder, Schiffer Publishing, Ltd, 2011
2010 Craft Arts International, Softer Options, Issue 79, 2010, p 47 - 50

SELECTED WORK HISTORY

2014 National Gallery of Victoria, Masterclass as part of Melbourne Now
2011- 2013 TAFTA, The Australian Forum for Textile Arts, Geelong Forum, conference workshop
tutor, Geelong, Australia and Contextart Forum, Blue Mountains, Australia
2009 ongoing Swinburne University of Technology, TAFE, Sessional tutor, Diploma Costume for
Performance, Melbourne, Australia
2006 – 2007 Box Hill Tafe, Sessional tutor, Advanced Diploma of Engineering Technology - Jewellery
2002 ongoing Centre for Adult Education (CAE), Part-time jewellery teacher, adult education program,
Melbourne, Australia

COMMISSIONS Absolut Vodka Commission, 'Seven Deadly Sins', International Anniversary
Advertising Campaign, 2001, Sydney, Australia

COLLECTIONS Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba, Australia
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA, Australia
Griffith Regional Art Gallery, Griffith, NSW, Australia
Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool, UK
Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK
Absolut Vodka Art Collection, Sweden