

Stanley Street gallery

May 2019

Gretal Ferguson

Women's Work explores the changing roles of women in craft and society, commenting on the perception of what women do versus what we are actually capable of. By combining the traditionally masculine craft of silversmithing with hand stitching, this exhibition endeavours to challenge the entrenched gender roles within craft and society while paying homage to those before.

"Being a female artist in a traditionally masculine craft I often find myself having to prove my skill and knowledge before being taken seriously. By combining the laborious craft of silversmithing with the feminine art of embroidery I hope to challenge these entrenched gender roles while paying homage to those before me."

Artist Statement

Having been trained in traditional silversmithing, object design, and contemporary art jewellery, my practice is quite eclectic. My work ranges from simple, subtle, aesthetically motivated forms, to conceptually driven statements on society, all made by hand using traditional craft skills. Being heavily influenced by street art and popular culture, there is often a cheeky nature that sneaks into my work, with many pieces boasting a hint of interactivity, to further engage the viewer beyond wearability or utility.

Bio

After completing a music degree and travelling the world, Gretal gave into her ever-present passion for making and enrolled in Jewellery and Object Design at Design Centre, Enmore in Sydney. Not wanting to commit to a 2 year course she only payed for the first 6 months. 4 years later she emerged with an Advanced Diploma, 1 year residency and multiple graduate awards. Not yet sick of study Gretal decided to further her education by completing her Masters of Jewellery, Silversmithing, and Related Products at Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery in the UK. Upon her return to Australia Gretal was accepted into the Associate Program at JamFactory in Adelaide, working out of the Jewellery and Metal Studio where she has had the time and space to develop work for several local and international exhibitions.

CV

EDUCATION

- 2017 MA Jewellery, Silversmithing, and Related Products, School of Jewellery, Birmingham City University, UK
- 2013 Advanced Diploma Jewellery & Object Design, Design Centre Enmore

RESIDENCIES

- 2018 Metal Associate, JamFactory, Adelaide, Australia
- 2014 Artist in Residence, Jewellery & Object Design Department, Design Centre Enmore

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AWARDS, GRANTS & COMPETITIONS

- 2018 Finalist 2018 Itami International Craft Exhibition, Japan
Finalist So Fresh + So Clean: 5th Annual Ethical Metalsmiths International Student Exhibition & Emerging Artist Award
- 2016 Recipient Individual Traveling Artist Grant, The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, Australia
- 2015 Finalist Contemporary Australian Silver & Metalwork Award
Finalist So Fresh + So Clean: 2nd Annual Ethical Metalsmiths International Student Exhibition & Emerging Artist Award
- 2014 Recipient Design Institute of Australia Graduate of the Year Award - Jewellery Section
Recipient Design Institute of Australia Graduate of the Year Award - NSW/ACT Overall
2nd Place Design Institute of Australia Australasian Graduate of the Year Award - Jewellery Section
Recipient Design Centre Enmore College Achievement Award

EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Women's Work*, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, Sydney
In the Drawer, Small Space Jewellery, Melbourne
Generate, JamFactory, Adelaide
- 2018 *Itami International Craft Exhibition*, Museum of Arts & Crafts, Itami, Japan
Triple Parade, Shanghai, China
So Fresh + So Clean: 5th Annual Ethical Metalsmiths International Student Exhibition & Emerging Artist Award, Online
PIN8, ANCA Gallery, Dickson, ACT
Crossing Borders, Sarah Rothe, SALA, Adelaide, SA
- 2017 *Informed Chaos*, Birmingham City University School of Art, Birmingham, UK
- 2016 *Salon of Infectious Ideas*, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, Sydney
PIN SIX, ANCA Gallery, Dickson, ACT
- 2015 *Contemporary Australian Silver & Metalwork Award*, Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum, Castlemaine, VIC
sPIN, An Exhibition of Miniature Wearable Artworks, ANCA Gallery, Dickson, ACT
So Fresh+So Clean: 2nd Annual Ethical Metalsmiths International Student Exhibition & Emerging Artist Award, Online
- 2014 *Hand Raised*, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, Sydney
A Fine Possession, Jewellery & Identity, Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo, Sydney

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 Society of North American Goldsmiths 2nd Annual Jewellery and Metal Survey
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