

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.

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 paid 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

AWARDS, GRANTS & COMPETITIONS

2018 Finalist 2018 Itami International Craft Exhibition, Japan

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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 *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

2018 Society of North American Goldsmiths 1st Annual Jewellery and Metal Survey