

Cool Drinks, Warm Breeze

Catherine Flora Murray



17 June - 4 July

Opening Thursday 17 June, 5-7pm



The *càntir* is a folk vessel, a water-pitcher from Catalonia (it is also found across Spain with various names). When in the shade on a hot day, its unglazed and porous clay facilitates evaporative cooling of the water contained within, as hot air passes through. The decorative, glazed, surface of these pieces depict images, both real and imagined, of common souvenir tropes: vistas, signage, friendly phrases and characters. Some of these are found, collected from holidays visiting my family. Others include graphic designs from the archive of my Avi's (grandfather's) business in Barcelona, using his logo and surname. The resulting pieces are intended as sort-of souvenirs of my experience of my mother's culture, which become emblems of feeling like an outsider from within. I intend to explore and question the nostalgia these folk pieces can evoke, in both their relationship to traditional craft practice, and as signifiers of my Catalan heritage. Each piece can be seen as a series of soft-focus memories embodied in the rustic object; something a tourist cherishes as they reflect on a distant holiday; longing for a remote sunset, sipping a cool drink and enjoying the warm breeze.

Welcoming, 2021, Catherine Flora Murray, terracotta, BRT, slip, underglaze, glaze, 21.5cm x 17cm diameter (12cm diameter at base)

Photo: Robin Hearfield



Fifteen, 2021, Catherine Flora Murray, terracotta, slip, underglaze, glaze, 20cm high x 13cm diameter
Photo: Robin Hearfield

About the artist

Catherine Flora Murray's practice spans ceramics and sculpture, and engages with the history of art, visual culture, and craft practices. She is interested in the personal and cultural resonances within the materiality of folk objects and the narratives that they hold. She recently completed a Master of Fine Arts (Ceramics) at the National Art School, Darlinghurst, in 2021.

About Lilac City Studio

Lilac City is a Sydney based Artist Run Initiative established in 2015. Originally, LCS functioned as a platform for emerging Sydney based artists to exhibit & sell experimental works in a centrally located space. Since moving from their two-year lease in 2018 and to suit the high-cost of leasing spaces and making exhibitions, LCS has adjusted their model to be mobile.

LCS's mobile model sees them working in a variety of spaces in Sydney and interstate, whilst maintaining a stable archive online. In addition, LCS has incorporated interstate and international artists, from emerging to established, to explore the wider scope of contemporary artists that critically engage with their practice. LCS hopes this new mobility will allow them to expand their audience as well as their own curatorial praxis with the challenge of exhibiting at different sites.