

Soft Goods

13 May - 6 June



We are all experts in textiles.



Photo: Document Photography

Local and interstate artists reveal the intimate relationships we have with our textiles.

Soft Goods is the curatorial project of Amelia Skelton in collaboration with Lilac City Studios. The exhibition brings together local, and interstate artists whose work, through various forms of material and conceptual inquiry, explore the intimate relationship between people and the textile object(s).

Prompted by the idea of people being 'de facto experts' on textiles due to being in constant surround, or contact with them, Soft Goods aims to draw attention to the innate accessibility and familiarity of textiles, and in turn their affective potentialities.

'Regardless of specialised education or technical vocabulary, by virtue of wearing garments, sleeping among linens, and sitting on upholstered surfaces, we are all de facto experts in textiles'

Julia Bryan-Wilson, *Fray: Art and Textile Politics*, (University of Chicago Press, 2017), 6

About the artists



Brodie Cullen is an emerging Sydney-based artist currently completing his final year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting) at the National Art School. Cullen elevates what is typically overlooked through the process of salvaging sections of discarded mattresses, stretching and painting on them to disrupt traditional frameworks of painting. Cullen's intervention shifts the value of the mattress from a discarded, stained, neglected object to a poetic material, embedded with history and intimacy.

Naomi Kent is a textiles artist living and working in Sydney. Graduating in 2019, with BA in Branded Fashion Design from Billy Blue College of Design, Kent uses her knowledge in garment construction to create sculptural textile works that teeter between functionality and fun.

Charles Levi is an emerging Sydney-based artist who undertakes the exploration of queer identity and the complexities that come with it through recalling and recollecting memory. Graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Sydney College of Art (Painting) in 2019, Levi creates vibrant and intricate assemblages of textiles, paint, in combination with recurring visual motifs and symbolism, through the process of re-visiting and re-claiming formative memories of becoming.

Elena Tory-Henderson is a person based on Gadigal land (Sydney) [whose artistic practice has primarily explored the interplay between the material & immaterial in the gallery space, often through something akin to drawing/painting/spacial installation.] Elena has exhibited in both solo and group shows throughout Sydney, as well as at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art. In 2014 Elena completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Painting and was awarded the Austrian Arlbeg 1800 residency. Her first curatorial project BODY/BLOOD was exhibited at Visual Bulk Gallery in Hobart in 2018. Since 2016 she has worked as number one assistant to Lilac City Studio CEO, Siena White. In 2020 Elena completed a Bachelor of Design in Architecture at the University of Sydney and now works in the architectural field.

Marian Tubbs is an artist living and working on Bundjalung and Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi land. Tubbs' practice traverses Internet, video and assemblage-based installation to transform the everyday into a space of interrogation. Placing objects and images in new or fluid contexts, Tubbs challenges contemporary notions of worth and value, and slows down accelerated modes of voyeurism and consumption. Positioned as an emotional and political melting pot of present day realities, her work questions how and why we view images, what consumerist products are and the role they play in our day-to-day.

Adrian Voss grew up in Germany and studied Fashion Design in Berlin. From 2011 he worked for renowned fashion companies in Sweden, France and the Netherlands. Since arriving in Australia in 2019 he has been intrigued with the quality of wool and cotton garments manufactured during earlier periods in Australian history. Sourcing, mending and re-purposing classic Australian textiles has developed into his sustainable fashion project, Toni, recently featured in Australian Vogue. Woollen blankets, cotton handkerchiefs, towels and tablecloths are re-designed into contemporary jackets, shirts and hats. Included in this exhibition are two mended woollen pieces, the Holy Blanket and Virginia's Jumper.

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.

Exhibition Dates:

13 May - 6 June

Opening:

Thursday May 20, 5 - 7 pm

Gallery Hours:

Thursday - Sunday, 12 - 5 pm

Location:

100 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2011

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