

Red Gate Gallery presents

'Ornamental'



An exhibition of contemporary art inspired by pattern, decoration and repetition featuring artists Nicola Anthony, Denise Hickey, Evelin Kasikov, Daisy McMullan, Laura Traver, Alana Tyson

Private View: Friday 29th October 2010 – 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm
Exhibition runs from: Friday 29th October – Thursday 4th November 2010
Gallery Opening Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 11.00 am to 6.30 pm
 Sat: 12.30pm - 5.00 pm
Last day of Exhibition: Thursday 4th November: 10.00am to 5.00pm

Ornamental brings together the work of six female artists whose work centres around themes of decoration, pattern and repetition. The exhibition aims to challenge traditional perceptions of the decorative in a fine art context and open up a wider discourse about gender, politics and the validity of decoration in the broader schema of contemporary art today. The artists' works are not defined or constrained within traditional media and includes diverse processes such as stitching, sewing, embroidery, cutting, collage, folding and draping.

Nicola Anthony creates sumptuous organic, obsessive sculptural works and drawings, the delicate yet chaotic surfaces are constructed using diverse materials and forms...glass, snow, pigment inks, sugar cubes, concrete, found objects, labels and light projection. Drawings and words are taken from biological references and literary sources and then crafted through layering and assemblage. With an eye for detail, she sees the potential in the small things, which are collected and sculpted into something complex, intricate and fascinating in response to various themes such as memory, genetics, fairytales, histories, and notions of layering, mapping and multiples.

Denise Hickey's work is mainly concerned with a fascination with the temporary. Her work looks at themes of re-invention, preservation, nostalgia and control and the notion of feminine conflict through the materials and techniques she uses. She embraces what are traditionally considered craft construction techniques, using collage, knitting, and reclaimed domestic objects. She uses materials ranging from old quilts to abandoned wood, which have been discarded from domestic environments. Hickey's playful work transforms everyday objects and materials into momentary icons and a dysfunctional record of life.

Evelin Kasikov's work is a fusion of craft and design; hand embroidery based on CMYK printing processes. Her work explores the possibilities for modern printing processes to be integrated with traditional craft and textile techniques. Her main influences come from Swiss typography, Dutch book design and Estonian language – in no particular order. By mixing high and low tech, screen-based media with slower crafts, she investigates different ways of seeing and experiencing visual messages.

Daisy McMullan's work centres on themes of the decorative, memory and femininity. Her practice aims to combine conceptual themes with a painterly execution, taking inspiration from a wide range of sources; from Victorian wallpaper and Japanese woodcuts, literature, fairytales, anatomy and calligraphy. There is often a strong sense of narrative and storytelling within her work, whilst highly decorative elements cross the boundaries between high and low art forms, and fine art and craft practices. McMullan's work aims to challenge the role of the decorative within a fine art context and how it functions as a signifier for the feminine.

Laura Traver's practice explores how the simple graphic line and circle dissolve in the face of detailed repetition of action in experimental situations in the studio; this may involve throwing balloons at graphic targets, standing in a fixed position, or allowing herself only one movement. Her intention is to investigate the role of intuition in the creation of her art by restraining it through the construction of boundaries and by employing repetition. Her work fluctuates between a pure love of aesthetic beauty and an exploration of it.

Alana Tyson's manipulated fabric pieces stem from the repetition of simple motions or marks until complex surfaces are created. The pieces isolate a seductive sculptural language that seeks to rest between something 3-dimensional, yet is simultaneously flat, becoming almost painterly. Constructed of hand-sewn lining fabric, these beautiful artworks are reminiscent of coffin lining, chocolate boxes, and visceral entrails of the body.



Nearest Buses from Brixton/Camberwell: 35 (From Clapham Junction), 45 (From Kings X), 345 (From Sth Ken to Peckham), P4 (Brixton to Lewisham) **Nearest Train:** Loughborough Junction Thames Link, via King X to Sutton)