

Home Grown | Tension(s) 2020

24 March - 14 May 2022

Two contemporary exhibitions showcasing a traveling exhibition and a thriving local Canberra-based artist.



IMAGE1(L-R): JEREMY BROWN, LONDON PLANE (*PLATANUS X ACERIFOLIA*), 2022. PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

IMAGE2: JANE THEAU, ANCA (DETAIL), 2020, A VIDEO PORTRAIT OF THE DANCER ANCA FRANKENHAEUSER PERFORMING WITH HER THREAD PORTRAIT. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

Canberra, Australia: Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre is proud to showcase two new exhibitions - *Home Grown* and *Tension(s) 2020 Tamworth Textile Triennial*.

'It is delightful to have these two gorgeous exhibitions opening in our gallery. The work of local artist Jeremy Brown has combined a love of nature and fine wood working skills, while the Tamworth Textiles Triennial showcases the best of contemporary textiles from around Australia. These two exhibitions display a diversity of highly skilled contemporary Australian craft practice and remind us of the significant contribution craftspeople make to the arts in Australia.' Craft ACT CEO and Artistic Director, Jodie Cunningham

Home Grown

Presents a new body of work by Jeremy Brown, in celebration of the beautiful street trees of Canberra, the city he was born and raised in. This exhibition invites viewers to wander the streets of our garden city and allows appreciation of some of the more hidden aspects of its natural beauty.

Jeremy combined two main threads of practice, furniture making, and botanical illustration, these works create a juxtaposition between the natural and built environments, bridging the disconnect between the origins of raw materials and a final product.

The design elements in the featured timber stools draw inspiration from iconic local architecture, whilst the timber for each has been salvaged from a different species of felled Canberra Street tree. Chosen species include claret ash, English elm, London plane, pin oak, river oak, and silky oak and the minimalist aesthetic allows the inherent beauty of the materials to take centre stage. Accompanying each stool is an original watercolor botanical illustration, representing the living specimen of each chosen tree in a way that might be more familiar to the viewer. These paintings are observational, painted from living specimens, and aim to accurately depict the plants as they grow on our streets. In contrast, the design of the furniture is abstracted and shaped by the maker's hand, taking inspiration from the human-made. This contrast between design-by-nature and design-by-human is both a tool for linking raw materials to their final product and an ode to the harmonious existence of the two elements in Canberra's own streets.

"My fondest childhood memories were created in and around them, but at the time the trees themselves were often overlooked. As he has grown, however, so too has his appreciation of Canberra's trees and the creation of this body of work has allowed even deeper understanding of and personal connection to them." – Jeremy Brown

Tension(s) 2020 - Tamworth Textile Triennial

Tamworth Textile Triennial, held every three years, showcases the best of textile art from across the country, attracting artist participation from all states in Australia. Tension(s) 2020: Tamworth Textile Triennial has been curated by Vic McEwan. "Musical theory teaches us that as we change the tension that a material is under, we also change its pitch. It is through the combining of these various tensions that we are able to create a chord, a melody, a verse, a chorus. As the curator of Tension(s) 2020, I aim to take the various tones and pitches offered by the tension(s) these artists are exploring, and attempt to bring them together into a coherence of composition: a spatial and visual composition that is sometimes in unison, sometimes dissonant, sometimes sweet and melodic, and sometimes pure noise. Tension(s) 2020 is a coming together that both reveals and conceals the artist, reveals and conceals the audience, and provokes us to actively remember that if there is one thing hindsight has taught us, it is that we risk danger whenever we draw meaning from only one perspective.

Curator Vic McEwan

Tension(s) 2020 ARTISTS

- Soraya Abidin
- Gillian Bencke
- Julie Briggs and Kelly Leonard
- Armando Chant
- Georgia Chapman
- Linda Erceg
- Anne Ferran
- Dianne Firth
- Sai-Wai Foo
- Tina Fox
- Erica Gray
- Elisa Markes-Young
- Julie Montgarrett
- Deborah Prior

- Margarita Sampson
- Mark Smith and Dell Stewart
- Jane Théau

- Tjanpi Desert Weavers
- Yinarr Maramali

TAMWORTH



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.