

## **Jeremy Brown – Description of Practice**

I am an early-career, Canberra based designer/maker of furniture and objects and a visual artist. I graduated from the Australian National University School of Art and Design in 2017, with first class honours in a Bachelor of Visual Arts degree. Majoring in the furniture workshop, I also studied art and design theory electives throughout my bachelor's degree alongside many more electives across an array of disciplines at the School of Art and Design. Throughout my degree, and since graduating, I have received and been nominated for several local and national awards related to my design practice. I have been involved in numerous exhibitions and events since beginning my degree.

Until now, my studio-based practice led research has been mainly centred around investigating ways in which furniture and objects can be used to promote emotional wellbeing and comfort within users. Following the idea that artefacts can be made not only to fulfil practical tasks, but also to communicate and establish emotional connections with users; this research is prompted by the stress and anxiety often caused by the overwhelming external stimuli and demand in contemporary society. The aim of the research has been to find ways to encourage user interaction in a more intimate and playful way, establishing these emotional connections, offering temporary distraction and refuge from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and ultimately, reducing stress and anxiety levels.

Influenced mainly by natural forms such as plants, seedpods and sea creatures, I have used these works to change environments / living spaces, drawing users to interact and connect with the work and by doing so, reflect on emotions of comfort and feelings of safety. Still influenced by the natural world, I am now looking to combine my furniture making with my other main avenue of practice – botanical illustration. In 2019 I pursued a long-term interest in botanical illustration in watercolour and have since been building on these skills and developing this as another main thread to my creative practice. I have been looking for ways to combine these two threads and I believe that my proposed exhibition is the perfect opportunity to expand my practice through a meaningful connection between the two art forms.