



- 1 Embroidered house
- 2 Lately my diet has become a trifle monotonous, detail
- 3 Carpet, detail

Greer Honeywill hails from Adelaide, but has spent the past seven years working out of a studio in Woodend on the outskirts of Melbourne.

Her early career focused on painting, but more recently she has been producing maquette-like models of the suburban home. "I'm a girl from the suburbs. My parent's move to a new house on a quarter acre block was their dream," says Honeywill, who started capturing the suburban dream with photographer, Lynette Zeeng. "We'd approach people like Lindsay Fox and Leo Schofield and take them back to their childhood homes," she says. Interviews were partially inscribed on to Zeeng's photos. To activate these images, sound engineer, Rodney Lowe recorded a sound-scape evoking domesticity in the 'burbs.

Honeywill has always loved houses, even those concealed behind high fences. "Some of my favourite houses lined the Esplanade (in Glenelg in South Australia). They were fortified to keep out the salt air," says Honeywill, who is also drawn to the skeletal frames that now form the urban sprawl.

Rather than put up walls to keep out this development, Honeywill has made it the subject of her recent work. Working with Western Red Cedar, Rosewood and Huon pine, she creates not just the suburban dream, but suburban bliss. 'Carpet' for example, 11 metres in length, includes missing 'threads' (spaces between the finely cut timber). Included in the 'pile' are door shapes and pitched rooves.

'Embroidered House', a metal-framed house, in-filled with marine ply, features thousands of drilled holes. Back-lighting creates a web-like pattern on a wall. "This piece was inspired by ghost crabs at Port Douglas. I spent hours watching how they turned the grains of sand into balls. It was like fine embroidery."

Kevin Murray, Director of Craft Victoria, says that "Greer is able to draw upon aspects of everyday life and render these in a form that's quite extraordinary. Her work gives us a moment out of the day to enjoy

and reflect. She's dedicated to things that happen in our everyday lives and gives them a new meaning."

'Lately my diet has become a little monotonous', for example, not only captures the suburban lifestyle, but makes references to the hundreds of repetitive jobs that are never acknowledged. The wooden-framed house, mounted on a table, is surrounded with tin cookie cutters, not dissimilar to marquetry. "I often include found objects in my installations. Mop twine is a favourite," says Honeywill, who recalls often being picked up late as a child. "My mother couldn't leave the house without first mopping the floor. It would always take her an hour. So I'm used to waiting."

Honeywill speaks humbly about her achievements. "At the end of the day, I'm just a story-teller. Some of my stories appear quite innocent. But there's also the darker side, stories that blemish the suburban dream."

'Against the Grain' showed at Craft Victoria in May/June 2007.

Greer Honeywill
greerhoneywill.com



Tales of the Everyday

Greer Honeywill's models tell stories of the everyday in suburbia. Stephen Crafti spoke to her during her recent Craft Victoria exhibition and discovered a dark side to suburban streets.

Text
Stephen Crafti
Photography
John Best

