

Against the Grain

An exhibition of Greer Honeywill's works in wood from 2000-2007 on show at Craft Victoria reflects our social and domestic conditions.

A fascination with the domestic condition and the fabrication of our urban landscape inspires the works of artist Greer Honeywill. Watching housing frames go up and the 'beautiful grid in the landscape' they create is a directly observable reference in her wooden structures.

Creating scaled down three and two dimensional representations of houses and furniture emphasises the child-like quality which her pieced-together structures have.

Carpet is an eleven metre long floor piece constructed from small blocks of timber. 'This piece', she says, 'is like a child's puzzle that alludes to the carpeting of the landscape'.

Evidence is a small-scale representation of housing frames and furniture which draws on the influence of the scale models made by builder's apprentices which Greer started collecting around ten years ago, around the time she was commencing work on a PhD entitled *Colours of the Kitchen Cabinet*. The latter was an exploration of the social politics of Australian suburban dwellers from 1945 to 1970 with domestic lifestyles and spaces being the focal point.

The perforated walls of *Embroidered House*, when lit from within, cast shadows that mimic the sand ball patterns created by ghost crabs in their ritual of daily food gathering.

Lately my diet has become a trifle monotonous is a homage to the repetitive nature of domestic tasks and incorporates hundreds of tin biscuit cutters inlaid into its surfaces.

Before working as a full-time artist Greer started out as an art teacher who

went on to have careers in the theatre and as a creative designer and writer for event companies. *Against the Grain* is a collection of works completed over a period of eight years. The physical making of the pieces is undertaken by others who work to her scale drawings and use the materials she sources.

In some ways she feels her works are more like paintings than constructions as they rely on the arrangement of the colours of the woods she selects. Wood with pronounced figure or feature is not suitable for the small pieces most of her works are constructed from. Suitable species have proved to be American cherrywood, American redwood, Huon pine and some western red cedar.

Photos: John Best

Against the Grain will be displayed at Craft Victoria, 31 Flinders Lane, Melbourne until June 23, 2007.



Greer Honeywill



Lately my diet has become a trifle monotonous
2001
560 x 148 x 127mm



Evidence
2003



Embroidered House