

4 April 2022

## Announcing representation: Hannah Gartside



Tolarno Galleries is delighted to announce representation of **Hannah Gartside** (born 1987, London, UK; lives and works in Naarm/Melbourne).

Gartside is currently on view at *Primavera 2021: Young Australian Artists*, the annual Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney showcase of Australian artists aged 35 years and under.

Her installation of five kinetic textile sculptures each represent an iconic female figure of the past – dancer Loïe Fuller (1862-1928), painter Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-c.1654), Tarot card illustrator Pamela 'Pixie' Colman Smith (1878-1951), Biblical ur-woman Lilith, and actor Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923).

Made from 19th and 20th century clothes and fabric, the works were designed with their subjects' personal histories in mind – splays of red velvet evoke the violent scenes of Artemisia Gentileschi's renowned 17th century paintings, a sail of pink silk crêpe honours Loïe Fuller's pioneering stage lighting designs and moving fabric costuming.

The suspended forms assert their bodily presence, choreographically revolving and whirring. These works highlight the erasure of women from the canon of art history, and ongoing gender inequality more broadly.

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They consider the recent sexual assault allegations in Australian Parliament, which Gartside explains "... reaffirmed the focus of this work and the urgency to be addressing it here, in my language of cloth... [the works are the] marrying of sensuality, courage and bravura; relentless assertion for change".

Embedded in feminism and material culture, Gartside uses vintage and found textiles to create installations, sculptures and costumes. Skills of dress-making, patchwork quilting and fabric dyeing accrued during her former career as a theatre costumier at Queensland Ballet are elevated to the conceptually rigorous. Both deeply personal and fiercely communal, Gartside's works engage fundamental experiences and emotions of our human condition: longing, tenderness, connection, desire and wonderment.

"She uses deadstock fabrics, clothes found in skips and op shops or given to her by friends, garments of dead relatives and fur from pets. For the artist, clothes are psychic objects that not only have history (a faded menstrual stain, the scent of a beloved) but presence; material has its own life... In this sense, the sculptures are about fabric itself, the singular way in which material is able to articulate the immaterial – a current of air, an undertow of desire. Fabric also has its own sound world and Gartside is listening to what it is saying, 'pulsing, sighing, calling to us'." – Hannah Fink, catalogue essay, *Primavera 2021: Young Australian Artists, Museum of Contemporary Art*

Gartside holds a Bachelor of Fine Art, Queensland University of Technology (Fashion Design, Honours, 2010), and a Bachelor of Fine Art, Victorian College of the Arts (Sculpture and Spatial Practice, Honours, 2019).

Solo exhibitions include: *Fantasies 2*, Ararat Gallery TAMA, 2019; *Fantasies*, Metro Arts, 2018; and *Felt and Held*, George Paton Gallery, 2016.

Notable group exhibitions include: *Fresh Materials: New Australian Textile Art*, Townsville City Galleries, 2021; *Leftover Love*, Australian Tapestry Workshop, 2021; *Making Art Work*, Institute of Modern Art, 2020; *A Family Album*, Town Hall Gallery; *Performing Textiles*, Ian Potter Museum, 2019; *Four Letter Word*, Artbank, 2019; *Dress Code*, Museum of Brisbane, 2018; *Beyond Reason*, QUT Art Museum 2018; *Lucky Charm*, Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre, 2018 and *Home Made Good*, The Johnston Collection, 2018. Her work is held in the Artbank and Wangaratta Art Gallery collections and in private collections.

Hannah Gartside is a finalist in the upcoming Ellen José Art Award at Bayside Gallery, Victoria, a \$15,000 non-acquisitive award to a female visual artist aged 18-35 years, on view from July 2022. She will next exhibit in the June 2022 group show *Text Tile*, a showcase of textile based practices of over 50 artists within Australia and New Zealand, at Caves Gallery in Melbourne.

Tolarno Galleries will present a solo exhibition by Hannah Gartside in 2023.

For more information contact:

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