DOMESTIC BLISS

Room with a viewpoint

John Bokor understands the poetry of living in close quarters. Having called the inner-Sydney suburb of Paddington, and Marrickville, home, before settling in Bulli (about 1.5hrs south of Sydney) in 2007, the young painter has a feel for domestic interiors that are completely un-styled and deeply lived in.

Honing his skills on tabletop still-lifes, Bokor’s most recent work generates portraits of people through their things. With titles like Harry’s Kitchen and Hendrick and Julianne’s Sitting Room, these are comfy places where you expect someone to return with a tea tray or a bottle of wine and some gossip. Bokor transfers energy to inanimate objects: a velvet sofa lit by a shaft of light or a gleaming window pane rendered real in a few brushstrokes. Some of this skill might be attributed to his years studying with still-life and interiors maven Elisabeth Cummings; the rest is his own gift for colour and concentrated detail.

In Australian art history, the domestic interior has largely belonged to women. Bokor’s work marks the exception and poses a very modern proposition of the man who prefers to stay home.

~Anna Johnson

JOHN BOKOR, King Street Gallery on William, until May 2; (02) 9360 9727 or kingsstreetgallery.com.au.

Read Lovers of gorgeous textiles will be rapt at the publication of ClothBound (Murdoch Books, $59.99), by Julie Paterson, founder of the fabulous Cloth Fabric.

VISIT Foodies and design enthusiasts should pop down to St Mary’s Cathedral forecourt in Sydney for Home, Food and Design Weekend, 23-24 May. www.homefooddesignweekend.com.au.

Support Preventative cancer charity Pink Hope is calling on all Australians to make a promise to take control of their health – starting from May 1. pinkypromise.com.au. H&G