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# Artist Lucy Culliton finds love for objects in her art

🕒 August 6, 2015 10:39am

👤 Elizabeth Fortescue



Lucy Culliton at The Hughes Gallery

In her first exhibition since breaking Mosman Art Gallery's visitor records with her 2014 survey show, Lucy Culliton has focused her obsessive gaze on the domestic aspect of her practice.

Known for her sweeping landscapes around her former home in Hartley, and for joyous paintings of her new acreage in Bibbenluke, this popular artist also loves to paint the objects that fill her home — a former trout fishing lodge on the Monaro, just north of the Victorian border.

Culliton has previously romped through a panoply of subject paintings, exploring everything from decorated Arrowroot biscuits in agricultural shows to cactuses.

This time she has scooped up her collections of objects, arranged them according to colour, and painted them with the honest, straightforward gaze that she brings to all her pictures.

"I have collections in my house of green things, red things, black things — just objects," Culliton says. "So I just put them all together and made green paintings or red paintings or black paintings."

No matter whether it's a knitted toy, an op shop vase, an antique bottle, scissors or a pair of shoes, Culliton invests all her objects with love and affection. Also in the exhibition is a series of paintings of the cowgirl shirts she bought in Tucson, Arizona.

Painting the shirts, hung on wire or knitted coathangers, was a "self-indulgence".

"They're so lovely to paint," Culliton says.

Lucy Culliton will be at The Hughes Gallery for a public morning tea and floor talk at 11.30am this Saturday and on Saturday August 22.

Lucy Culliton: Still Life On Paper, The Hughes Gallery, Level 2, 270 Devonshire St, Surry Hills; until September 1, 9698 3200, thehughesgallery.com

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