

Maggie Hensel-Brown featured in Art Collector issue #113 edition Under 5K

Why pay attention?

Maggie Hensel-Brown is an early career artist with plenty of impressive experience already under her belt. She has held solo exhibitions in Maitland and Cessnock regional galleries and participated in group exhibitions including Radical Textiles at the Art Gallery of South Australia and Tamworth Textile Triennial:

Residue, Response, which travelled across New South Wales. Most recently, Hensel-Brown was part of the exhibition Light in Space at Penrith Regional Gallery.

What do they do?

Hensel-Brown has a distinct and unique medium, working predominantly in needle lace techniques. Lacework is a medium that occupies a historic place in art, while signifying wealth and social status. The artist takes this tradition and turns it on its head, making her work physically and symbolically compelling.

What's going on?

Her art draws inspiration from the ordinary rhythms of daily life, capturing both its challenges and its simple routines that resonate with everyone. The needle lace technique requires patience-a square centimetre, on average, takes an hour-which makes her intricate works all the more fascinating. In their stillness, they beckon their audience to pay close and sustained attention. Hensel-Brown's patience, the meditation of her work, is a way of enshrining the mundane and elevating the everyday-a reminder that ordinary occurrences are worth noticing. Focusing on moments of frustration, boredom and bliss, the painstaking amount of time and repetition poured into her practice allows these moments to stay ingrained and locked in a moment in time, though they are no doubt ready to reappear in her life.

The artist says...

"Needle lacemaking is a process about time.

There are centuries of lace makers, passing skills from hand to hand across generations.

There are years of my own practice and training and refining the technique. Then there are months spent crafting each piece, days of meditative stitching, hours of care and attention and labour in each square centimetre.

When I think about where all of that time is going, I like choosing to dedicate it to small, ordinary objects and moments. The scattered, crumpled detritus of every day. I want to take those moments and those objects and give them life."

See it at...

Hensel-Brown's *Jetsam* is showing from **23 September to 18 October at King Street Gallery on William, Warrane/Sydney.**

Artists | 'Look Out For' feature on Maggie Hensel-Brown, page 134 and 135 of Issue #113 Art Collector Magazine Under 5K Edition, by ALTHEA KUZMAN

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