

ART#2

primary kit

ART#2 HAMILTON

ART#2 is the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA)'s second year of bringing new artworks from Melbourne's leading contemporary art gallery to country Victoria.

Visiting Horsham, Hamilton and Warnambool in 2011, ACCA has created programs to suit the collections, audience, architecture and ambitions of each of the galleries. For Hamilton, artists Alex Pittendrigh and Kate Daw respond to the gallery's decorative art collection and the rich local history of the community.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Alex Pittendrigh
Kate Daw



KATE DAW

THE ARTIST

Kate Daw (b.1966) lives and works in Melbourne. She has a PhD from the University of Melbourne (VCA&M) and degrees from the VCA, Glasgow School of Art and RMIT University.

WHAT ART DOES THE ARTIST MAKE?

Daw uses ceramics, embroidery, painting, photography, printing, sculpture, readymades and installations in her work. She often remakes familiar objects, adding details and irregularities so that the audience views them as everyday, yet unfamiliar.

Daw is also interested in using familiar objects so they remind the audience of something from their own life, such as a memory. In this way she encourages the audience to associate their own personal story with the artwork.

WHAT ART WILL SHE MAKE FOR THE EXHIBITION?

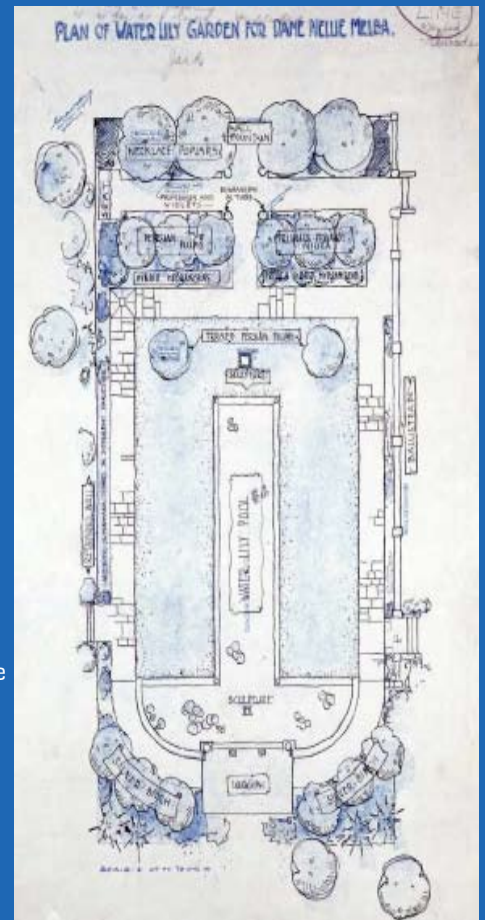
Daw will spend time in Hamilton, learning about local history and craft, and getting to know people in the community. She will create three new works with visual and text elements, and present an older work that is also based on text.

Daw will exhibit two photographs of 2 plates owned by her mother and by her aunt. These two photos will be displayed with a series of hand-made ceramic works by the artist and a text that combines fact and fiction.

She will also work with the local Hamilton Embroiders Guild to create a small embroidery based on an unrealised garden design by Edna Walling for Dame Nellie Melba. The embroidery will be displayed along side a photographic document of an existing local garden designed by Walling. Edna Walling (1895-1973) is one of Australia's most well-known landscape designers and transformed gardens across the country.

Daw will also exhibit a coat from the Hamilton Art Gallery's costume collection. Displayed next to it will be a text based on an interview with a friend of the artist that explores her relationship to a grey coat she made and is now without.

The last part of her display will include an older, multi-panel work of small raw stretched canvases with the contents of a Scottish decorative art auction catalogue re-typed in full.





Alex Pittendrigh

THE ARTIST

Alex Pittendrigh (b. 1966) lives and works in Melbourne. He completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the VCA in 1994 and in 2009 he won the Royal Bank of Scotland Emerging artist award.

WHAT ART DOES THE ARTIST MAKE?

Pittendrigh's creates paintings, drawings, installations and sculptural objects crafted from everyday materials, however he is particularly well-known for his delicate Blu-Tack sculpture works.

These temporary Blu-Tack works demonstrate Pittendrigh's interest in the process of art making, rather than just the finished product. His inspiration for using Blu-Tack comes from observations of office workers being distracted and daydreaming.

Pittendrigh's delicate, floral Blu-Tack creations are similar to the early rococo style of the 18th Century that were highly decorated. But while exquisitely detailed, they also function similarly to doodling, imagination and the wanderings of the mind.

WHAT ART WILL HE MAKE FOR THE EXHIBITION?

Alex Pittendrigh will undertake a two-week residency in the Hamilton Art Gallery creating a major Blu-Tack wall mural that responds to the Hamilton Art Gallery's decorative art collection.

The artist will work in the gallery space during opening hours, making a single work each day in response to a work from the collection. Pittendrigh plans to make one of his panels in a workshop with kids during the school holidays. By the end of the residency there should be fifteen panels presented as a wall work in the Ashworth Gallery.



Plasticine Pittendrigh**Level 1****The Arts****Creating and Making**

Create two- and three-dimensional artworks based on imagination and fantasy and in response to diverse stimuli, such as direct experience, everyday occurrences and experiences, picture books and music.

1. Discuss how Pittendrigh's Blu-Tack works are often like doodling or the mind wandering.
2. Play classical music while the children silently create an object out of playdough. They must not talk or discuss the artwork as they are making it. The object must be something out of their imagination.
3. Place objects on a piece of coloured card in the middle of the room to create a patchwork group installation of plasticene doodlings.

Special Objects**Level 2****Communication (learning focus)**

(Students) experience, respond to and begin to interpret a variety of aural, written and visual texts, discussing alternative meanings and perspectives when they arise.

English**Speaking and listening**

Listen to and produce spoken texts that deal with familiar ideas and information.

English**Writing**

Write short sequenced texts that include some related ideas about familiar topics.

1. Children choose an interesting object with a story behind it (for example a photograph, ornament, memento from a holiday or a family event such as a wedding, something which has been passed down through your family).
2. Explain to the group that this is a special object to you, and has a special meaning behind it. Pass the object around the group if possible.
3. Ask the group to guess the meaning of your object. Show them a selection of cards with possible reasons why the object is special. For example:
Reminds me of a special day, It belonged to someone important to me, I wrote an important letter with it.
4. Ask learners to vote for the reason they think is correct. Then explain the story behind your objects to the group. Write a story based on an object shown by someone else in the class.

Special Objects Blu-Tack Rococo**Level 3****The Arts****Creating and Making**

(Students) Identify techniques and features of other people's works that inform their own arts making.

- identify techniques and discuss similarities and differences between artists' work and their own artworks
- draw on artists' ideas, styles and techniques to develop their own approaches. For example, students may examine architectural embellishments (such as the gargoyles and dragons in medieval architecture) and apply their knowledge to develop and detail their own three-dimensional artworks

1. Show children pictures of Rococo ornaments and furniture. Explain the use of decoration to embellish the object. Discuss Alex Pittendrigh's Blu-Tack work.
2. Students create small Blu-Tack filigree works based on the Rococo pictures.
3. In groups of 10 attach Blu-Tack works to classroom tables and chairs to create a contemporary Rococo work.
4. Talk about the features of the finished work.

Objects, Stories and the Everyday

Level 4

The Arts

Creating and Making

Create and present artworks that explore the potential of ideas;

- create a narrative structure with images in a variety of styles (for example, figurative or expressive) or from the point of view of another person or imagined character.

English

Writing

At Level 4, students produce, in print and electronic forms, a variety of texts for different purposes using structures and features of language appropriate to the purpose, audience and context of the writing. They begin to use simple figurative language and visual images.

1. Choose a found object with special memories or a story that is important to you.
2. Write a poem about it, presenting it on special paper and with your best handwriting.
3. Create a ceramic version of the object.
4. Display all three components next to each other. As a class discuss the three objects and the way they relate and respond to each other.

GLOSSARY

Architecture - A general term to describe buildings and other structures.

Contemporary Art - Art produced at this present point in time or art produced since World War II.

Decorative Art - Art produced or intended primarily for utility, including jewelry, furniture, and other crafts.

Installations - Site-specific, three-dimensional artworks that can be temporary or permanent.

Ready mades - Found objects used in a non-functional context.

Residency - A period of time in which an artist stays at a particular location making artwork.

Rococo - A style of art, especially architecture and decorative art, that originated in France in the early 18th century and features elaborate detail and ornamentation.