

ART#2

secondary kit

SECONDARY EDUCATION KIT

ART#2 HAMILTON

Hamilton Art Gallery is renowned for its historic and contemporary collections of fine and decorative arts. Established in 1961 following a large bequest by Herbert Buchanan Shaw (1882-1957), today the rich and diverse collection of silver, glass and porcelain, oriental ceramics, tapestries, furniture, paintings and prints is exhibited in six modern galleries.

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

Visiting Horsham, Hamilton and Warnambool in 2011, ACCA has devised 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.

ACCA is Australia's major centre for contemporary art, which showcases the latest developments in the national and international contemporary art scenes. It also acts as an essential facilitator for emerging Australian contemporary artists and over the past eight years has commissioned over 60 new works.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Alex Pittendrigh

Kate Daw



Alex Pittendrigh

Alex Pittendrigh (b. 1966) lives and works in Melbourne. He completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the VCA in 1994. In 2009 he won the Royal Bank of Scotland Emerging artist award and has been the recipient of several other grants, residencies and awards. He has exhibited widely in Australia, including a solo show at ACCA@Mirka Tolarno (2008) as well as internationally in London and Rome.

PRACTICE

Pittendrigh's practice spans across painting, drawing, installation and sculptural objects crafted from everyday materials. He is particularly well known for his delicate Blu-Tack sculpture works. In 2005 Pittendrigh created 'Work and Days at Clubs: Four Sculptural Propositions'. This project was an open studio work in progress, in which the artist created a new work each day using discarded materials such as vacuum cleaner dust, plastic cable ties and Blu-Tack. These ephemeral installations evolved throughout the exhibition, and demonstrated Pittendrigh's focus on the process of art making. His inspiration for using Blu-Tack comes from observations of office distraction and daydreaming.

"Blu-Tack is commonly used in all sorts of office practices. I did work for a number of years as a foot courier in the city and in that time I visited nearly every office in the Melbourne CBD and I often did see people making small animals and other things out of Blu-Tack which they would stick above their computer keyboard or on top of their screens or something like that. There was this microscopic world of tiny personal practices on company time going on all around so that's one thing that stuck in my mind long time, long before I even thought about using Blu-Tack for this show." Alex Pittendrigh

Pittendrigh's delicate, floral Blu-Tack creations are reminiscent of the early rococo style, likened to the chinoiserie that appeared in decorative arts at the time. While exquisitely detailed and reflecting his interest in ornamentation, they also function similarly to doodling, growing out of the subconscious, documenting the wanderings of the mind.

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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. Created in situ, the project will continue his foray into highly decorative, filigree works made using Blu-Tack. 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. With his residency in Hamilton taking place over the 2 weeks of the July school holidays, Alex anticipates one of these panels will also be made through a workshop with local kids. Culminating in approximately 15 panels (125 x 58 cm each) this series will be presented as a wall work in the gallery's Ashworth Gallery.



Kate Daw

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. She has shown in recent exhibitions at ACCA, VCA and NGV, and in 2006 held a solo exhibition, *The Between Space*, at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Kate has received many awards and grants including the prestigious Samstag Scholarship. She has undertaken a residency at the Asialink studio in India and has exhibited her work extensively, both nationally and internationally.

PRACTICE

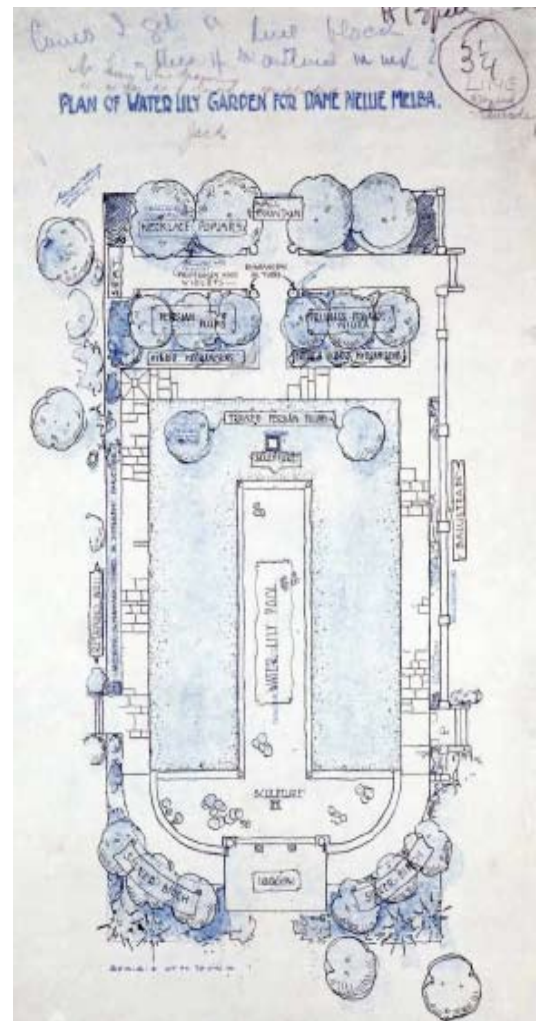
Daw's wide-ranging practice includes ceramics, embroidery, painting, photography, printing, sculpture and installation. She often remakes familiar objects adding details and irregularities to create a slippage between the everyday and the unfamiliar. In *The Between Space* (2005) Daw created a large series of ceramic domestic cups and saucers, appropriated from five originals that she selected for their significance to person, place, association and time. The audience is able to associate these 1930's style teacups, modern French coffee cups and office mugs with their own experiences, evoking reminiscence and nostalgia.

"I was wanting the work to look like cups and saucers set out for a function or something like that, and the viewer not being certain about what they are looking at – is it art or are they for a conference? Those lines between art and real life are questions I am really interested in looking at, how art can act as a trigger for viewers' own narrative experiences." Kate Daw

In other works Daw uses text from a variety of sources, often descriptive and detailed, stimulating memories and sensory experiences and allowing the audience to create their own mental pictures and narrative journey.

ART#2

For the ART#2 project, Daw will spend time in Hamilton, immersing herself in the local history and craft. Her project will encompass four key components comprising visual and text elements responding to the architecture of the Ashworth Gallery where the works will be exhibited. Daw will work with the local Hamilton Embroiders Guild to create a small embroidery, based on an unrealised garden plan by Edna Walling originally designed for Dame Nellie Melba. The embroidery will be displayed aside a photographic document of an existing local garden designed by Walling. Edna Walling (1895-1973) is regarded as one of the most influential landscape designers of her time, renowned for transforming Australia's ideas of gardening. Daw will also exhibit photographic documentation of 2 plates, one owned by her mother and another owned by her aunt. These two images will be accompanied by a series of hand-made ceramic works by the artist and a didactic text that layers factual information with a creative response. A coat drawn from the Hamilton Art Gallery's costume collection will be displayed next to a text based on an interview with a friend of the artist that explores her relationship to a grey coast she made and is now without. The last component is a multi-panel work of small, raw stretched canvases with the contents of a Scottish decorative art auction catalogue re-typed in full.



CURRICULUM LINKS

VCE ART

UNIT 2 Area of study 1 Outcome 1

Rococo Influence

Use **The Formal framework** and the Cultural framework to analyse, interpret, compare and discuss Alex Pittendrigh's Blu-Tack works, taking into account the materials and techniques used and how they shape and affect the interpretation; the distinctive stylistic qualities of the artwork and how they contribute to meaning; whether the physical aspects or presentation of the artwork contain symbolic meaning and use of metaphor. How have historical events and artistic movements such as the baroque and rococo periods shaped and influenced Pittendrigh's practice and our understanding of the artwork's meaning.

VCE STUDIO ART

UNIT 4 Area of study 3 Outcome 3

Arts Industry Contexts

Examine and explain the preparation and presentation of artworks in the Hamilton ART#2 exhibition. Investigate The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, how it differs from other public institutions and commercial galleries. Research the various roles, processes and methods involved in bringing the exhibition to a regional gallery, and having an artist work in situ for the audience to observe and interact with.

PHILOSOPHY

Unit 2 Outcome 2

Other great questions in philosophy – Aesthetics

Visit ART#2 in order to discuss aesthetics in relation to contemporary art. What defines the aesthetic? (e.g. exploration of such concepts as 'taste', 'aesthetic properties', 'aesthetic experience', 'aesthetic appreciation', and their relationship); What is the purpose and value of art? To what extent is a society justified in censoring art? How important is originality in the arts, and should we condemn forgeries, or even copies? Can we make and defend a distinction between 'high' and 'low' art?

VELS

LEVEL 5

The Arts

Exploring and Responding

Evaluate and interpret artworks from different contexts,

- identify stylistic features of Rococo express views on the purposes of these works
- use appropriate terms and explain identifying symbols within artworks from this period

Creating and making

Experiment with, select and use appropriate skills, techniques, processes, media, materials, equipment and technologies across a range of arts forms and styles.

- extend skills in a particular art form by working through ways of manipulating elements such as colour, texture, line etc

Learn about the rococo period, focusing on the features of this style in art, design, music etc. Discuss the ways in which Pittendrigh has appropriated this style and how he has reinterpreted it in a contemporary context.

Students will gather ideas from rococo imagery and work on cardboard panels to create a highly detailed blutack sculpture.

Place all students panels together on a wall to create a group wall sculpture.

LEVEL 6

The Arts

Exploring and Responding

Research and critically discuss a range of contemporary, traditional, stylistic, historical and cultural examples of arts works from the Hamilton Art Gallery collection, in the disciplines and forms in which they are working.

Creating and making

Create arts works devised from a range of stimuli, demonstrating development of a personal style.

Students will:

Research a particular object or artwork in the Hamilton collection, deciding on a work of interest.

Make a series of artworks in response to the chose work. They will experiment with different mediums and use text and visual components.

Present works to class, discussing the way the finished artwork relates to the Hamilton Art Gallery work they focused on.