

Friday, 6 September 2019

MoAD brings provocative new exhibition to Canberra that pushes the boundaries of democracy

Today, MoAD (Museum of Australian Democracy) launched a new exhibition that explores the democratic power of craftivism.

In partnership with National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria, MoAD presents *Craftivism. Dissident Objects and Subversive Forms* – a collaborative, playful and immersive exhibition inviting visitors to see craft in a new light.

This provocative exhibition, curated by the Shepparton Art Museum (SAM), explores themes including immigration, the environment, gender and an individual's political agency, among others.

Ms Anna Briers, SAM Co-Curator said, "Gender, representation and identity are ever-present, because 'the personal as political' remains relevant today. Many artists are engaged with environmental politics and climate change, while others are concerned about contested borders, immigration and democracy. Many embrace relational production processes that implicitly promote collaboration and social connection.

"Broadening our understanding of craft-making traditions, the artists in this exhibition subvert and extend these forms as vehicles for activism and social change, reflecting on the world in which we live. While some respond directly to artistic or political movements, others encourage social connection between community members with works that require participatory activation through collective processes."

Artists featured in the exhibition include Canberra locals Raquel Ormella and James Tylor, as well as Melbourne based artistic group, Slow Art Collective.

Edwina Jans, the manager of Heritage, Communications and Development at MoAD, notes that people can participate in democracy in a variety of ways, including through craftivism.

"Craftivism is a non-threatening form of protest that can still have impact and drive social change," Ms Jans explained "By embracing art in the democratic space, MoAD is showcasing a powerful avenue that people can take to give voice to political issues and the ideas that matter to us."

Along with viewing a range of contemporary pieces, visitors are encouraged to get hands-on in the exhibition.

"A healthy democracy requires active participation, which is something that we try to encourage at MoAD, through our interactive and participatory exhibitions," said Ms Jans, "This exhibition aims to inspire people to participate in democracy through the familiar mediums of craft and collective art making."

Visitors to the exhibition can immerse themselves in craftivism through Slow Art Collective's collaborative artwork, *Archiloom*.

Archiloom is a hands-on artwork that promotes collaboration and social connection with work that allows visitors to participate. Using recycled materials including rope and fabric, visitors can leave their mark in the exhibition.



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See this provocative exhibition in Canberra for the only time from 6 September 2019 to 2 February 2020.

For more information visit www.moadoph.gov.au/craftivism

About MoAD

The Museum of Australian Democracy celebrates Australia’s proud history as a democratic nation and actively promotes the participation of its citizens in determining its future.

MoAD is a museum not just of objects but of ideas, where stories, conversations and narratives from myriad perspectives can be heard and discussed. In our iconic heritage building, we tell the story of Australia’s journey to becoming one of the world’s most vibrant and multicultural democratic nations.

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For further information, please contact Annika Scott, annika.scott@moadoph.gov.au, (02) 6270 8120 or 0400 946 608

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Edwina Jans, Manager of Heritage, Communications and Development at MoAD

IMAGES: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xvvydap0eerb1p7/AABsc_jkkjd6-u4QEfkSK5haa?dl=0

***Craftivism. Dissident Objects and Subversive Forms* is a Shepparton Art Museum curated exhibition, touring nationally by NETS Victoria:**

Museum of Australian Democracy (ACT)	6 September 2019 to 2 February 2020
Bega Valley Regional Gallery (NSW)	18 April to 13 June 2020
Warwick Art Gallery (Qld)	3 July to 15 August 2020
University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery (Qld)	12 September to 31 October 2020



Exhibition Supporters



Australian Government
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