

UNLEASHED 2022: Fresh Meet

Co-Curatorial Work (Visual Arts)
Beata Batorowicz (UniSQ)

Artisan Gallery

[Curatorial Work Submission Year: 2022]



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Unleashed is a longstanding biennale exhibition project at Artisan Gallery, drawing together a select cohort of early-career Queensland craft and design practitioners and launching their careers. Exploring the convergence between craft and design, Unleashed has been instrumental in launching some of our state's best talent. In this year's iteration of *Unleashed 2022: Fresh Meet* (and for the first time), there has been a co-curated overview from across regional Queensland. An invited curatorial panel of arts educators, curators and practitioners from 5 different regional communities nominated one exemplary early career practitioner from their region. Artisan staff worked with colleagues from: HOTA, NorthSite Contemporary Arts, University of the Sunshine Coast, Mackay Artspace and University of Southern Queensland, to select this year's Unleashed artists.



Co-curator Panel: Cassandra Lehman (Artisan Gallery); **Beata Batorowicz (UniSQ)**; Megan Williams (UniSC); Ruth Della (HOTA, Home to the Arts); Ashley Campbell (NorthSite Contemporary Arts).

Artists: Chris Miller and Lisa Kajewski (Studio FLEK, Goldcoast); Dan Watson (University of Sunshine Coast Art Gallery); Ellie Coleman (University of Southern Queensland); Hailey Atkins (Brisbane); Kim Nolan (Cairns).

RESEARCH STATEMENT



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Background: Within the visual arts, not only has there traditionally been a divide between art and craft but also a barrier between regional and metropolitan practices, with more exhibition opportunities for emerging artists living in metropolitan areas (Australia Council, 2021). In turn, there is much to be explored in re-negotiating the value of regional craft and design within the broader contemporary art sector as exemplified by practitioners who began their careers as regional Queensland artists such as Jay Younger.

Contribution: 'Unleashed' is a longstanding biennial exhibition at Artisan, Brisbane, that involves a new external curatorial panel in 2022 from five regional communities that nominated an emerging practitioner from their region. This approach enhances the profiling of early career Queensland regional artists who explore the convergence between craft and design in their artwork. Craft techniques such as needle felting in the artwork 'Billy Goat Gruff' by Ellie Coleman became an exemplar of contemporary art and its capacity to hold currency in global conversations around the use of animal fibres in craft.

Significance: 'Unleashed 2022', involved a by-invitation curatorial panel representing key regional galleries and universities; Home of the Arts (Gold Coast), NorthSite Contemporary Arts, University of the Sunshine Coast, Mackay Artspace and the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ). The exhibition received recognition from both craft and critical art communities, with the artwork by UniSQ artist Ellie Coleman being the face of the show. The exhibition was externally funded through Arts Queensland and Artisan, Queensland's peak body in craft and design.



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Ellie Coleman

Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

(Nominated and curated by
Beata Batorowicz)

Photo: Jason Castro



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Ellie Coleman

Billy Goat Gruff 2022

Raw wool, Goat Horns

Unleashed: Fresh Meet

Installation View,

Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

(Nominated and curated by

Beata Batorowicz)

Photo: Jason Castro



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Ellie Coleman

Lucent Creatures (Lorikeet #3), 2022

Preserved Lorikeet, Crystals

Unleashed: Fresh Meet, Installation

View, 2022

Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

(Nominated and curated by

Beata Batorowicz)

Photo: Jason Castro





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Ellie Coleman

Lucent Creatures (Lorikeet #3), 2022

Preserved Lorikeet, Crystals

Unleashed: Fresh Meet, Installation View

Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

(Nominated and curated by

Beata Batorowicz)

Photo: Jason Castro



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Jason Castro



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Jason Castro



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Dan Watson

Hand Forged Knives 2022
Mixed Media, Dimensions
variable.

Installation view at
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Dan Watson
Hand Forged Knives,
(Detail) 2022
Mixed Media, Dimensions
variable.
Installation view at
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Studio Flek

Installation View 2022
Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Artisan Gallery,
Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle
Bowden



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Studio Flek

Installation View (Detail)
2022

Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Artwork by Kate Harding
Fabric and thread
Artisan Gallery,
Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Artwork by Kim Nolan
Ceramic and Mixed Media
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet

Installation View, 2022

Artwork (Detail) by
Kim Nolan

Ceramic and Mixed Media
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Artwork (Detail) by Kim Nolan
Ceramic and Mixed Media
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Front View Artwork by
Seinileva Huakau
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden



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Unleashed: Fresh Meet
Installation View, 2022
Front View Artwork by
Seinileva Huakau.
Artisan Gallery, Brisbane.

Photo: Michelle Bowden