

artisan is pleased to welcome the return of it's annual Queensland Craft & Design Exhibition for emerging artists and makers, *Unleashed*.



Unleashed is a longstanding biennial exhibition project, 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 years 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 years *Unleashed* artists.

- **Chris Miller and Lisa Kajewski STUDIO FLEK– Gold Coast – nominated by Ruth Della, Curator, HOTA (Home of The Arts)**

Studio Flek is a small design practice based on the Gold Coast, comprised of partners Lisa Kajewski, graduate of Architecture and Chris Miller, Industrial Designer & Architecture Student.

Their work reflects on the process of aging, romanticising materials whilst being sensitive to the environment by researching and experimenting with alternative sustainable materials.

- **Dan Watson – Sunshine Coast – nominated by Megan Williams manager, University of Southern Queensland Art Gallery**

Dan Watson's hand forged knives and homewares are created in his home studio in Maleny. Each one unique, their beautiful patina and hand finished handles are individually crafted. His aesthetic is influenced by his studies in Sociology, Creative Industries in Film and former employment building dry-stone walls as a track worker in Tasmania and with the indigenous community of Millingimbi Island. His desire is to create beautiful, hand-crafted artefacts, for a sustainable future. He first started making knives in winter in Tasmania, as a distraction from the cold, inspired by his love of cooking. Self-taught, he is influenced by his artist partner and very creative social network. He is happy to have found his niche.

- **Ellie Coleman – Toowoomba – nominated by Dr Beata Batorowicz, Associate Professor, School of Creative Arts, University of Southern Queensland**

Employing techniques such as soft sculpture, taxidermy, casting in wax, resin, plaster and alginate, Coleman's practice-led research interests include vegan art, and the broader role of animal ethics in contemporary art.

- **Hailey Atkins – Brisbane – nominated by Cassandra Lehman, curator, artisan**

Atkins' practice employs a deliberate clumsiness to exude a faux modesty and a humility that bows to the form and materiality of her work. With humour and affection, she evades definition, raising serious questions about the seriousness of serious things.

- **Kim Nolan – Cairns – nominated by Ashleigh Campbell, Director, NorthSite Contemporary Arts**

Kim Nolan holds a diploma in hot glass and production from Whanganui Polytechnic in New Zealand. She relocated to NSW and then Qld, eventually settling in Cairns in 2018. She currently works from her studio on the northern beaches. Inspired by the environment in which she lives, Kim is driven to make forms which reflect her fascination with the forces of nature on organic materials. With no molten glass facilities nearby, her focus is now on ceramics, with an emphasis on glazes, incorporating glass into the firing process, creating textures which reflect the impact of nature on man-made and natural surface.

- **Kate Harding – Mackay – nominated by Tracey Heathwood, Director, Artspace Mackay**

Kate Harding is a descendant of the Bidjara, Ghungalu and Garingbal peoples. As an accomplished textile artist, working by hand in the American and English Piercing traditions, she began making quilts as a way of remapping the stories from her family and culture. Her recent works and are being shown in galleries around Australia. These quilts are complex and aesthetically beautiful, occasionally dyed with the ochres and other plant matter from her country and intensified with traditional indigenous techniques.