



MARDI NOWAK
CURATING YOU

MARDI NOWAK

ARTIST STATEMENT

This work continues Nowak's ongoing investigation of translating paper-based collage into woven tapestry. There is a disjunction between the two media; collage is fast and immediate, tapestry slow and technical. Nowak has created a work methodology where a small paper-based collage is then enlarged via large scale copying and then translated into tapestry form. Nowak works across the original image, photocopy and now, digital images – taking imperfections and elements from all into the final work.

The source of the collage fragments is often fashion magazines, combined with personal photos taken via iPhone. We view an ongoing stream of images and information instructing us how we should live our life. From 'curating' in Pinterest, magazine articles instructing how to create your perfect room to apps to make our selfies look better – Nowak is curious of how we show our real self in a time poor society. Nowak enjoys the contradiction of translating a perfect airbrushed image into a more pixelated tapestry version. Transferring flat and smooth into textured cloth, these contradictions aim to question our sense of self as we navigate the modern world today.



MARDI NOWAK

Cabalistic, 2018

Woven tapestry with embroidery, wool, cotton, linen & silk

60h x 55w cm

A\$ 1,600.00



MARDI NOWAK

Protection Coat (Uniform), 2018
Woven tapestry, wool, cotton, linen & silk
67h x 42w cm
A\$ 1,600.00



MARDI NOWAK

Cold Shoulder, 2018
Woven tapestry & textile collage, wool, cotton, linen & silk
67h x 65w cm
A\$ 1,800.00



MARDI NOWAK

Layered Covers (Epaulet), 2018
Printed cotton with felt and cottons, framed in
custom made Perspex box frame
90h x 90w cm
A\$ 1,500.00



MARDI NOWAK

What the Mirror Reveals, 2018
Printed velvet and cotton, framed in custom
made Perspex box frame
90h x 90w cm
A\$ 1,500.00



MARDI NOWAK

Urban Guise, 2018
Printed velvet, cotton and linen, framed in
custom made Perspex box frame
90h x 90w cm
A\$ 1,500.00



MARDI NOWAK

Red Coats (Uniform), 2018
Woven tapestry & textile collage, wool, cotton, linen &
silk, framed in custom made Perspex box frame
90h x 90w cm
A\$ 1,500.00

MARDI NOWAK is a Melbourne based artist and curator and is currently the Director of the National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS Victoria). After completing a Masters of Fine Art by Research in 2004, she has exhibited in several group exhibitions in Australia and overseas. Her recent achievements include participating in the 4th Istanbul Design Biennial in 2018, solo exhibition *Conceal/Reveal* in Melbourne 2018/19, participating in a cross-cultural exchange between Edinburgh and Melbourne in 2017 and presenting at West Dean Collage at the Tapestry Symposium in 2017.

Working mostly in woven tapestry her inspiration comes from fashion magazines, torn advertising billboards and the everyday. Interested in depictions of women in the modern world, Mardi interrogates ideas of how we present our self in a time of social media, photo manipulation and other external pressures. Notions of time play a factor in her work. There is a disjunction between the disposable and fast flow of images in contemporary mass media against the deliberation and slowness of a woven construction.

EDUCATION

- 2003 Masters Fine Art (Research) Monash University
- 1999 BFA Honours, Monash University
- 1998 BFA Tapestry, Monash University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Conceal / Reveal*, Fitzroy Library, City of Yarra, Australia
- 2013 *Sampler*, Handheld Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2011 *Piecerwork* (with Adrian Conti), Tacit Contemporary Art, Abbotsford, Australia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Award*, (shortlisted artist), Wangaratta Art Gallery, Australia
Google Weaving Stop-time, Atelier Luma, Arles, France
Google Weaving Stop-time, Z33, Hasselt, Belgium
- 2018 *Google Weaving Stop-time*, 4th Istanbul Design Biennial, Salt Galata, Istanbul Turkey
- 2017 *Return Flight EDI>MEL*, Numbershop Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Return Flight MEL>EDI, Federation Square Atrium, Melbourne, AU
- 2015 *Out of the Box*, (9th International Biennial of Textile Miniatures), ARKA Gallery, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2014 *Thoughts That Is...* (8th International Biennial of Textile Miniatures), ARKA Gallery, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2013 *She Who Can*, Walker Street Gallery, Dandenong, AU (shortlisted artist)
- 2012 *About Time: Australian Studio Tapestry 1975-2005*, curated by Anthony Camm. Bundoora Homestead Art Centre.
- 2011 *Kate Derum Small Tapestry Award*, shortlisted finalist, Australian Tapestry Workshop, South Melbourne, Australia
Vanish/Survive (7th International Biennial of Textile Miniatures), ARKA Gallery, Vilnius, Lithuania
About Time: Australian Studio Tapestry 1975-2005, curated by Anthony Camm. Touring to Central Goldfields Gallery, Maryborough, Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, Horsham Regional Art Gallery
- 2010 *About Time: Australian Studio Tapestry 1975-2005*, curated by Anthony Camm, Ararat Regional Art Gallery. Touring Show
- 2008 *Manipulate: Construct*, curated by Mardi Nowak and artist, Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn Australia.
- 2007 *New Days*, Toyota Community Spirit Gallery, Port Melbourne
Talente 2007 (representing Australia in tapestry), Neue Messe Munich, Germany
- 2006 *Micro – Contemporary Miniature Tapestries*, Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
Things My Mother Taught Me, Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn
Off The Wall, ArtMelbourne 06, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Emerging Artists Program, Bulle Gallery, Melbourne

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Finalist, Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Award
Residency Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2018 City of Boroondara Creative Grant
- 2007 Finalist for Off the Wall, Melbourne 2007
- 2003 Monash University Travel Grant for Research in New York
- 2002 Monash Faculty of Art & Design, Masters Research Scholarship

BIBLIOGRAPHY

About Time: Australian Studio Tapestry 1975-2005. Catalogue produced by Ararat Regional Art Gallery. ISBN: 978-0-646-53935-5. Contributing writers; Anthony Camm, Hilary Green, Kay Lawrence AM, Sara Lindsay.

Tapestry Weaving in Australia after the "Tapestry 2008" Symposium, article by Valerie Kirk, Textile Forum 2/2010 June Copy, pg 40.

Serie Talente 2007 Katalog Land, catalogue 2007

Micro contemporary miniature tapestries, catalogue, essay by Anna Clabburn, 2006

Off the Wall, The Age, April 14-15, 2006

International Tapestry Yearbook, Outfit works of Mardi Nowak, essay by Kate Derum, 2005

FOX
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