

THEN AND NOW

Nuha Saad and Michele Beevors

Articulate Projects: 497 Parramatta Rd, Leichhardt NSW

This exhibition addresses the shifts in working methodologies over many years of encounters between two artists, Nuha Saad and Michele Beevors who met while sharing a studio at art college.

Nuha Saad works with the formal aspects of the space between painting and sculpture. Saad has been engaged for a long period of time with the decorative and the architectural. The work reinvigorates long overlooked spaces and displays an inherited sensibility which is influenced by both (post)colonial woodwork with its turned ornamentation and a Lebanese/Australian heritage where counting, patterning, and colour have remained consistent themes. These themes undermine the grim, muted and dour colour palette of our colonial past and reinvigorate, playgrounds, public spaces and home furnishings in unique combinations of colour and shape which confront the viewer in surprising ways and overturn our expectations of the inherently bland urban architecture we expect in cities and in vogue living rooms, negotiating the difference between formalisms strict, this not that formula, and Minimalism's phenomenological encounter with a body in space.

Michele Beevors' practice has been interested in figuration as an encounter between feminism and commodity culture attempting a materialist critique in large scale sculptures in a series' dedicated to disarm Disney Princesses, the typical Hollywood movie star and particular examples from art history, in which the female forms appear as armoured, abject and rampantly humorous in a riotous array of domestic materials and assorted cleaning products that also examines women's labour in terms of the clean and tidy home and handcrafted traditions of knitting, and sewing. Informed by a pop sensibility, with a nod to the coming environmental crisis brought on by rampant global capitalism and its stockpiles of waste Beevors' work moves between figurative sculpture and the domestic abyss.

Text by Michele Beevors 2018