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Practice

Tamara Russell is a Textile Artist based in Melbourne, specialising in free machine embroidery and hand stitching.

I explore my surroundings and interpret what I see through the medium of embroidery. In my works composition, I combine light, colour, shape and texture to recreate images that inspire me. I consider myself a painter using thread, an artist painting with a needle. My work has been exhibited in Australia and the United Kingdom.

My practice engages with the natural environment recreating the images and shapes in my embroidered works in both 2D and 3D form. I am not primarily a photographer but my photos are invaluable to me as a record of composition, colour and detail, supported by my sketches. Photos are my starting point as I explore my subject matter directly onto fabric, painting with a needle and thread.

Each piece uses photography, watercolour painting, beading, fabric, soluble backing, machine stitch and/or hand stitch, either alone or in combination. This creates depth, perspective and richness to the work and combines effectively to give detail and texture. Visit www.karhina.com.

Exhibitions & Workshops

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| 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Works 2017 – Brunswick Street Gallery - Melbourne • Strut Your Stuff – Art Exhibition – Brunswick • Stitching Workshops – remake, repair and beginner embroidery • Facilitating the Moreland Quilt - community engagement arts project to create 5 wall hangings representing City of Moreland resident’s cultural diversity and curating the final exhibition • Tennant Creek Desert Harmony Festival – Volunteer artist |
| 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 x 40 Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery - Melbourne • ‘The Last Show’ – 69 Smith Street Gallery - Melbourne • ‘Factivism’ – Counihan Art Gallery - Melbourne • Community Grant recipient to create the ‘Moreland Quilt’ – Moreland City Council • Linden Post Card Show – Linden New Art - Melbourne • Solo Exhibition ‘Stitch by Stitch’ - 69 Smith St Gallery – Melbourne • Small Works Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery – Melbourne • Repair, Remake and Swap Workshop – Craft Cubed Festival – CERES – Melbourne |
| 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourable Mention - End of Year Show – 69 Smith St Gallery – Melbourne • 40 x 40 Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery - Melbourne • Linden Post Card Show – Linden New Art - Melbourne • Small Works Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery – Melbourne • Freehand Embroidery full day workshops |
| 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freehand Embroidery full day workshops |
| 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Art, Craft & Design – Belconnen Arts Centre – Canberra |
| 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Festival of Art, Design & Wine – Belconnen Arts Centre – Canberra • Sustainable Festival – ACT Government • You Are Here – Reloved Creations Design Hub – Canberra |
| 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footprints Festival in the Gardens – Australian National Botanic Gardens – Canberra • Re Loved Re Vamped – Craft ACT – Canberra • Belco Bazaar – Celebrating local environmentally friendly Design, Art & Craft – Belconnen Arts Centre – Canberra |

- 2009-10
 - Udessi – Australian Art Craft Design Website
 - Remake workshops – Teaching reclaiming, up-cycling and remaking techniques to update clothing and home wares
- 2009
 - ‘Spring Landscapes’ – Solo Exhibition – Body Works Studio – Canberra
 - 1st Prize - ‘Reuse, Reclaim, Recycle’ – Green Lifestyle – Canberra
- 2006
 - Local Hands – Craft ACT – Canberra
 - Designers & Creators Expo 06 – Canberra
- 2004
 - **People’s Choice** - ‘Recycled – Reborn’- Cuppacumbalong Gallery – Tharwa
 - ACT Embroidery Guild Exhibition – Canberra
 - Tuggeranong Regional Art Prize - Tuggeranong Arts Centre – Canberra
 - **1st Prize** - ‘Footsteps on Campus: Connections with ‘Environment’ - Australian National University – Canberra
- 2002
 - **1st Prize** - Seer Green Art Show – Buckinghamshire, UK
 - Beaconsfield Exhibition of Art – Buckinghamshire, UK
- 2001
 - Beaconsfield Exhibition of Art – Buckinghamshire, UK
- 1999
 - Aylesbury Exhibition of Art – Buckinghamshire, UK

Voluntary Work

- 2017
 - Moreland Quilt - community engagement project to create a quilt representing City of Moreland resident’s cultural diversity.
 - Teaching hand embroidery – Robinson Reserve Neighbourhood House
 - Desert Harmony Festival – Volunteer Artist
 - Art + Climate = Change 2017 Festival Volunteer
 - Craft Victoria – Volunteer
- 2016
 - Craft Cubed Re-Make & Repair workshop – showing how to embellish, alter & repair clothing.
- 2014 - Present
 - Developer and Curator of Creativeandmakers.com.au (formerly CreativeMoreland.com.au) – a directory and resource designed to promote, support and inform people living and/or working in Melbourne.
- 2009
 - Management Committee for Switch to Green conference and expo - Canberra
- 2009
 - Created and curated www.CanberraHandmade.com – a free web portal to promote artists and craft people living in Canberra
- 2004-6
 - Leading Craft Classes introducing nature weaving to Year 5 children – Canberra
- 2000
 - Working with children aged 4 – 11 creating Millennium Banners. Assisting children to design the banners and create them - UK
- 1996 - 2003
 - Demonstrating spinning and weaving to children aged 6 – 10. Teaching the children weaving with paper found items, wool and on small looms - UK.

Press

- Machine Embroidery & Textile Art – Vol 13 No 2
- Textile Beat - <http://textilebeat.com/a-meditative-process-tamara-russell/>
- ClimateXChange – <http://canberra.climateexchange.org.au/recycling-in-the-arts-and-crafts>

Membership

- Society for Embroidered Work (S.E.W)
- Craft Victoria
- NAVA
- Creative Women’s Circle

Other

- Current Working with Children Check