

MEDIA RELEASE

REBECCA THOMSON AND STAFFORD ALLPRESS

NOTICING. KEEPING. PRESERVING.

This joint exhibition will see two very different practitioners; one a sculptor and one a printmaker, both with an interest in still-life, the act of collecting and a celebration of the mundane present sculptures and prints that are haunting and evocative. The similarities lie in the subtle colour palette and preservation of distressed objects from the past. Finding and noticing objects that have potential in local vintage stores/charity/refuse/dump shops is an integral part of the process. It is important that the objects have had a life of their own before.

"A new aspect has been recognizing the many hands an object or remnant goes through before it comes to us. The big life they have had especially as they have survived final disposal. Our job then is to preserve. We embrace the various states of demise we find them in."

Allpress presents objects and environments from both the domestic and public domain, all built to a scale of 1:20. He has an appreciation of the manufacture of the objects, however mundane they are. Groupings are like miniature window display giving them the attention Allpress insists upon. Tarnished and used surfaces are skillfully rendered. Often the original subject will be handcrafted or somehow adapted by the previous owners, giving them a confused feel. Works such as "bars 1" and "slide" are sculptures of local playground structures, and whilst they resonate universally anyway, will be recognised by locals as their own.

Thomson's process begins with sourcing fabrics and stitch crafts locally in thrift shops; there is an element of chance here, in that her work will usually be a direct response to a find. Stickers and voids where labels or stickers have been make reference to the charity stores where things are categorized and priced by volunteers, often in a humorously, haphazard way. This observation is also one of respect for these places and these things. Thomson has refined a collagraphic relief process that results in ghostly, calm and slightly haunting prints where she has preserved remnants of the past onto paper.

Whilst they continue to exhibit in Auckland this exhibition will be their first in Geraldine. Formally of Auckland the couple now live in South Canterbury.

Thomson and Allpress Exhibition will open on Sunday 07 April at 4pm and run through to Sunday 05 May at the McATamney Gallery, Upstairs Old Post Office Building, Geraldine. For an invitation to attend opening and met the artists, contact Carolyn, email: carolyn@mcatamneygallery.co.nz.