

KATE COSTELLO

ARTIST STATEMENT

Kate Costello is an emerging artist currently based out of Wanaka. An AUT art and design alumni, and BEST award nominated graphic designer, Kate began her portraiture journey on a pre-covid artist residency in Lapua, Finland. A town no bigger than Geraldine- but on the opposite side of the world. After retreating home during the pandemic, she moved to Wanaka. Kate has now settled into the artistic community- debuting with a very successful exhibition at the Wanaka A&P show.

Inspired by the quietness that she experienced in the thick layers of early spring Finnish snow- Kate tells stories of peace and vulnerability through her work. Her works are primarily abstract acrylic self portraits on board. She describes her most recent work as "snapshots from ordinary moments that reflect the intimacy of being alone". A young woman dries flowers from her curtain rail, or sits waiting for the fire to catch- all scenes that ask us to reflect on the little rituals and habits we do to stay sane and happy.

PAINTINGS

KINDLING: Is about self care and being patient. Just because you're lighting the fire- doesn't mean your toes aren't cold right now. I've found that even when you're doing all the right things, it can feel like you're in the same place, like nothing helps. You're still cold, left with a little kindling and only three more matches. I've never been a super patient person and it's something I'm working on at the moment. Eventually the fire catches and the house heats up and it's worth sitting down and putting the work in. But GOD it's cold when you're waiting.

HUNG FLOWERS: This piece is a self portrait which I started after a trip up north, catching up with old friends and feeling that peace that comes with knowing you hold a place in so many people's lives. I got a bouquet of flowers for my birthday that weekend and when they arrived my flatmate said "gosh someone must love you" and she was right. By the time the flowers had started to wilt, the peace I had bought home with me had started to fade and once again I found myself desperately looking for a reminder that I meant something to anyone. So I hung these flowers from my curtain rail for three weeks until they got all dry and stopped smelling like a compost bin. Now, every time I look at them I am reminded that I am loved.

| McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE

TABLE FOR ONE: This piece is a celebration of tables for one. I've worked in hospitality for far too many years and my favourite customers are the solo diners. To be fair, I'm a bit bias - personally I'm partial to a heading on my own for a cheese scone and a coffee. There's something intimate both serving solo diners- and being one. Sharing a meal with the strangers around you, small talk with the Barista, quietly reading the paper- all such gorgeous little moments of human connection. This painting's based off one of my favourite spots, Scroggin in Wanaka, and the love for all the regular solo customers I've had in 4 years of serving coffee.