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Noosa Council

Media Release

‘Accidental feminists’ tackle identity politics in latest Gallery showcase

FEM-aFFINITY is the latest exhibition to grace the walls of Noosa Regional Gallery.

The female-led group exhibition explores the female identity and the notion of accidental feminism.

“Accidental feminists aren’t deliberating creating work within a traditional feminist canon,” says Sim Luttin from Arts Project Australia.

“Rather, they have a depth of practice as female makers, to the extent that they lead by example and have an impact on others by doing.”

FEM-aFFINITY is a partnership of Arts Project Australia and National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria, curated by Associate Professor Catherine Bell.

Established high-profile artists worked with Arts Project Australia artists to produce the exhibition. All of their works share an affinity of subject matter, technique and process.

“The 14 artists in FEM-aFFINITY are positively forging unique careers in the arts,” says Noosa Regional Gallery Director Michael Brennan.

Arts Project Australia is a creative social enterprise that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promotes their work and advocates for their inclusion in contemporary art practice.

“FEM-aFFINITY brings to our attention that as women of varying abilities develop meaningful and critically engaging careers in the arts, they are ‘doing’ feminism.”

“It is the pairing of abled, contemporary Australian artists with their female contemporaries at Arts Project Australia that really sets FEM-aFFINITY apart from other female-led exhibitions,” says Brennan.

“By moving the discussion away from disability, instead focusing on the diverse and reciprocal ways these artists collaborate and the resulting works this inspires, FEM-aFFINITY really champions the vibrancy and inclusiveness of an arts ecology; the recognition that difference is something to celebrate and not isolate.”

Through painting, printmaking, performance, drawing and photography, the exhibition considers the politics of identity - explored through contemporary art - and reveals how feminism materialises in distinctive and uncanny ways.

The artists of FEM-aFFINITY include Fulli Andrinopoulos, Dorothy Berry, Yvette Coppersmith, Wendy Dawson, Prudence Flint, Helga Groves, Bronwyn Hack, Janelle Low, Eden Menta, Jill Orr, Lisa Reid, Heather Shimmen, Cathy Staughton and Jane Trengove.

Entry to the exhibition is free. Visit www.noosaregionalgallery.com.au for more information.

Image: Jill Orr, *Antipodean Epic – Interloper 2016*, inkjet print on Canson photographic rag, ed. 3/5 180 x 110 cm. Photographer: Christina Simons. Courtesy of the artist, represented by Jill Orr Management, Melbourne.

Audio: Name

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