

Raw Records: Materials in Practice

13 June to 22 July
The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre

Melissa Chaney, Jayne Christian, Maddison Gibbs, Simryn Gill, Mehr Javed, Kirtika Kain, Virginia Keft, Hyun Hee Lee, Tess Mehonoshen, Mary Nguyen, Venessa Possum, Paula Do Prado, Annie Areum Shin, Kristine Stewart, Yvette Marie Tziallas, Toni Warburton.

Guest-curated by Annie Areum Shin, with mentorship by Tian Zhang.

Raw Records: Materials in Practice gathers the works of artists who uniquely engage with materiality in their art and making practices. Artworks in this exhibition attend to materials and processes as means to document, unravel, or conceal meaning. The exhibition presents women voices that lean on materials' aesthetic qualities and power to hold stories and signify the unseen.

The Replenishing Zero by Mehr Javed, *Remembering* by Hyun Hee Lee, and *Pearls* by Simryn Gill show distinctive treatments of the paper medium. Working with paper, thread, text, and light, the works highlight and conceal narratives, some forging new forms in the way the artists manoeuvred the materials.

Tess Mehonoshen, Annie Areum Shin, and Toni Warburton's works incorporate clay and ceramics with mixed media. Mehonoshen's work is held in black oxide, cement and fabric, Shin's works are physically bound in an assemblage of ceramic pieces, and Warburton worked with force on hollow clay forms. These artists intentionally engaged with materials during and after their forming, drying, and firing stages to explore form-making and formlessness.

Kirtika Kain and Venessa Possum's works encase intimate memories in a carefully curated fusion of materials. Incorporating tar, rope, grass, hair, gold leaf, and beeswax, Kain's black and gold painting archives inherited memories. Possum's photographic work also honours inherited stories in her antique frame and image.

Story-telling through materials resonate in textile and woven works by Virginia Keft, Jayne Christian, Paula Do Prado, and Kristine Stewart. These delicate works employ organic materials, often in loose yet intricate forms that embed familial symbols (such as the sun and moon) and communal stories.

Melissa Chaney and Mary Nguyen's concertina or artist books investigate and simultaneously display multiple interpretations of personal stories and natural scenes. The works encourage us to look and consider each panel and facet.

Finally, Yvette Marie Tziallas and Maddison Gibbs' works present detailed, graphic, and organic forms born of contemporary materials and wood. Through pen, ink, and liquid acrylic mark-making, Tziallas' *Lacrime* records corporeal explorations of herself in her painting. Gibbs' cuts and carvings illuminated by LED light, nod to cultural practices of wood burning as well as evoke an ancestral spirit.