

URBANIA

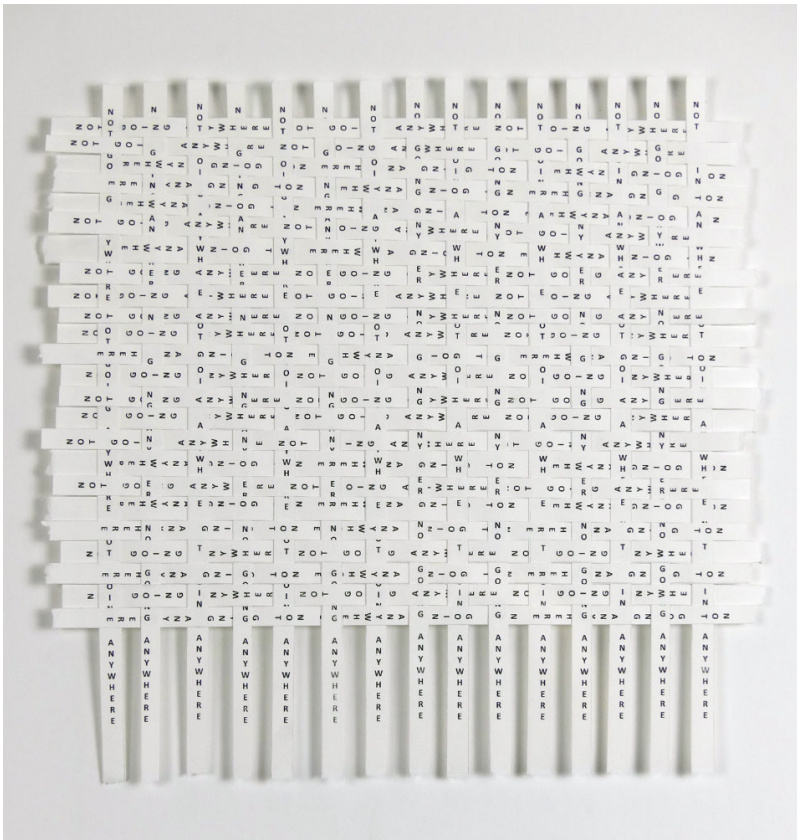
#1



Ally McKay, Casselle Mountford,
Clinton Barker, Jason Binnie,
Kay Watanabe, Kazumi Daido,
Kenneth Beck, Loki Groves &
Rebekah Evans

Ally McKay

Intertwining concepts of connection and isolation, McKay aims to communicate the theme of community with audiences on a poetic level, creating a moment of comfort and quiet repose in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. *Not Going Anywhere* plays to the duality of the phrase as one of reassurance and support, whilst also expressing one's feelings of being stuck and unable to progress. The concept relies on the visual poetics of the form, using woven strips of text in a gridlock arrangement to communicate the futility in not going anywhere. The word 'ANYWHERE' hangs as a takeaway sliver of hope, reminiscent of a street poster advertisement. McKay aims to connect audiences in normalising feelings of anxiety and a lack of control as part of the collective human experience.



Not Going Anywhere 2022, Text on Stonehenge framed paper weaving, 58 × 49 cm

Casselle Mountford

Casselle Mountford's soft tactile sculptures are created using felted merino wool. Their rounded fluidity and exuberant, vibrant colour combinations exude a playful, joyous harmony. The tactility of these sculptures reflect her interest in handmade textile processes.



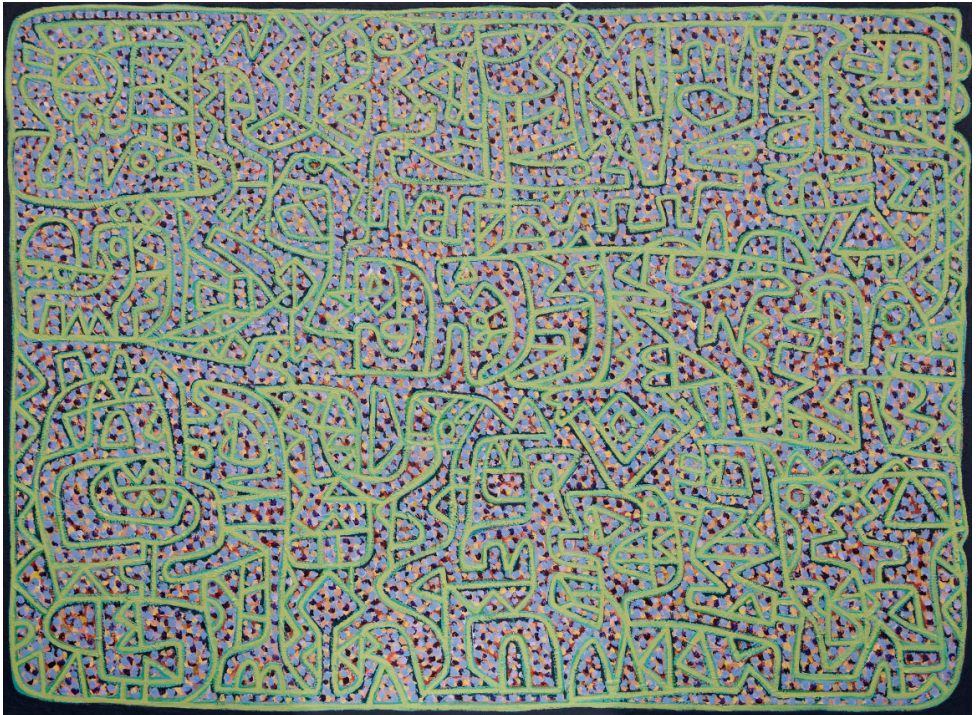
Tandoori and mudhoney form 2022, Wool and polystyrene, 24 × 24 × 7 cm

Clinton Barker

The passage of life and death and the interconnectedness of all living beings are ongoing themes which I like to explore and express through my arts practice. I utilise semi-abstract figures and symbols as a means to express my thoughts and feelings about these subjects.

When creating, I am constantly working towards achieving a sense of balance and movement within my work as a means of expressing the notion that although appearing stable within our individual forms we are actually all continuously shifting from one physical, mental and or spiritual state to another. In summary, I view my work as being a symbolic representation of life and death being played out over a boundless platform called eternity.

Clinton Barker



Membrane 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 88 × 120 cm

Jason Binnie

Often, when working with objects I find and collect, the 'object' form itself suggests the direction the work will take me in.

Nature - creates, shapes, ages and colours.

For me this starting point is key to my creative process.

I endeavour to allow these materials in their natural state to guide me in their construction.

Working this way has a freedom and immediacy that I enjoy.

Jason Binnie



Peace Flower (For Ukraine) 2022, Found object assemblage, 41 × 9 × 8 cm

Kay Watanabe

The “Gabba” series by Kay Watanabe

There are several buildings and structures within Brisbane which local Japanese artist and printmaker Kay Watanabe has taken a special interest in. The Brisbane Cricket Ground, commonly known as the Gabba, is one such building due to its distinctive design. Kay especially likes the stadium when it is surrounded by poinciana and jacaranda blossoms which are iconic flowers during Brisbane’s summer.

Kay’s “Gabba” series original prints are etchings created in 2023 utilising the Gabba, summer flowers and Queensland’s blue sky as main motifs. Kay has also added a magpie to one of the prints as they are a favourite wild bird of hers which are commonplace in Brisbane’s suburbs.



Gabba (Jacaranda) 2023, Etching Edition of 10, 30 × 30 cm (image size)

Kazumi Daido

The cherry, the plum, the peach, the damson—in its own entity, without undergoing any change, possesses the eternally endowed three bodies.

*"The Record of The Orally Transmitted Teachings"
Part 2, p. 200*

Oubaitori (おうばとり) - is a Japanese idiom. Cherry blossoms, plum, peach, and apricot. Each flower blooms and fruits in its own time, people also grow and bloom at their own pace. Living in Queensland and in context with my personality, banana trees seem better suited.



Banana Trees In Winter 2023, Ink, watercolour and acrylic on paper, 32.5 × 45.5 cm

Kenneth Beck

Urbana for me is the tension between nature and development.

Brisbane is a younger city than our southern counterparts and there is always some new gimmick or term to describe the city.

My favourite name to describe Brisbane is “The New World City” which is a neutral term that gives us the illusion of something better is to come, maybe the Olympics or a new opulent development with a latin name to make things pop.

I want to convey the Subtropical Brisbane – The Interconnectedness of progress yet how flora keeps growing up around it.

Kenneth Beck



Exciting New Urbane Village 2023, Acrylic on plywood 43.5 × 43.5 cm

Loki Groves

Through my abstract paintings, I explore a space of energy made visible. The works are unplanned and intuitive, with a sense of flying or floating, observing or interacting or becoming the state of energy expressed in the work, the distinctions between natural and architectural spaces blur or fall away in this imagination. The work is a speculative extension of the environment into my personal space, and a conversation with the crackling connectivity all around, layers, tracks, and simultaneous perspectives of where I live in Meanjin Brisbane.

I'm currently enjoying reading about the transcendental painting group.

Loki Groves



[BB MC 84] Goodness In Mind 2023, Acrylic on board, 41 × 50.5 cm

Rebekah Evans

I remember being struck by how much rain fell and how fast the waters rose... leaving us with a lake at the end of our road. I was in transition, moving out of my family home but unable to leave until the water evaporated or went back down the drains. It was a surreal time, as I had COVID too. I formed a range of metaphors to convey how water moves, as well as strategies to cope and respond to the shifting tides I was experiencing within my own personal life.

Rebekah Evans



Facing the Past, Looking Beyond the Present: dreamscaping towards a brighter future 2023,
Watercolour, gouche, charcoal & pastel on paper, mounted on board, 41.5 × 58.5 cm

“Urbania” is an ongoing series of shows bringing together small groups of independent artists who currently live and work in Brisbane.

Exhibition dates

25 February – 25 March 2023

Woolloongabba Art Gallery

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