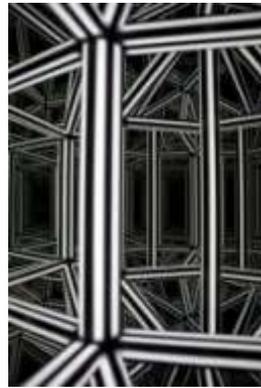


FINDING ORDER IN CHAOS THROUGH ART

12 December 2015 – 7 February 2016



Human behaviour indicates that we have an innate desire to find regularity and order in what might otherwise be an experience of disorder and chaos. Repetitions, rhythms, sequences, codes and systems assist us to navigate pathways and make sense of the world. While pattern in art is often thought of as decorative and ornamental, this exhibition considers the conceptual nature of pattern and its affinity with art, science, music and movement.

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre presents a group exhibition that uses diverse aesthetic strategies that employ painting, installation, video, performance and sculpture. The artists present new, site-specific and re-visited artworks that will engage audiences and provoke a reconsideration of our relationship with pattern.

Curator Carrie Kibbler said “*pattern is a recurring theme in the practice of many artists and one that warranted an exhibition to explore the different interpretations by artists whose practices have been established across various mediums.*”

Sydney-based artist Natalya Hughes works mainly in painting, digital media and installation. Her installation, *Panic Room*, proposes an unexpected room in which to wait - a room built to over stimulate, buzzing with anxious energy and detail. Rather than distance viewers from the anxiety and impatience of waiting spaces through placating aesthetics, *Panic Room* addresses these feelings directly.

Another Sydney-based artist, Rochelle Haley has a preoccupation with movement both in the creative process and in the way her work is viewed. Her current projects involve dance to explore an awareness of space structured around the sensation of the moving body. Her new video work for *Patteration* was filmed in Hazelhurst’s Regional Gallery, the first time the gallery has been used as a performance space.

Jason Sims is an Australian artist living in Adelaide whose practice embodies a fresh perspective on light-based, multi-media artworks. Captivating audiences with his mesmerising light boxes and installations, Sims' bold geometric sculptures combine light, mirror and space to create playful optical illusions. The immersive works have meditative and experiential qualities which explore the boundaries between reality and illusion, seeking to challenge viewer perception and invite contemplation.

Geometric pattern is also employed by Djirrirra Wunungmurra, a Dhalwangu artist who lives at the tiny outstation of Gangan, in north-east Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Her exceptional works in ochre on bark combine fine and precise incisions with intricate fields of *rarrk* (cross-hatching) to create shimmering geometric pattern. The sacred diamond design generally refers to the waters around Gangan. *Buyku* (fish trap) paintings bisect these diamonds which show the structure of the fish trap made during *Mirrawarr* (early Dry Season) with *Rangan* (paperbark) and wooden stakes.



View the exhibition from 12 December 2015 to 7 February 2016 in the Regional Gallery.

Artists include: John Aslanidis, Cathy Blanchflower, Mark Booth, Gary Carsley, Helen Eager, Sophia Egarchos, Benjamin Forster, Heath Franco, Rochelle Haley, Natalya Hughes, Eveline Kotai, Melinda Le Guay, Al Munro, Brian Robinson, Liz Shreeve, Jason Sims and Djirrirra Wunungmurra.

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, 782 Kingsway, Gymea NSW

Open daily* 10am – 5pm. Admission free

Tel 8536 5700 Email: hazelhurst@ssc.nsw.gov.au www.hazelhurst.com.au

***Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.**

Images: Front page from left: Natalya Hughes, *Panic Room* 2015, proposed installation for *Patternation*; Jason Sims, *Blank* (detail) 2014, wood, reflective glass, mirror, stainless Steel, MDF and LED lights, 91 x 102 x 89 cm. Photo: Pippy Mount. Courtesy of the artist and MARS Gallery, Melbourne; Rochelle Haley, *Curve*, 2015, video still, photography by Document Photography. Courtesy the artist and Galerie pompom, Sydney. Image above: Djirrirra Wunungmurra *Buyku*, 2015 (detail), natural earth pigments on incised bark.

MEDIA CONTACT:

For further information and/or images please contact

Andrea Merlak: (02) 8536 5739 | amerlak@ssc.nsw.gov.au

Viola Soliman: (02) 8536 5723 | 0411 57 7747 | vsoliman@ssc.nsw.gov.au.

*Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre is a facility of Sutherland Shire Council.
Principal Partners: Global Specialised Services, Tradies, Transdev, and Moran Aged Care.*