

Vittoria Di Stefano *The Palace at 4pm*

Gertrude Contemporary
Saturday 12 February – Sunday 27 March 2022

The Palace at 4pm features a series of sculptural works using salvaged pieces of mid-century modern furniture which have been disassembled and amended with inlays and appendages of bronze, resin, silk fibre and plaster. An interior wall of the gallery is painted with a mural reminiscent of 1970s interior design. The installation resembles a deconstructed domestic space in which motifs of nostalgia combine with elements of incongruous materiality. Objects of 'home' are transformed, as meanings embedded in the forms and materials converge.

For this solo exhibition, Di Stefano has created new works to consider the confluence of the psychological and affective realities of domestic space. These works explore sites that hold contradictory qualities of intimacy, playfulness and pleasure as well as confusion, disorder and unpredictability. This solo exhibition explores the liminal nature of the domestic realm in which multiplicities of realities – real and imagined – shift and transform to produce states of flux and ambiguity.

Vittoria Di Stefano is a sculptor and installation artist making work on Kulin country (Melbourne, Australia). Within her practice she uses generative material experimentation to explore liminality, the uncanny, seduction and transformation.

Through the employment of a diverse material palette, and often using modernist art, design and film as points of departure, the artist employs a feminist critique to investigate and challenge historical power structures and notions of value. The psychological and affective impacts of the material encounter are explored through a range of experiments and display contexts, offering new ways of thinking about and experiencing material realities.

Di Stefano has taken part in solo and group exhibitions nationally and is currently completing a Doctor of Philosophy at RMIT University, where she also lectures in Art History, Art Theory and Sculptural Practice.

Acknowledgements

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Zofia Di Stefano, Clair Dougherty, Julian Harris, Fleur Summers, Duncan Freedman, Mark Feary and the team at Gertrude.

List of works

1. Vittoria Di Stefano
Enduring desire, 2022
Reclaimed table,
reclaimed teak bowl, resin
2. Vittoria Di Stefano
Half light, 2022
Reclaimed chair, bronze, silk moth cocoons,
flax fibre, rubber, steel,
reclaimed jug, resin
3. Vittoria Di Stefano
Marking time, 2022
Reclaimed chair, reclaimed foot stool,
reclaimed hat block, silk fibre, reclaimed teak
bowl, resin, citrine, crystal
4. Vittoria Di Stefano
On longing, 2022
Reclaimed coffee table, resin, bronze,
reclaimed coasters, alpaca locks,
selenite crystals
5. Vittoria Di Stefano
Private investigations, 2022
Reclaimed screen, silk fibre
6. Vittoria Di Stefano
A misplaced memory, 2022
Reclaimed teak bowl, resin, plaster
7. Vittoria Di Stefano
A reimagined moment, 2022
Reclaimed telephone table, reclaimed teak
bowls, silk fibre, resin, silk moth cocoons,
bronze, citrine crystal
8. Vittoria Di Stefano
The edge of what is possible, 2022
Reclaimed table, resin, bronze, reclaimed salt
shaker, alpaca locks
9. Vittoria Di Stefano
A lucid dream, 2022
Reclaimed chair, silk fibre, alpaca locks,
bronze, reclaimed teak bowls, resin

All works courtesy of the artist.

