

the nature of being:

an interview with Cassie Thring

CCH talks to Adelaide artist, Cassie Thring about expanding her visual vocabulary, different ways of seeing and engaging communities through art.

CCH: Could you start by telling us a little about your practice?

CT: *Sure. I have a multidisciplinary practice, working mainly with clay, photography, printmaking, and painting. I really enjoy learning new skills to expand my visual vocabulary and have also recently begun collaborating and exhibiting with another artist. I am a passionate advocate for the power of art in community areas, especially aged care and youth programs currently.*

CCH: What themes or ideas are you most driven to explore in your work?

CT: *My work explores the riches of life, both the highs and the lows, and how we survive them all. I am forever interested in how we navigate these uncharted waters.*

CCH: Could you speak briefly about your works that were featured in the exhibition *the nature of being*, recently displayed at Dentons Fisher Jeffries?

CT: *Sure. The work was made as part of an ongoing relationship I have with a group of Helping Hand Aged Care residents, where I facilitate a weekly Art Group. I love them and our time together and am deeply moved by the role their hands have played in long and interesting lives. I wanted to honour this journey and decided to gild the groups hands with gold pigment and photograph them. This process was fun, challenging and surprisingly intimate. My elderly friends were completely up for the experience and were amused at how differently I saw their hands. They saw old, papery skin that held too many wrinkles, and arthritic bones. I wanted to celebrate the strength and resilience it takes to reach old age, and think the hands are incredible portraits. The hands I chose to show in this exhibition exemplify these qualities to me.*

CCH: How do you think your works relate to other artworks in the exhibition? Are there any contrasts or interesting conversations?

CT: *There are definite and surprising overlaps in the works, I think. When I first saw the entire show up, I was struck by how beautifully aligned the overall palette was. This set up a strong visual cohesiveness from the beginning.*

CCH: Is it unique to have your artwork displayed in a space like Dentons Fisher Jeffries? What impact do you think this might have on people's experience of the work?

CT: *I definitely enjoyed exhibiting in the DFJ space. It is a beautiful space that allows the work to be seen differently, and out of the traditional white cube. The idea of visiting a workplace and being surrounded by art works affords real opportunities for new audiences to see and respond directly to new ideas and ways of thinking. It is great for artists to expand their audiences away from mainstream art attendees, so I am personally very grateful for the experience :)*

Cassie Thring is a multidisciplinary artist working from Floating Goose Studios in Tarrantry Adelaide. A passionate advocate of art programs in ageing and youth communities, her work reflects an interest in the riches and sorrows of life.

***the nature of being* was presented by the Centre for Creative Health and Dentons Fisher Jeffries between 27 April – 31 May 2021. Featuring work by local artists Maxwell Callaghan, Sam Gold, Rebecca McEwan, Cassie Thring and Lee Walter the exhibition was co-curated by Fiona Borthwick and Steph Cibich.**

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