

the nature of being: **an interview with Lee Walter**

CCH talks with Adelaide photographic artist, Lee Walter about the ever-changing nature of her arts practice, sources of inspiration and the importance of art in public spaces.

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

LW: *Its ever evolving! My practice uses a number of natural elements to convey the human experience. I love to think about how we are connected to the world around us and that connection definitely impacts how I create.*

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

LW: *I love the idea of using symbolism in the works that I create and always find I go back to elements from the natural world. My work has explored themes such as identity and motherhood to the Sublime environment. I suppose these sorts of ideas drive my practice.*

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

LW: *The title, Measurement of Happiness, came from a conversation I had with my 5-year-old daughter; we have been collecting the sand in her shoes to measure how much fun she has had during her first year at school. It made me think about the amount of happiness we have in our lives as adults and what scale of measurements we use for life. I wanted the images to be raw and imperfect but beautiful, just like life. The sand in the images is from my daughters' shoes!*

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

LW: *I think all of the works speak very beautifully to each other. Each work displays common themes of nature and the human condition in their own unique ways. They are able to tell their own stories and hold a conversation with each other at the same time*

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?

LW: *The Dentons Fisher Jefferies building is a beautiful space to exhibition work. Being able to exhibit work in a site that is not a gallery gives the artwork the ability to connect with people in a normal everyday setting, as well as people who may not actively seek out exhibitions. I think bringing artworks into a place of work brings life to a building and can create a more satisfying environment for the staff. Art talks and interacts with you if you listen, you can find yourself talking back through the way it makes you feel.*

Lee Walter is an emerging South Australian visual artist, working in photography and installation. Interested in both the human condition and ecological environments, she uses highly considered objects to construct her narratives.

***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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