

## RECENT PROJECTS

Mildred Leckie



1. Mildred Leckie, *Testosterone*, found wooden handles, cord, crayon medium. From the installation *H is for Handle* (2014), SITE 2014, Dunedin School of Art.



Figures 2 & 3. Mildred Leckie, *H is for Handle* (2014), installation. From the installation *H is for Handle* (2014), SITE 2014, Dunedin School of Art. Detail is of iPad playing video in the leather 'tool belt' of the *Mould Your Own Brooch Project* (2014).

My artwork is driven by a response to people, place and time. My jewellery practice is open-minded and often includes interdisciplinary methodologies of working. I explore wearable objects that engage with tactile responses to materiality. Hands play an integral role in the activity of making, wearing and gesturing conversations around jewellery. As a maker, I am interested in the social dynamics contemporary jewellery has to offer:

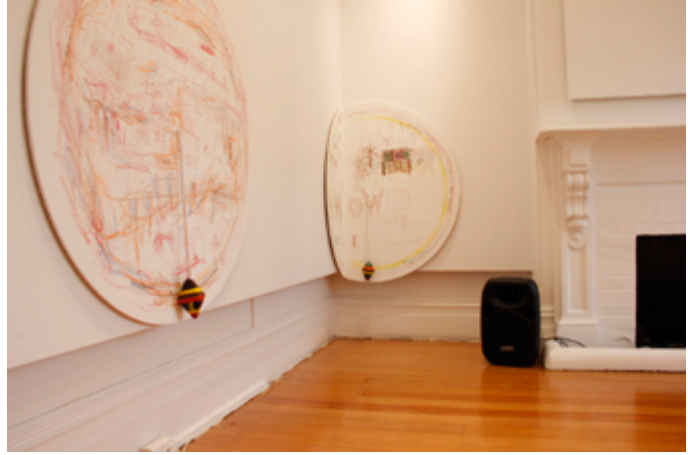
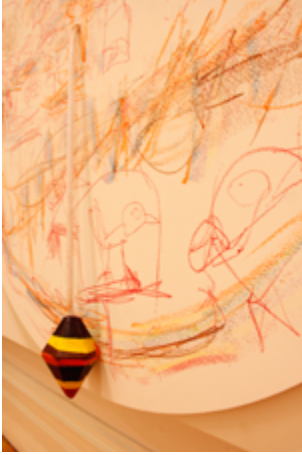
My childhood years were spent surrounded by tools, contributing to my identity as a maker and a passion for exploring the places where people make things. *H is for Handle* (2014) is a diverse collection of wearable objects that engage with tactile responses to materiality. It features a collection of old and well-used handles. As objects, these are imprinted with memories of blood, sweat and labour:



Figures 4 & 5. Mildred Leckie, *Eeny, meeny, miny, mo* (2014), found wooden handle, found steel ferrule, rawhide, steel binding wire, crayon medium; and *Yellow* (2014), found wooden tool handle, macrocapa, jarrah, hand-drawn leather; found steel ferrule, crayon medium. From the installation *H is for Handle* (2014), SITE 2014, Dunedin School of Art.

In *H is for Handle*, these objects were juxtaposed with reminders of materiality normally associated with childhood, such as crayons and skipping rope. I discovered that melting the crayons with hot glue and then letting them set allowed me to solidify a malleable substance that is intriguing yet delivers a process-driven aspiration. One of the works from this suite, *Yellow*, was selected for an International Graduate Exhibition in the Netherlands, at Gallerie Marzee.<sup>1</sup>

The physical 'tools' of childhood tactile materiality and imagery also make an appearance in a suite of works developed for *Opening Night* – a curatorial development initiative run in conjunction with Studio One Toi Tū



Figures 6 & 7. Documentation of *childhood* performance for *Opening Night*.

and Objectspace in Auckland.<sup>2</sup> Early in 2015 I worked on a project entitled *Childhood* as part of a group of eight selected participants, working with curator and Paris-based writer and designer Ben Lignel, to develop installations for *Opening Night*.

*Childhood* combined visual and audio expression documented from the performance of four 8-year-old children made in the gallery on the day of the opening. The installation recorded a sense of scale and captured the young artists' personalities and movement in the children's drawing performance. As an installation after the event, *Childhood* replayed their haptic experiences and engaged with audiences of all ages. The aim of the show was to "immerse yourself in a child's mind and imagine a world you might have once left behind."

**Mildred Leckie** graduated with a Bachelor of Visual Arts in jewellery and metalsmithing from the Dunedin School of Art in 2014, and also received the prestigious Con Hutton Scholarship. She is one of only a few New Zealand graduate artists to have had work selected for the Marzee Annual International Graduation exhibition.

[www.mildredleckie.com](http://www.mildredleckie.com)

- 1 The Marzee Annual International Graduation Show is a unique event offering the best new graduates from international schools and academies their first opportunity to exhibit work in a world-famous gallery. Exhibiting work by over 100 students from 39 schools in 20 different counties, the show is truly a global event and highlights some of the most outstanding and original work by the new generation of jewellery artists. See <https://www.facebook.com/marzee.modernartjewelry>.
- 2 <http://www.objectspace.org.nz/Events/Detail/Opening+Night>.