

Apartment 33 –  
The Dress-un-maker  
and the Clay-tailor



Manon van Kouswijk + Vita Cochran

26 October - 25 November, 2022

In a newly renovated apartment that doubles as a gallery they unpack their recent work. When they met here for the first time the gallerist told them the building used to be a clothes manufacturing premises. It seems fitting that this is where they exhibit together, in a domestic exhibition space, and a place of historical making, where the line between art and the everyday is blurred.

Two makers and two methods.

Dress-un-making. Existing garments taken apart, seams carefully unpicked. Fabric pieces rearranged to form patterns. Undoing someone's past work could feel destructive, but instead feels celebratory as unexpected shapes emerge and new objects form. The objects find their place in the apartment, on a wall, on the bed. They immediately feel at home here, maybe they sense that this place understands where they come from.

Clay-tailoring. Plates and candlesticks, brooches, bracelets and pendants constructed from earthenware and porcelain clay. Rolling, layering, twisting, knotting, pressing; here patterns are revealed by the making process. Things gather in the living room and around the dining table. Although they might seem quite different they get along well.

# Manon van Kouswijk

Manon van Kouswijk is a Dutch artist who has lived and worked in Melbourne since 2010. She studied at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam, and in 1994 was a guest student at the Munich Academy studying under professor Otto Künzli. She went on to become Head of the Jewellery department at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy from 2007 until 2010. Manon is currently the coordinator of Jewellery in the Department of Fine Art at Monash University.

Manon van Kouswijk's work is exhibited in galleries and museums worldwide and is part of private and public collections including the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Røsska Museet, Sweden, FNAC, Paris, the National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, France, National Gallery of Australia and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, among others.



Holding it together 1

Vase, 2021

Porcelain, earthenware flower, glaze, test tube

\$1900



Holding it together 2

Vase, 2021

Porcelain, earthenware flower, glaze

\$1600



Holding you close 1  
Vase, 2021  
Porcelain, glaze  
\$1300



Candle holders  
2022  
Earthenware  
\$360 each



asked the pendant do you want to be a brooch or do you think the brooch prefer to become a bracelet?

Pendants

2021-2

Porcelain, glaze, string

Black front / white back \$630 each

Black front and back \$690 each

Colours \$630 each





Earthenware plates, candleholders

Porcelain pendants, bracelets

2021-2

\$360 - \$730



Earthenware plates, candleholders  
Porcelain pendants, bracelets  
2021-22  
\$360 - \$730

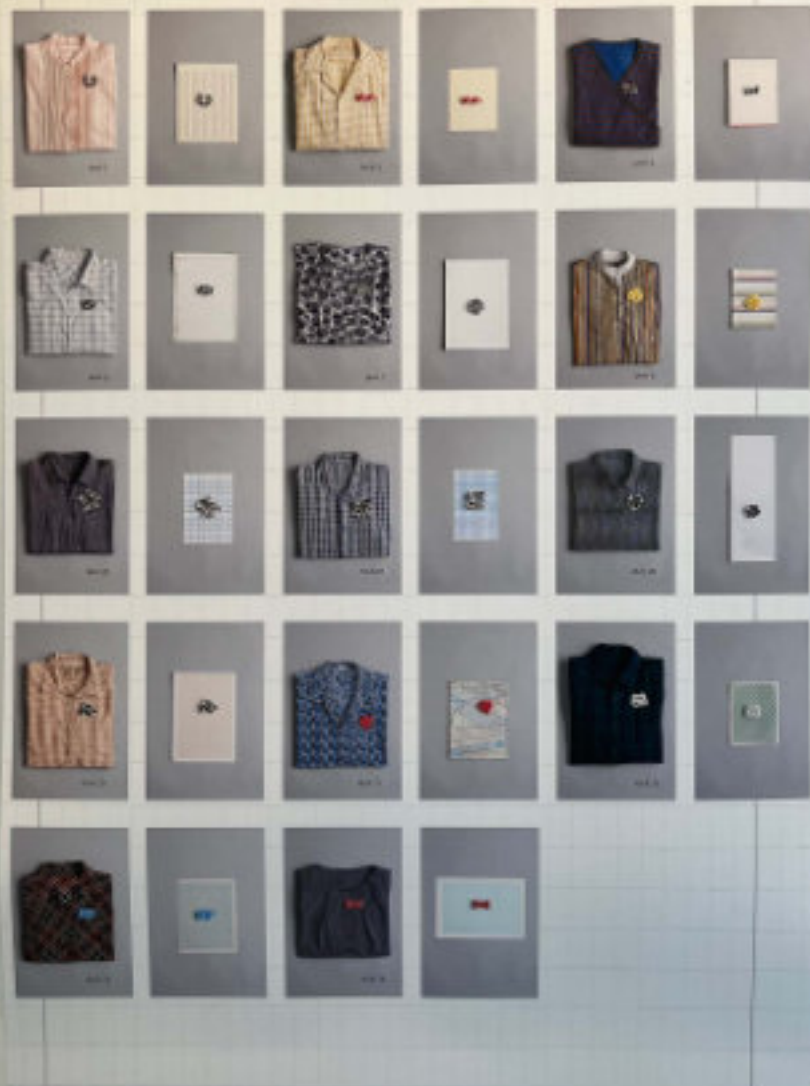


Porcelain brooches

2022

Presented on sample fabric cards in a custom-made  
drawer cabinet, with poster

Brooches \$630 - \$690



Poster available to order



# Vita Cochran

Vita Cochran is a textile artist from Aotearoa now gratefully living and making on Gadigal land, Sydney. After graduating with an MA in art history in 1998 she became known for her embroidered bags and other distinctive textile objects.

Her work engages with the history of domestic crafts, the traffic between decorative art and modernism, and a drive to elevate and re-examine textile practices of the past. Recent exhibitions have showcased her work with the embroidery sampler, with hooked rag rugs, and with unpicked vintage coats.

Vita has been represented by Anna Miles Gallery (Auckland) since 2015 and her work is held in many private and public collections including Auckland Museum Tōmaki Paenga Hira, Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand, Tūhura Otago Museum, and the Dowse Art Museum.



Firenze of Melbourne

2022

1960s wool jacket, New Zealand-made  
upholstery fabric, thread

150 x 140cm

\$5500



Orange gloves

2022

Vintage nylon gloves on wool, thread

66 x 56cm

\$2000





Review  
2022  
1990s wool jacket, New Zealand made upholstery fabric  
200 x 140cm  
\$5500



Rope bag  
2022  
Fabric, rope  
\$450



Rope bag

2022

Fabric, rope

\$450



Rope bag  
2022  
Fabric, rope  
\$450



Bargello #5

2022

Wool on canvas, silk lining

\$2950

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Wednesday - Friday 12-5pm

Saturday by appointment