



Domenica Russo

Untitled – The Corner Store Gallery

March 15 - 26

A fair bit of Domenica Russo's art is rubbish.

The Bathurst based artist has spent the past six years exploring the basketry technique of hidden core coiling. Domenica's desire to reduce the amount of waste generated by her household led to the use of bread bags as the core material in her coiled works. A variety of soft plastic waste, in combination with commercially dyed raffia are now the key materials used in all her coiled wall pieces.

Domenica uses coiling as a daily meditation practice; a way to process the ups and downs of life with four kids. Whilst initially drawn to creating bright, playful pieces to counter the doldrums of everyday life, the events of recent years have prompted an exploration of her creative response to particularly challenging situations. A new, moodier series is emerging, featuring the use of contrasting colours, negative space and repetition.

Domenica's work has always been a response to the emotional rollercoaster of her life, predominantly taking shape as escapism. Whilst escapism is a useful tool, and has allowed her to create cheerful, bright artworks, Domenica is now ready to dive headfirst into her emotions, surrendering to her response to challenging times. A new series titled Rainbows for Dark Times is emerging and seeks to explore her emotional relationship with colour.

Rainbows for Dark Times II: Remembering Esme is a piece that began as Domenica explored the emotions she felt as her son was abandoned by the schooling system. Starting from a very angry place, she was drawn to dark colours, a real shift from her previous works. Bright colours were then introduced as new solutions to her son's educational journey began to emerge, restoring hope that parts of the system still cared for her son. The oscillation between emotions continues throughout the piece, reflecting the journey of her son's health and education. The burst of colour in the piece's rainbow fringe is a response to the loss of Domenica's niece, Esme. Esme's family has chosen to celebrate her short life by painting rainbows. Rainbows will now forever act as a reminder to Domenica, that despite the challenges of her son's journey, she is ever so fortunate to be taking this journey with him.

A Vague Idea I'll and III are pure escapism. These pieces represent Domenica's favourite imaginary destination. Think sunny summer days spent lying in a field of gently swaying wildflowers, hours spent staring upwards, finding animals in the shapes of passing clouds. So peaceful. And so very far from the ruckus of home.