



DRAFT



Natalya Hughes

An Imprecise Science Commission

2015 | An Imprecise Science, Artspace Sydney

FoR: 1201

Output Category: Original Creative Work

This research output was undertaken in response to a commission from Artspace Sydney on the occasion of the exhibition An Imprecise Science, and the refurbishment of the Gunnery building which has housed Artspace for some time.

The exhibition, which featured the work of a number of significant and high profile international artists, sought to showcase the 11 artist's unique engagement with materiality, proposing that "any (artistic and material) approach is an imperfect act, experiment or speculation". In response to my broader practice and research focus, curators Alexie Glass and Talia Linz requested that I engage, in particular, with the marginal spaces of the Artspace building, that is those spaces where individuals frequent but do not usually consider to be exhibition appropriate.

In response I undertook two site specific installations in three sites: the mens and women bathrooms, and the building elevator. Both the bathroom and elevator projects

sought to extend my existing research in maligned decorative traditions, and to further challenge the notion that decoration is peripheral. Both installations made explicit connections between decor and the (feminine) body.

The bathrooms featured two custom designed wallpapers which integrated motifs based on bodily functions into highly aestheticised pattern. The elevator made use of the existing decor but remodelled it so as to appear closer to the interior of a body. The work's significance is demonstrated by its inclusion in this high profile exhibition event featuring internationally established artists such as Walead Beshty (USA), Alicja Kwade (Poland), and Ragnar Kjartansson (Iceland). The exhibition received significant attention in the form of critical reviews in print and other media. The bathroom installation is now on permanent display in the building, extending well beyond the duration of the exhibition.

Image: *An Imprecise Science, Artspace Sydney*



