

NATALYA HUGHES

Back and Forth

2008 | *Milani Gallery Brisbane and QAGOMA, Brisbane*

Current to a great deal of contemporary art practice and criticism is an assumed split between the pursuit of aesthetic pleasure and a critico-political content usually named by the term 'anti-aesthetic'. The exhibition Back and Forth sought to undermine this binary, mobilising a representative marked by contradictory operations. Made through a use of decorative form this mode combined the operation of aesthetic pleasure and a more challenging and destabilising affect. In doing it sought to co-implicate formal beauty and a critical content usually associated with so-called anti-aesthetic practices.

Back and Forth engaged with this contradictory logic in the medium of painting. Appropriating and manipulating existing graphic and art historical images (mainly Ukiyo-e and the work of illustrator Aubrey Beardsley) the work utilised decorative form to construct grotesque figures.

The entire series was exhibited at Milani Gallery but individual works were also included in the significant James Souris Contemporary Collection exhibition at QAGOMA (and featured in an accompanying 156 page publication Ten Years of Contemporary Art 2011) and the UQ Art Museum exhibitions New and Neo Goth (Pissing Dream). (The work was also featured in a profile for Artichoke written by Australian Art curator Angela Goddard). The work Flaccid Lake was acquired by QAGOMA.

Image of work, detail

NATALYA HUGHES
Back and Forth

Image of work

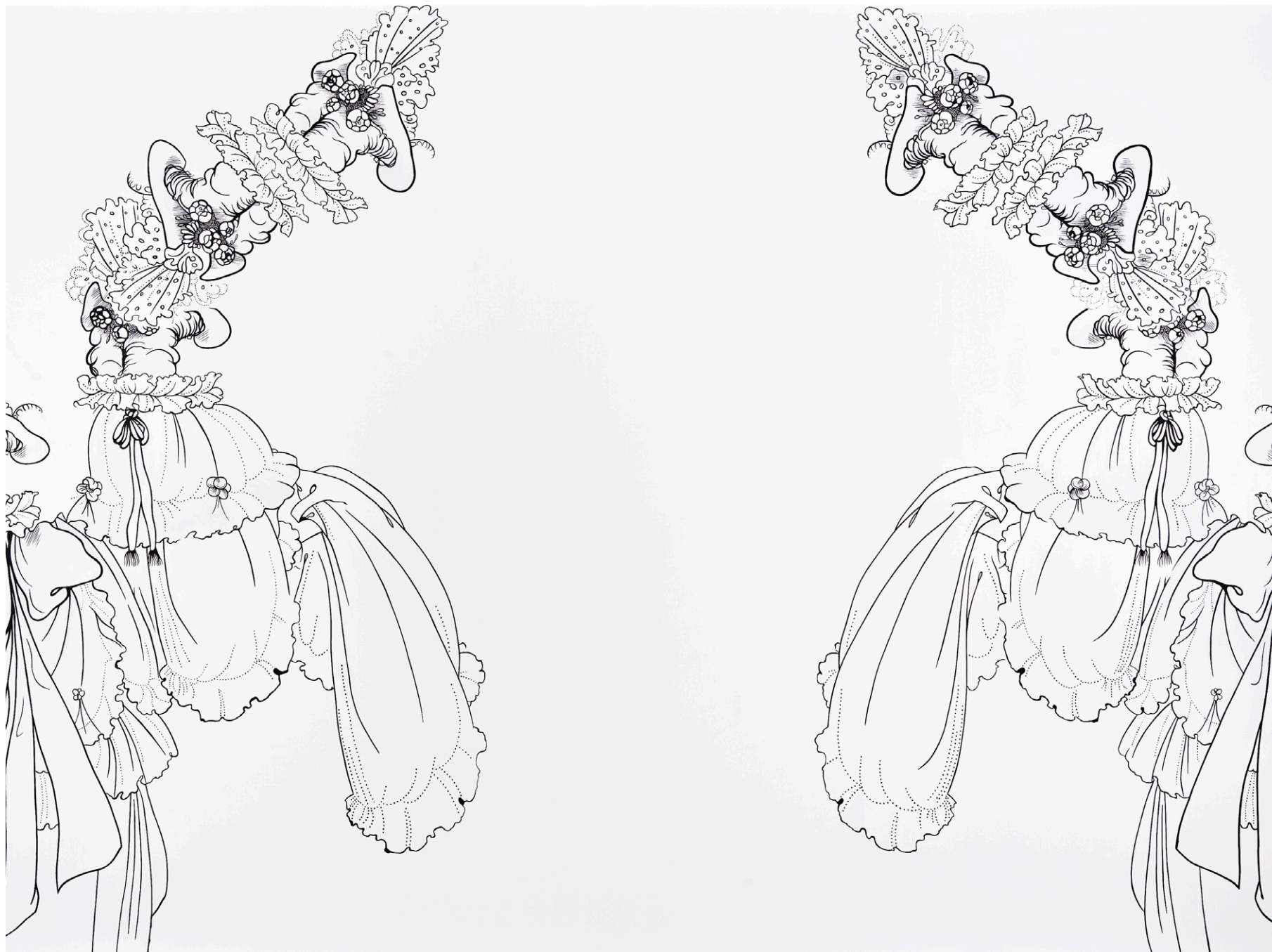




Image of work

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Installation views

