

Cara Johnson

Overlay



4 November 2023 - 25 February 2024

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Overlay considers the correspondence between inflicted damage on the land and subsequent attempted repair. Materials have been collected based on their relationships to agriculture and landscape restoration: tree guards found tumbling in the undergrowth and floating in creeks; baling twine snagged on fence lines; silage netting tangled in the dirt; and weeds cut from where they grew. Adapting techniques connected to jewellery histories, these found materials are reprocessed to create works that reflect upon the hope and hopelessness of repair.

Cover image: Cara Johnson, *Tether III* 2023, iron, found tree guards. Photo: Anita Beaney

Image: Cara Johnson, *Hollow* (detail) 2020, found tree guards, found silage netting





Image: Cara Johnson, *Cast back I* (detail) 2022, found river red gum fence post, found baling twine. Photo: Fred Kroh

Cara Johnson's craft-based works interrogate tensions and narratives connected to the ways land is treated and used through material, intention and invested labour. Her practice is entwined with her rural location in the Otways hinterland (Gadubanud country), in which she works in isolation, surrounded by bushland and sheep paddocks. Cara's work is primarily concerned with traversing the complexities between people and plants.

In 2016, Cara completed a Bachelor of Fine Art (First Class Hons.) at RMIT University, where she is also a current PhD Candidate. Recent solo exhibitions include *Understory* at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and *Semblance of Repair* at Gallery Funaki. Cara also exhibits widely in group shows, nationally and internationally, notably *Paper Art 2017* at CODA Museum in the Netherlands, *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize 2021* and in *Schmuck 2022* and *2023* in Munich. In 2023, Cara installed her first permanent public sculpture *Remnant* on the Great Victorian Rail Trail, was an Artist in Residence at the Australian Tapestry Workshop as well as a finalist in the inaugural *MAKE Award* at the Australian Design Centre. Cara's works are held in various public and private collections, including the National Gallery of Victoria. Cara is represented by Gallery Funaki.



Image: Cara Johnson, *Unravelling II* 2021, willow, found baling twine
Photo: Anita Beaney

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