

Miniatures from the TAMA Collection

16th March - 14th September 2025

Within the Ararat Gallery TAMA Collection, there is a sub-collection of miniature textile artworks. Many of these miniatures were acquired in the 1980s, when the Gallery hosted a series of Biennial Acquisitive Exhibitions.

The Biennials became a major source of acquisitions for the Gallery, with the artworks of both established and emerging fibre artists adding to the Gallery's developing collection of fibre and textiles.

The first two Biennials, in 1981 and 1983, concentrated on miniature textile works not exceeding 20 centimetres in any dimension. This provided a rare opportunity for textile artists working on a miniature scale to exhibit in an established regional gallery. For the 3rd Biennial exhibition in 1985 the size limit was increased to no greater than 40 centimetres in any dimension. This was seen as an extension of the miniature concept and gave the overall exhibition a greater diversity in size and content while maintaining the practical advantages of the miniature scale.

For this exhibition we have also selected small-scale artworks that were acquired at other times through the collection's history.

Miniature artworks can be an opportunity for artists to experiment with materials and forms in ways that might not be possible with larger pieces. This can lead to innovative or unconventional uses of fabric, thread, and other fibres. The small scale of these works highlight attention to detail, skill, and precision. Artists may use delicate stitching or intricate weaving techniques that showcase their mastery of materials.

Miniatures offer an intimate, personal connection with the viewer. Their smallness invites closer inspection and encourages a sense of discovery or wonder.

Taking inspiration from Ararat's historical association with fine merino wool production, Ararat Gallery TAMA (Textile Art Museum Australia) has been committed to exhibiting and collecting textile and fibre art since the 1970s.

1. Annette SEEMAN

b. 1954 Australia

Relocation 5 1985

Paper, gauze, dye, chalks, stitching, plastic

Purchased from artist with assistance of the Caltex-Victorian
Government Art Fund and the Ararat Gallery Social Committee

2. Sara LINDSAY

b. 1951 Oxford, England, arr. Australia 1966

Rosa 1978

Woven tapestry - Cotton warp, linen, wool and cotton weft

Held by Ararat Gallery TAMA on long-term loan from the
Victorian State Craft Collection

3. Bhanu MISTRY

b. 1960 Leicester, UK

Untitled 1987

Miniature needlepoint tapestry, framed

Purchased from artist with funds from Ararat Gallery Social Committee

4. Fiona WALKER

Amazing Lizard at Italian Picnic

Woven in silk, wool and cotton

Purchased from artist

5. Patricia LANGFORD

b. 1927 Plymouth, England, arr. Australia 1960, d. 2003

Lewers Garden 1985

Or Nué ('shaded gold')

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian
Government Art Fund, 1985

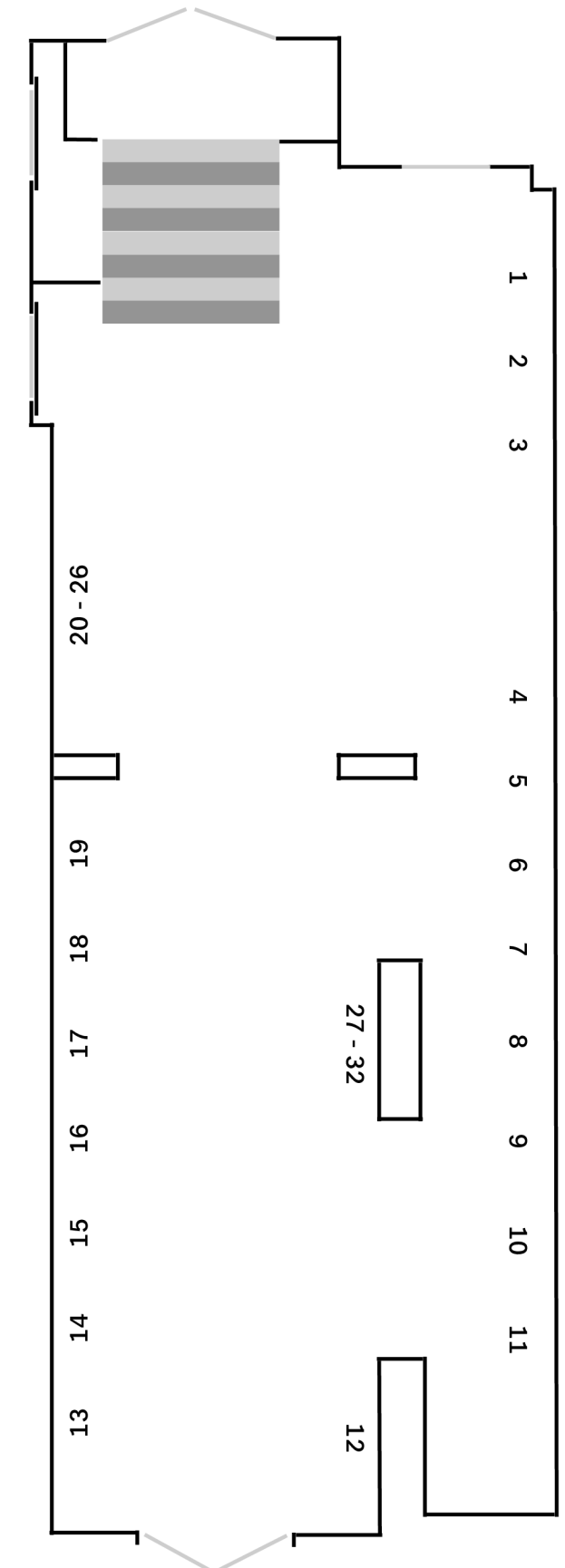
6. Rachel FRECKER

b. 1949 Sydney, New South Wales

Ancient Fragment 1981

Wool, cotton

Purchased with social committee fund



**textile art
museum
australia**



Ararat Rural City

CREATIVE VICTORIA

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ararat gallery tama

Miniatures from the TAMA Collection

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7. Annette SEEMAN

b. 1954 Australia

A Slice of Life 1983

Fabric, felt, silk, paper, bandages

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund

8. Suzy PENNINGTON

b. 1947 New Zealand

Water Series 3, No. 1.

Canvas cotton, procion dye

Purchased from artist with the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund

9. Judy SILVER

b. 1950

Hobart Revisited #8 1984

Cotton pulp pressed with metallic and embroidery threads

Purchased from artist with assistance of the Caltex-Victorian Government Art Fund and the Ararat Gallery Social Committee

10. Beth SMITH

Coming to the Surface

Miniature tapestry, framed

Purchased from artist with funds from the Ararat Gallery Social Committee

11. Alice KETTLE

b. 1961 Winchester, Hampshire, England

Magenta Basker 1995

embroidery; cotton

Gift of Janet de Boer OAM, 2009

12. Rosalie COGAN

b. 1948 Vught, The Netherlands, arr. Australia c.1960

Coping With Landing 1988

Machine embroidered (framed)

Gift of Helen McMurtrie, 2001

13. Christina FENDER

Quo Vadis

Mercerised cotton, foam case, linen

Donated by the artist

14. Irja WEST

b. 1936 Finland

21st Wedding Anniversary 1981

Woven tapestry, crocheted frame - Wool, cotton

Purchased with social committee fund

15. Cresside COLLETTE

b. 1950 Sri Lanka, arr. Australia 1962

Slides - France 1981 1981

Cotton and linen thread

Acquired with the assistance of the Ararat Gallery Committee from the inaugural Biennial Acquisitive Exhibition - 1981 Miniature Textiles

16. Sue ROSENTHAL

Egyptian Fragments; Maps & Murals or which way to the schist quarries?

Linen warp, silk weft

Purchased from the artist with funds from the Social Committee

17. Sine McCANN

b. 1949 UK

In The Park 1983

Machine embroidery, calico, cotton, paper

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund, 1983

18. Valerie KIRK

b. 1957 Scotland, arr. Australia

Dappled Leaf, Sweetie Papers 1983

Tapestry weave, linen, wool, cotton, rafia

Purchased 1984

19. Maureen HODGE

The Study of the Object IV

Purchased from artist with funds from Ararat Gallery Social Committee

20. Jean BAGGALEY

b. 1936 England

Containment One 1981

Cotton, silk, fabrics and paint

Purchased from artist with funds from Ararat Gallery Social Committee

21. Marjorie BROTHERIDGE

b. 1949 UK

Knit, rolled 1981

Wool yarn

Purchased from artist with funds from Ararat Gallery Social Committee

22. Gloria GODDARD

b. 1942 South Australia

Flying Dreams 1981

Linen and needlework silks

Purchased from artist with funds from Ararat Gallery Social Committee

23. Mirka MORA

b. 1928 Paris, France, arr. Australia 1951. d. 2018

Melbourne

Doll 1979

Cotton, PLAKA poster paint

Purchased with the assistance of the Australia Council Crafts Board, 1980

24. Robyn GORDON

b. 1943 Sydney, New South Wales

Frozen Woven 1981

Plastic modelling compound (colorfast)

Purchased from artist with funds from Ararat Gallery Social Committee

25. Beverley RAE

b. 1949 Australia

Rib Cage

Steel, brass, leather, waxed thread, handmade paper, stitch

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund, 1983

26. Julie MONTGARRETT

b.1955 Australia

Drawn dawn Curtain

Silk, cotton and silk thread

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund, 1983

27. Beverley RAE

b. 1949 Australia

Medieval Kit 1981

Stainless steel mesh, lead, twine

Purchased from artist with funds from Ararat Gallery Social Committee

28. Rosemary BURKE

b. 1940 Australia

Offerings

Wrapped fabric forms, bones, bamboo

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund, 1983

29. Kerry GAVIN

b. 1956 Australia

Beach Box 1985

Painted and stuffed calico, applique, beading, hand and machine embroidery

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund and the Ararat Gallery Social Committee

30. Kerry GAVIN

b. 1956 Australia

Tiny Circus

Hand painted, embroidered and beaded calico, stuffed, moulded

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund, 1983

31. Tori DE MESTRE

b. 1951 Wollongong, New South Wales

Chrysalis

Organza, stranded cotton, casuarina needles

Purchased with the assistance of the Caltex - Victorian Government Art Fund, 1983

32. Solvig BAAS BECKING

b. 1928 Australia

Miniature Saddle Bag 1984

Cotton warp, wool weft

Purchased 1984

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