



## *THE REFRAIN*

Anneke de Rooij, Lucas Grogan, Jessie Mitchell.



**OPENING:** 6pm, Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**EXHIBITION RUNS:** 10<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2012

In music, the refrain is a repeated line or a series of notes, present most conspicuously in folk songs and national anthems - in songs meant to remind us of home. It provides a sense of stability and constancy; at each point of return it is subtly changed but remains at its core, the same. In visual terms the equivalent of the refrain might be the motif or pattern – the sense of structure and familiarity that provides a point of both departure and return.

*The Refrain* presents the work of three artists who utilise this poetic repetition of pattern and motif. Anneke de Rooij presents a series of 'Avian portraits' – drawings of local birds observed during a residency at Fremantle Art Centre rendered in porcelain inlay - that utilise the aesthetics of commemorative portraiture to explore ideas of family and ecology. Jessie Mitchell applies a similar framework to her own neighbourhood, translating collected patterns of brick and ironwork into totemic structures and textiles. Lucas Grogan combines the patterns and motifs of a variety of cultures into a painted series of patchwork-like 'shields', seeking new and protective identities in their aesthetic synthesis.

Together, the works search for something uniquely local and personal in their use of the serial, meditating on and questioning what feels like home.

(Left: Lucas Grogan, *X Disarm X 12*, 2011, ink, watercolour and acrylic on matt board 32.5 x 24.5cm)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

**Lucas Grogan** is a Melbourne based artist who uses needlepoint, installation, painting and drawing to explore themes of isolation, inclusion and cultural collisions through an autobiographical lens. Having studied at the University of Newcastle, Grogan has exhibited in both group and solo exhibitions throughout Australia, the USA and Hong Kong. His work has been collected by the Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, Art Bank and Deutsche Bank and is also represented in various private collections. Lucas has also recently collaborated with Rittenhouse and Third Draw Down to produce a range of clothing and linens, and was recently profiled in *Harper's Bazaar*. *The Refrain* marks his first Western Australian exhibition. Lucas Grogan is represented by Gallerysmith, Melbourne.

**Jessie Mitchell** works across the traditional boundaries of art and design and art and craft, using her material skill and sensitivity to generate a range of objects – jewellery, felt sculptures, mobile macramé gardens or drawings – that consider the value (use or otherwise) of the handmade in both art and 'life'. She received first class honours in Art from Curtin University in 2008, having completed a BA Arts (Fashion and Textiles) in 2006. She has contributed work to numerous group exhibitions (including *The End*, 214 William Street, WA, 2009; *boom*. Spectrum Project Space, WA 2009; and the Foodchain Light Locker Art Space, WA 2011) however her multifaceted practice also extends beyond the traditional exhibition format into window dressing, product design and creative gardening.

**Anneke de Rooij** is an emerging contemporary ceramicist whose practice uses fragmentation, repetition and obsessive labour to investigate the fallibility and beauty of memory: "*For me, the act of making art is a balancing act between introspection and observation. Looking outwards becomes indistinguishable from delving inwards.*" She received honours in Art from Curtin University in 2010. Exhibitions include *Young Guns*, Sydney College of the Arts Gallery in connection with the Australian Ceramics Triennale, NSW 2009; *All Of This Will Be Yours Someday*, Cabin Fever Gallery, WA, 2011; Foodchain Light Locker Art Space, WA 2011; *The Conservatorium*, Paper Mountain, WA 2012. She has also recently completed a residency at The Fremantle Art Centre, WA (April 2011 - Jan 2012).

(Right: Anneke de Rooij, *Avian Portraits* (work in progress), 2011-12, porcelain, dimensions variable)



## ABOUT OK GALLERY:

Directed by Jamie Macchiusi, Andrew Varano and Gemma Weston, OK Gallery is an up and coming Western Australian art space representing and exhibiting a new generation of contemporary artists.

5/1 Forbes Road  
NORTHBRIDGE 6003  
[www.oktachoron.com](http://www.oktachoron.com)

Tues - Fri: 11am – 6pm Sat – Sun: 12pm – 5pm Or by appointment.

For more information/high resolution images please contact Gemma Weston:  
[gemma@oktachoron.com](mailto:gemma@oktachoron.com), 040149488