



ARTISTS Alyssa Nuttall, Franky Frankland, Lucile Sciallano

Title	<i>Held Together Collection</i> Alyssa Nuttall - <i>Anima #8</i> Franky Frankland - <i>Slow Shifts #1</i> Lucile Sciallano (Alterfact Studio) <i>Thankyou But No Thankyou</i>
Gallery	Shown at Dowell Jones, Fitzroy St, Fitzroy
Date of purchase	16/11/25
Buying Circle	Fiona Hardie, Wendy Kozica, Sarah George
Shadow members	Susan Jones, Fiona Edwards, Fiona Brockhoff
Dimensions	Alyssa Nuttall - <i>Anima #8</i> H16cm x W26cm Franky Frankland - <i>Slow Shifts #1</i> H38cm x W28cm Lucile Sciallano - <i>Thankyou But No Thankyou</i> - H38cm x W17cm
Medium	Clay

CONTENT/SUBJECT/AESTHETIC QUALITIES

This acquisition includes three ceramic works from the group show 'Held Together', designed 'to reflect contemporary ceramic practice and the ecosystem that allows it to flourish' by integrating the work of three artists who share a studio, who have distinct practices, but who are sustained by 'a culture of exchange, generosity and care'.

Alyssa Nuttall's practice examines the interdependence between people and the fragile environments that sustain us. These gestures echo the pressures of drought, bushfire, coastal erosion and coral bleaching, conditions that increasingly shape life in Australia. In creating her collapsed, distorted forms Nuttall celebrates the irregular and imperfect. Many of her pieces appear on the verge of collapse, some appear to defy physics while all possess a quiet organic strength and beauty.

Franky Frankland is an interdisciplinary artist who merges hand-built and wheel thrown ceramics and draws upon their background in painting and drawing. Franky's current work focuses on the materiality of clay – treating it like paper by tearing, layering and assembling the vessels layer by layer. Through the application of coloured slips and textured surfaces, they investigate the potential of the unglazed ceramic surface. Thematically, their work delves into concepts of geological time, generational shifts, and the vulnerability of being human. With a particular emphasis on LGBTIQ+ histories and narratives.

Lucile Sciallano explores the space between the handmade and mass-manufactured form and the influence of digital technology on craft practice. Spanning art, craft and design her interdisciplinary practice pushes the boundaries of plastic-based 3D printing and plays with the capacities of clay to

form intricate design and effects, borrowing inspiration from textiles, fibre arts, tapestry and basketry.

CONTEXT/TECHNIQUE

Alyssa Nuttall - Through carving, layering, reconstruction and calibrated balance, Alyssa's process invites the clay to shift, fracture and settle within its own material limits. Her forms sit between tension and release – often poised on the edge of resilience and collapse.

Franky Frankland - Franky's work focuses on the materiality of clay – treating it like paper by tearing, layering and assembling the vessels layer by layer. Through the application of coloured slips and textured surfaces, they investigate the potential of the unglazed ceramic surface.

Lucille Sciallano - Spanning art, craft and design Lucille's interdisciplinary practice pushes the boundaries of plastic-based 3D printing and plays with the capacities of clay to form intricate design and effects, borrowing inspiration from textiles, fibre arts, tapestry and basketry. Following a disruption in the making process, the ceramic vessel embodies movements - the fluidity of clay as well as the pattern and changing form emerging from the coils.

COLLECTION STATEMENT

The 25/26 Buying Committee has pursued a collection focus on emerging artists, and has identified ceramics as a medium to acquire. When we learnt of the three-day 'pop-up' exhibition, *Held Together*, at the Dowell Jones space in Fitzroy, we made sure that we got there. Sarah knows Alyssa well through their own shared ceramic practice, and spoke highly of her work. The whole experience, from finding the space down a little lane, to meeting Alyssa and having her show us around the works, with deep knowledge, created an exciting sense of the lives and work of our young Melbourne artists, and the quality and considered intention of their work.

The group show 'Held Together', was designed to reflect 'the vital role of the communal studio: the invisible network that allows creative practice to thrive. Within this space ideas, materials and encouragement move freely. Through conversation, feedback and quiet observation each artist bears witness to the others' small hesitations and quiet breakthroughs – a process that becomes part of the work itself. What emerges is not collaboration, but interdependence; a portrait of contemporary ceramic practice, and the ecosystem that allows it to endure.'

These three emerging/mid-career artists are representative of the vibrant community of contemporary ceramicists living and working in Naarm/Melbourne. Each of these ceramic works can stand alone, however this is a collection where the sum is certainly greater than the parts.