

Tasmanisme

June Hope

Artist statement

I've long been captivated by the harmony and serenity of the Japanese aesthetic. The reverence I observed as the people go about their daily activities seems evidenced in these cultural concepts: wabi sabi – the seeing of beauty in impermanence and imperfection, kintsugi – the repair of broken ceramic with lacquer and gold thus enhancing its beauty, shibui – the balance of simplicity and complexity in simple, understated elegance and of boro - the repair of tattered textiles through stitch. I find in these notions to be metaphors for life.

It is these concepts, plus a longstanding love of vessels, textures and simple elegant shapes which inspire me. I have explored these ideas through the medium I am most passionate about – the ancient craft of traditional wet felting.

Made entirely from merino fleece these works have been shaped and formed by the addition of soap and water and a great deal of human energy to agitate the once fluffy fleece fibres into the firm robust works you see here.

The mixed media collages reference stories and places; perhaps real or imaginary. Again the works combine hand-felted merino fleece with the addition of Japanese papers, dyed or printed, stitched then collaged with both handmade and specialised papers.

This body of work comprising two art-forms give different expressions to the same medium of hand-felting using fleece as a basis. Please enjoy.

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