Elementals: Stefanie Ferguson

Strathfield Library & Innovation Hub
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Elementals explores the intersection of drawing and ceramics in Stefanie Ferguson's artistic practice; ranging from mark making – drawing - and texture - ceramics. These drawing studies are a culmination of small-scale studies and sketches exploring line, texture and colour from the research phase of the artist's work.

Each work tells a story of growth, peak and decay, representing the life cycle of living matter as well as exploring themes of love, fertility, and loss through the symbolic use of colour, composition and scale.

Some works on paper repeat and have direct connections to the ceramic works; whilst others highlight the creative process known as 'flow' where the experimentational side of Stefanie's artistic practice takes over, resulting in an entirely new tangent of drawings being produced.

My process involves studying microscopic images that I source through books and online journals. I then begin a process of sketching and combining these works with ideas I have through other influences. I begin by making in the studio smaller versions and doing test tiles before moving onto the bigger piece. Some works are pre-planned whilst others arise through experimenting with the process and medium.

The process of drawing also allows Stefanie to experiment and refine what she perceives the ceramic work to be. It is during this transition from paper to clay - from two-dimensional to three-dimensional form - that the nature of the medium's attributions become evident and can influence the outcome of the final piece.

Elementals makes us pause, engage and ponder. It is a testament to the process of drawing itself as a creative medium, whilst at the same time recognising the important role that this plays within this artist's artistic practice and process. **Elementals** provides the viewer with a unique insight into Stefanie's artistic process and dedication to the mediums of both drawing and ceramics.

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