

Information for Label

Mia Mathieson

Grafton, NSW

A Stitch in Time

Hand Embroidery: Embroidery thread, Aida cloth, plastic hoop.

Artist Statement

A Stitch in Time

A Stitch in Time reflects the role of women in 1950's suburban Australia. The work was inspired by a vintage red cannister set found in the Chifley Home. The cannister set would have predominantly be used by the women of the house, to store household items, and therefore, like women who were encouraged to be wives and mothers, would have been a regular feature in the suburban home. Composed of a bright colour palette, that draws on the original colour of the cannisters and reflects the upon the mood of the time, one that relied on the cold war quest for suburban domesticity.

The work presents the thread of a narrative, by using hand embroidery techniques, to feature the cannisters in a larger than life setting, seemingly sponsored by the classic ladies stitched beside them. The ladies hint at a secret life within the home, one that continues once the members of the nuclear family have left for the day.

The work features several motifs that symbolise elements of the suburban housewife's day, such as the classic ladies being inspired by vintage sewing pattern illustrations, which would have been used by women to produce outfits for the household. As well as the cannister, to be used when baking and even the embroidery itself suggests at a forgotten past time and a moment in time.