Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.
Casting a Glance

A exegesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts
At Massey University, Wellington,
New Zealand

Jocelyn Andrea Mills

2011
# Table of contents

Abstract ........................................ iii
List of illustrations ............................ iv
Introduction .................................... 1
  The act of seeing .............................. 2
  The domestic milieu ......................... 3
  Invisible objects .............................. 6
Process ......................................... 7
  The shelf ...................................... 7
Form ............................................. 8
Colour .......................................... 10
Slip cast porcelain ............................ 12
Alchemy ......................................... 13
  The casting process ......................... 13
Facades ......................................... 14
  Porcelain shelves ............................ 14
  Diversion to Crown Lynn ................. 16
  The shelf bracket ......................... 18
  Whiteness .................................. 19
Monumental ..................................... 19
  The toaster and its box ................... 19
Series .......................................... 21
  The vegemite jar ............................. 21
  The B series ................................ 23
Entropy ........................................ 24
  The Exercise Ball ......................... 27
  The stool ................................... 29
In between .................................... 32
  The conductor ................................ 35
  An invitation ............................... 36
Conclusion ..................................... 37
References .................................... 39
Bibliography ................................... 42


Abstract

Due to their constant presence and habitual use, domestic objects are usually overlooked. We simply do not notice the things with which we are most familiar. The act of seeing is also taken for granted, even though it is neither as accurate nor dependable as is commonly believed. Rather than being based solely on perception, our reality is constructed from previous information and memories.

My practice identifies objects that are often invisible within the domestic environment in order to provoke an act of noticing and rediscovery for these hackneyed household items. I utilise a slip casting process to create indexical representations of banal objects. A cast object is a naked rendering of the original, a sanitised imitation, and a foundation from which to explore materials and their inherent properties.

Seductive in its silence, timelessness and fragility, the material qualities of unglazed white porcelain emerge in the firing process. The heat of the kiln transforms the slip cast; overtly recognisable forms are subtly altered to create unique shapes. These new shapes are reminiscent of, and allude to, objects within the repository of the everyday. While referencing the everyday, the porcelain objects function as a quiescent form, inviting viewers to consider the complex narratives that are embodied within the things in our world.
List of illustrations


Figure 2. Jocelyn Mills, *Photogram of the shelf*, 2010

Figure 3. Jocelyn Mills, *Resin Shelves*, 2010

Figure 4. Jocelyn Mills, *Facades to Impress*, 2010

Figure 5. Jocelyn Mills, *Swan wall-shelf*, 2010.

Figure 6. Jocelyn Mills, *The porcelain colonial shelf bracket*, 2010

Figure 7. Jocelyn Mills, *The toaster*, 2010

Figure 8. Jocelyn Mills, *The toaster box*, 2010

Figure 9. Jocelyn Mills, *An abbreviation*, 2010

Figure 10. Jocelyn Mills, *B recycle series*, 2010

Figure 11. Jocelyn Mills, *The stacked collection*, 2010

Figure 12. Jocelyn Mills, *The lightbulb*, 2010

Figure 13. Jocelyn Mills, *The hard ball*, 2010

Figure 14. Claes Oldenburg, *Soft Washstand*, 1965 Vinyl, plexiglass, kapok, 55” x 36” x 28”

Figure 15. Jocelyn Mills, *The stool*, 2010

Figure 16. Droog Design, *Experiments in Porcelain*

Figure 17. Jocelyn Mills, *Taxonomy of form*, 2010

Figure 18. Jocelyn Mills, *An in between*, 2010

Figure 19. Jocelyn Mills, *Suspended shelf*, 2010

Figure 20. Jocelyn Mills, *The conductor*, 2010

Figure 21. Jocelyn Mills, *An invitation*, 2010