

Lovers' ponytails

Teelah George

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Orexart

Auckland, New Zealand



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HW You brought this chest of drawers?

BARBER Oh, the chest of drawers, yes. That's right, that came up from Adelaide on the train and I remember the day that came. I think it must have been the first piece of furniture, ready-made furniture, that I ever remember coming and buying out of a shop and arriving like that. Well, years later we came to the west and brought it with us and it was in the room that...Madge was born in my mother's house, my mother's home, and that chest of drawers was in the room. So, later on, Mother gave me that chest of drawers and I gave it to Madge and said, "This chest of drawers was in the room where you were born." The other day she gave it to Rodney's wife. Rodney that was killed recently. I'd forgotten that we still had it, you know. It was in her house.

HW It would be a very treasured family heirloom, wouldn't it?

BARBER Yes, I was a little bit sorry that she didn't keep it, but still, even ourselves, we can't last forever can we?

Excerpt of verbatim transcript, page 48
Interview with Althea Dorris Barber (1896–1990)
Interviewed by Heather Wrigley 1979–80
Battye Library reference number OH398

This body of work has emerged from my engagement with the oral history and transcript of Althea Dorris Barber (1896–1990), a charismatic story teller with a prolific memory. Recorded in 1979, when Dorris (as she preferred to be known) was in her mid 80's, the recording offers a glitchy timeline through the remembered everyday personal history of her life in Katanning, Western Australia. The paintings and textile works pick up on and respond to words and snippets from this history, offering portals that at once suggest and subvert narrative.

TEELAH GEORGE



The Popular Lady (Green)
Oil on canvas, 2017
39x31cm



The Popular Lady (Red)
Oil on canvas, 2017
39x31cm



Upside Down Man
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2017
39x31cm



Sky Piece (Sample)
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2017
32x24cm



Orchid Map
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2016
36x31cm



A Selection of Precious Things on a Chest of Drawers
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2017
36x31cm

The
Popular Ladies



Yellow travelling through
pieces at what sky

shanks



Night Sky Corner
Oil, cotton twine on canvas, 2017
46x38cm



Clean Linen
Cotton thread on linen, 2017
52x42cm



Drapery
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2017
36x31cm



Lovers' Ponytails
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2017
36x31cm



Four Portals (Clover)
Oil on canvas, 2016
36x31cm



19th Century Hands
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2017
36x31cm



Black Dress Detail
Oil and enamel on canvas, 2017
36x31cm

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