

TEELAH GEORGE

Why pay attention?

Teelah George's work has been acquired by the Art Gallery of Western Australia and the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art at the University of Western Australia. She has also been included in Project 17 of the Anna Pappas Gallery exhibition series and was a recent finalist in the 2017 Ramsay Art Prize at the Art Gallery of South Australia. Throughout July, George presents new work to the New Zealand market with her solo show, *Lovers' Ponytails* at Orexart Gallery in Auckland.

What does she do?

Originally trained in textile art, George's current practice includes freehand embroidery as well as drawing, painting and installation. Her style is textured and painterly, and at times she incorporates found objects to add layers of meaning. While George works, she listens to local oral history archives and often uses the quality of sound as a guide for how paint is placed on the canvas.

What is it about?

George's work is entrenched in the processes of making, its surfaces embody time spent and the history of a moment. Through heavily layered paintings and detailed embroidery she peels back layers, paints over surfaces and recreates decayed surfaces. Memory is a central theme in George's work and she says, "the will to keep things, to make material the immaterial whilst all the while knowing that everything changes... that is a question I seem to always be circling."

The artist says...

"I am really interested in collections and archives and how through material traces they are able to hold and communicate stories and ideas – like portals. Often it's the glitches and negative spaces that drive my curiosity."

You can see it at...

George is included in *Primavera 2017 – Young Australian Artists* curated by Sophia Kouyoumdjian at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 23 August - 19 November, 2017. Her work will also be presented by OREXART, Auckland in an exhibition entitled *Lovers' Ponytails* from 4 July - 22 July, 2017.

Briony Downes

1. // Teelah George, *Lover's Ponytails*, 2017. Oil and enamel on canvas, 32 x 30.5cm.

2. // Teelah George, *Bougainvillea Woman*, 2017. Oil on canvas, 32 x 30.5cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND OREXART, AUCKLAND



