

## LAETITIA OLIVIER-GARGANO

Laetitia's practice is driven by a close survey of food, plants and everyday objects, through surreal sculptural reimagining. By blurring the boundaries of complex yet recognisable forms her work playfully incites both a sense of wonder and unease. These edible and domestic items speak to deeply personal emotions, memories and associations. Her work often engenders bodily responses from viewers due to their intense familiarity, yet complete absurdity. Our stomach turns, and we want to look away, but curiosity stops us. It is this uncanny sensation and the universality of it that her works make us aware of.

Laetitia is an emerging artist, currently based in Melbourne. She graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from Monash University. Her work has been exhibited nationally at institutions such as Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Cement Fondu, Notfair and Firstdraft. Her work has also featured in Broadsheet, Artist Profile and Art + Australia journals. In 2019 Laetitia received the Freedman Foundation Travelling Scholarship for Emerging Artists, administered by NAVA. She undertook research in Japan, learning how to make their iconic plastic food samples. Laetitia's practice often involves 'hyper-surrealistic' resin cast sculpture, stop-motion animation and works on paper.

## EDUCATION

- 2016 Graduated Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours), Monash University
- 2015 Graduated Bachelor of Fine Art, Monash University

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

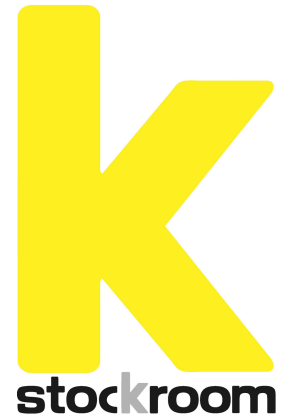
- 2021 *Sometimes when I feel empty, I eat a second breakfast.* Firstdraft (Gallery 2), Sydney
- 2020 *sometimeswhenifeeemptyieatasecondbreakfast.net* (online)
- 2018 Project Space (*Warm Bodies*) curated by Megan Monte and Josephine Skinner, Cement Fondu, Sydney
- 2015 *Fleshrooms*, Link Wall Art space, Monash University Caulfield, Melbourne
- 2014 *Flesh*, Runt Gallery, Monash University Caulfield, Melbourne

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Notfair 2021*, curated by Sam Leach, Tony Loyd and Ashley Crawford, Windsor, Melbourne
- 2021 *Backwoods 11yrs.* curated by Tom Groves, Backwoods Gallery, Collingwood, Melbourne
- 2019 *Knox Immerse Arts Festival*, curated by Jodi Newcombe, Mountain High Shopping Centre Bayswater, Melbourne
- 2019 *The Freedman Foundation Travelling Scholarship Exhibition*, curated by Bella Cornell, UNSW galleries, Sydney
- 2017 *Notfair 2017*, curated by Sam Leach, Ashley Crawford and Tony Lloyd, Windsor, Melbourne
- 2016 *MADA Now*, Monash University Caulfield, Melbourne
- 2016 *Windows XII*, The Dirty Dozen, Campbell Street Arcade, Melbourne
- 2016 *Hatched: National Graduate Show*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth
- 2015 *MADA Now*, Monash Graduate Exhibition, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2015 *Small Works Prize*, Brunswick Street Gallery, Melbourne

## AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

- 2022 Brand X Protopshop Creative Retail Residency
- 2020 Creative Victoria's Sustaining Creative Workers initiative
- 2019 The Freedman Foundation Travelling Scholarship for Emerging Artists
- 2019 Shortlisted for Maddocks Art Prize
- 2017 Special commendation at Notfair 2017
- 2015 Edith Rose Memorial Prize
- 2013 Monash University Fine Art Scholarship



## PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 The Art Show with Daniel Browning, 'Surrealists at sea, fake food, and the Beijing Silvermine', ABC Radio National, broadcast 30th June 2021
- 2021 Laetitia Olivier-Gargano is counting (scare)crows, interview with Firstdraft Co-Direct Karen Golland, Firstdraft June 2021
- 2019 Isla Sutherland, Knox Immerse Arts Festival, Broadsheet, 1st September 2019
- 2019 Erin McFadyen, Discovery: Laetitia Olivier-Gargano, Artist Profile, issue #47 2019
- 2018 Emma-Kate Wilson, Warm Bodies, curated by Megan Monte and Josephine Skinner, Art + Australia online, 6th October 2018
- 2016 Anna Dunnill, Hatched: National Graduate Show 2016, Art Guide, 9th June 2016