



Colour* By Sea – A Kaleidoscope of Observations

Rosa Mar Tato Ortega

Mid Point Exhibition

12 May – June 11 2018

Rosa is a site-specific artist who makes art based on her sense of materiality and the possibilities that evolve. Rosa's practice identifies, connects and embeds the potency of memory and storytelling in her artwork and the individuals she encounters in her collaborative projects give expression to the work, embodying unique responses to individual history, identity and lived environments. Rosa's work is intricate, evoking the intimacy of the exchange, and simultaneously honouring the confidentiality implicit in the work. Her artwork, is highly considered and while informed by individual encounters, is also highly context specific with a deep understanding of the importance of community and place making. Rosa's ability to decipher, interpret and reflect these personal stories through symbol, pattern, motif, light and text define her art practice. As she explores and experiments with a variety of materials, whether steel, felt, twigs or a subversive stitch or two, I thank her once again for her invitation to consider the community and environs of Coolart via her beautiful art.

'The studio, my birdhide, watching, listening, observing, courageous visitors and preserving a just observed scene'.
(Rosa Mar Tato Del Ortega)

Dr Sally Northfield

Education Program Coordinator

United Nations Association Australia (Victoria)

Co-Manager

Women's Mural Documentation Project

(I have followed Rosa's career for over a decade. As the Creative Producer of the arts festival [AS IF: 40 years & beyond- Celebrating the Women's Art Register](#) (Winner – Best Visual Art 2015 Melbourne Fringe Festival), I had the privilege of working closely with Rosa for several years in the led up to the festival, by commissioning her to reimagine her collaborative art project Embracing Distance. In 2012, Rosa (working with participants from 16 different countries) replaced stark and imposing cyclone fencing on the North Melbourne Public Housing Estate (a universal symbol of institutional containment and restriction), with Embracing Distance, a striking 35 metre, 16 panel steel installation imbued with memories, motifs and stories about settlement and leaving homeland.

In 2015, Rosa revisited the North Melbourne community and recontextualised and exhibited Embracing Distance: Artmaking in Tandem to explore the impact of public art and the importance of artmaking for newly settled women. The 16 metres of multi-layered and coloured felt wall panels (laser-cut with imagery created by Tato based on Embracing Distance) emphasised the impressions of home, place, the uncertainty of settling in a new country and visions for life in Melbourne, while the 16 metres of floor strewn felt fragments and remnants evoked things left behind. The exhibition invited the audience to take a breath and behold this stunning work, for Embracing Distance: Artmaking in Tandem staked a claim on a new life in Melbourne and asked the audience to celebrate place and belonging.

We welcome you to contribute to a site specific collective work of art situated next to the Barracks and AIR (Artist -in-Residence) Studio which will remain on site until the end of the residency mid-November.

The exhibition covers these areas:

Shearing shed

Tack room

Bird hide (opening only)

Upstairs in the Homestead

The Nest next to the Barracks



Rosa Mar Tato Ortega

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A big thankyou to Coolart, Parks Victoria, the Staff and Volunteers at Coolart Homestead & Wetlands, Friends of Coolart, the local community, stick gatherers, Amanda Francis, Rachel Farrington, Sally Northfield, my family and my partner in crime George Theodore.