

Rebecca Lewis

Artist Statement

I am a self-taught printmaker and seamstress living and working in Ipswich, Queensland. A degree in Environmental Management along with a personal philosophy grounded in sustainability informs the direction of my arts practice in which I work predominantly with vintage materials, found objects and discarded craft supplies to create little stories. I revel in the challenge of creative reuse; searching for beauty and function in unexpected places and preventing the waste of potentially useful materials and images by re-appropriating items that have already had one life and reworking, reassigning and reinventing them to give them a chance to be part of another story.

I create in a process of reverse engineering so, rather than working towards a rigid outcome I collect images and objects and work to build them a new narrative based on the location I find myself and how these items sit together and within the space I've chosen to work.

I particularly enjoy the process of locative collage, assembling and photographing collected elements from vintage picture books, family photos and my own lino printed houses to build an image. Assembling these elements on location gives the work a broader context within their surroundings. Tiny paper boat cutouts are placed in puddles by the seashore; lino printed houses are positioned on lush lawns, in hedges overlooking burnt out buildings and amongst moss beneath a street sign; miniature model boats are launched in water features complete with paper cut out passengers; cut out characters sit on a coffee machine as coffee rains down from above. Collating these elements into short, stop motion films is a further extension of my attempt to give them a new lease on life, creating a compact little world in which they can exist and explore.