

M E D I A R E L E A S E

SAVINA HOPKINS - CLOSE QUARTERS*Inlet / Outlet, collage on paper, 2013***OPENING: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13TH, 6 - 9 PM****RUBICON ARI: LEVEL 1/309 QUEENSBERRY STREET, NORTH MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, 3051**

Discarded papers with fractured histories and re-configured to create traffic jam tension, watery ease and failed regimentation.

Savina Hopkins has created a series of collage work using old card and paper file tags discarded by government departments due to their non-archival status. The tags originate from Naval Department files from the 1930s and 40s, a time when people were encouraged to recycle and be frugal with all materials. Paper was considered precious and the tags themselves were recycled from society's ephemera - maps, theatre stubs, racing cards and cigarette packs.

The artists' interest in the tags verges on the forensic: the inherent qualities of the paper remnants; colour fading caused by light damage or acidic transfer and embossing or scarring formed by the pressure of rusting file pins. Handwritten notes in careful, proud script, typed standard-issue forms and sections of aged folders are all used in constructing her work. On close inspection it's possible to identify the tags' origin from word fragments and colour clues, and to discover accidental thumbprints or absent-minded doodles. They are intriguing, leaving clues through which one can gather a feel for the sensibilities of their time. Through gathering, arranging and assembling these elements in an artwork the seemingly insignificant has its meaning re-valued and re-interpreted.

“While the tabs contain individual snippets of words in different typeface (or sometimes hand written), along with various truncated shapes and emblems, they share one common characteristic in the perforation that resides at their centre. These small remnants have been injured in their former life, and each carries its own ragged little wound. Yet with infinite care Hopkins has re-invested value into worn shreds of paper that were destined for the bin. In doing so she evokes both the intimate and the abstract, prompting deeper inspection at close quarters. Offsetting the nostalgia for a bygone era that rises through the seams, a subtle word/letter play contained in the works reveal Hopkins’ intellectual approach. As she sets down a paper trail of fragmented human activity, the artist invents a secret language – one that is ultimately left for the viewer to decode.”
- Marguerite Brown

Savina Hopkins is a graduate of The Victorian College of the Arts (BA Fine Art – Painting) and The University of Newcastle (Post Graduate Diploma - Scientific Illustration). She lives and works in Melbourne. Her recent art practice is predominately collage based, with a focus on using unconventional and discarded materials. Her work is held in various collections including The National Archives of Australia, Museum Victoria, The Royal Society of Victoria and Lowensteins Arts Management.

Rubicon ARI

Level 1/309 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, Victoria, 3051

Opening Night: 13th November 6 – 9 pm

Exhibition dates: 13th – 30th November, 2013

Gallery Hours: Wed - Sat, 12-6pm

Entry: Free

Gallery Website: www.rubiconari.com.au

Media Enquiries / Additional Images:

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Unwatched Channel, collage on paper, 2013