

Caitlin Reilly

Caitlin Reilly is an Australian born multi-media artist, singer / songwriter and musician based in Shanghai, China since 2009, returned to live in Australia in 2014. She holds a BA in Visual Art from Southern Cross University Australia. Her arts practice involves working in a broad range of media to create a layering over time, with her recent works inspired by daily life in Shanghai. Caitlin's visual arts practice spans international platforms and is represented in collections throughout Australia, Europe, America, and China.

In 2014 -15, she will take up two artist residencies; at The Swatch Art Peace Hotel <http://www.swatch-art-peace-hotel.com/> and also for Shokay, <http://www.shokay.com/blog/blogDetail?blogId=83> a socially responsible yak down textiles brand based in Shanghai. From these residencies has developed a major project 'Threaded' <http://www.caitlinreilly.com/#/threaded-2014/> Which will see Caitlin and collaborating artists Travel to Qinghai on the Tibetan Plateau, Chongming Island nearby Shanghai, and a wool property outside of Cootamundra in New South Wales Australia. She will work with the yak herding community, spinners, knitters and shearers to create a multi-layered and diverse body of new work exploring the links between these communities at the heart of textile production in both countries. The resulting exhibition will tour Australia and China in 2015-6.

"This will be a step outside my comfort zone of the private studio setting to the open studio of these diverse rural areas. Being able to work with Australian and Chinese artists, travelling to these different communities that are so far removed, yet share this common experience of a culture and history tied to textile production... to use my art to thread it all together in this cultural and community exchange... to move beyond words and to create this lasting record for everyone involved... it completely inspires me."

SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

Charcoal on handmade paper from Guanxi Province China

Frottages of Shanghai's underbelly

"Crouched down on the streets of Shanghai, I place beautiful handmade paper from Guanxi over the drain covers. Rubbing charcoal on paper I reveal patterns, textures and information about secrets below the surface of the street. I trace where I have been, mapping the places that I love and scratch the surface of a China that continues to captivate and hold my gaze with awe and inspiration."

Oil on Canvas ("Abstract I")

These abstract gestural works reveal forms evolving afloat washes of prussian blues, greens and grey tones reflecting a preoccupation with the limits and textural qualities that the medium holds. Using palette knives and scourers, brushes and sponges wrestling with a medium to create an inviting and comforting outcome. These works were made in Caitlin's studio at The Swatch Art Peace Hotel Shanghai 2014.