

# MEDIA RELEASE



1 Art Gallery Way  
Mosman NSW 2088 AUSTRALIA  
02 9978 4178 [mosmanartgallery.org.au](http://mosmanartgallery.org.au)

3 June 2019

## **Kawita Vatanajyankur: *Performing Textiles***

Mosman Art Gallery (MAG) is pleased to present the work of Thai-Australian performance artist Kawita Vatanajyankur from **15 June – 25 August 2019**. The exhibition titled *Performing Textiles* will be exhibited in The Cube, the Gallery's dedicated space for video and experimental art.

*Performing Textiles* is the title of a suite of recent video works in which Vatanajyankur powerfully critiques the many challenges faced by Thai women (and more broadly Asian migrant women) in relation to the backbreaking physical manual labour processes of contemporary manufacturing industries. MAG will present two artworks from this series: *The Spinning Wheel*, 2018 and the world premiere of *Knit*, 2019. These video works were originally conceived during a six-week artist residency with Dunedin Public Art Gallery, New Zealand in 2017, in which the artist continued her investigations into the subject of labour with specific research into New Zealand's wool industry and its associated labour intense, industrial processes

Vatanajyankur has developed a unique visual language throughout her durational artworks, in which her body is the primary instrument, an implement performing a range of machine-like scenarios. As a 'tool of industry', the artist's body is the literal embodiment of the processes that she interrogates and reveals. Vatanajyankur says her art is inspired by her own lived experience and her interest in labour and migrant women's experiences: *Through my work, I place a strong emphasis on the value of the female gender and underline their contribution to the world. I also highlight the hardships endured by labourers – those who are disregarded by the world of materialism, consumerism and industrialism.*

Highlighting the vulnerabilities of the human body and its spirit, Vatanajyankur's works are a celebration of women's strength, endurance and resilience in the face of such burden, provoking questions surrounding consumption, labour, feminism, endurance and social justice.

Since graduating from RMIT University, Melbourne in 2011, Vatanajyankur has achieved significant recognition, exhibiting widely across Australia and internationally. In 2015, she was a finalist in the Jaguar Asia Pacific Tech Art Prize and featured in the prestigious *Thailand Eye* exhibition at Saatchi Gallery, London. In 2017, her work was curated into the *Islands in the Stream* exhibition alongside the 57th Venice Biennale, Asia Triennale of Performing Arts at the Melbourne Arts Centre, as well as *Negotiating the Future* as part of the Asian Art Biennial in Taiwan. Last year Vatanajyankur showed her works as part of the Bangkok Art Biennale 2018, and is currently exhibiting a solo show at Concilio Europeo dell'Arte alongside the 58th Venice Biennale.

Her work is held in the National Collection of Thailand and in museum collections including Singapore Art Museum, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Maiiam Contemporary Art Museum (Thailand), as well as university collections and private collections in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and USA.

Vatanajyankur is currently represented by Nova Contemporary, Bangkok / Alamak! Project / Clear Edition & Gallery, Tokyo and Antidote Organisation, Australia.

*Performing Textiles* will officially open, along with the exhibition *Tracey Moffatt: Body Remembers* at an opening night event on Friday 14 June, 6.30pm.

**Public Program – In Conversation: Kawita Vatanajyankur with Grace Partridge**

Join MAG for an intimate evening as Kawita Vatanajyankur and curator Grace Partridge of Antidote Organisation Australia, discuss the distinctive themes in Vatanajyankur's performative video works. Free, bookings essential. To book visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/BCKOK>

**Kawita Vatanajyankur: *Performing Textiles***

Where: Mosman Art Gallery, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman NSW 2088

On view: Saturday 15 June – Sunday 25 August 2019

Open: 7 days, 10am – 5pm (Wednesday 10am-5pm). Closed public holidays.

Tel: 02 9978 4178

[www.mosmanartgallery.org.au](http://www.mosmanartgallery.org.au)



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