

FOYER GALLERY EXHIBITION

CARCLEW

Echoes of Rococo

10 Apr 2017 - 28 May 2017

Curated | Olivia Kubiak

Artworks | Amanda Ng, Christina Peek, Georgina Chadderton and Tayla Carlaw

Curatorial Statement:

The rococo was an artistic style and movement which started in France in the 18th century. This movement has always fascinated me with its inviting style. It is charismatic, whether it be the elaborate detailing and luxurious gold finishes of its decorative arts or the soft pastel colours used in its images of cherubs, nymphs, and young women picnicking dressed in their pretty gowns. However, the themes that surround the rococo fascinate me even more. Love, flirtation, pleasure, eroticism, myth, youth and playfulness dominate the genre, which is captivating in itself as there are not many other art movements that purely depict the light-hearted things in life. Leisure and play were the subjects at the forefront of rococo art.

‘Echoes of Rococo’ aims to reflect how these ideas, so strongly associated with the rococo period, are still prevalent in the work of today’s contemporary artists. The artists cheekily and playfully express the associated themes of this movement as they reinterpret the rococo. I want to explore how these themes are characterised in art in 2017. I think that the spontaneity and playfulness of this movement reverberate through contemporary art, and that wistful allegories have an important place in this exhibition, which disengages us from reality- even if just for a little while. The rococo implied a life of leisure, which is something most of us desire – after all, who doesn’t enjoy a bit of fun?

The four artists in this exhibition mirror themes of the rococo in very different ways. Georgina’s work is orientated with innocence and youth, and her charming sketches take us all back to our childhoods. The work of Christina is orientated around romance and her works are inspired by love stories. Tayla focuses on beauty and women in the natural world, and Amanda is fascinated with myths and eroticism.

Artists' Statement

Georgina Chadderton

Hello I'm Georgina Chadderton (a.k.a George Rex Comics) and I work mostly work on narrative sequential art (a.k.a comics). Which involves a lot of writing stories, thumbnailing, sketching, inking, scanning and then colouring digitally. This is usually how I make my illustration work too but for the Saturday Morning Toons series I decided to work by all traditional methods. So, instead of digitally colouring my pieces I chose to use copic markers to give a more organic look to the flat colouring technique I am fond of.

The *Saturday Morning Toons* series is a little love letter to my past youth of getting up early to watch all my favourite cartoons and the pleasure that they provided. Cartoons were a big influence on not only my art style but also how I view the world. Although the cartoony style can seem naive or playful, there is often a deeper feeling or idea behind it. *Echoes of Rococo* is all about leisure, play, and fun, which is the feeling I depict in my work. I think that fancy-dress picnics in gardens, and groups of nymphs bathing in the river was the 18th century equivalent to watching cartoons on a Saturday morning. Like the works in the rococo period, I am to create work which temporarily disconnects people from real life and creates a feeling of freedom.

Amanda Ng

I'm Amanda Ng, an illustrator and visual artist based in South Australia. I studied at the University of South Australia and graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor Degree in Visual Communication. I specialise in watercolour and ink painting, and use tone and expressive lines to convey emotions and stories in my images. Inspired by movement and mood, I have a passion for portraiture, and incorporating elements of Australian and Chinese flora and fauna into my artworks.

For the theme of this exhibition, my artworks have an emphasis on fertility and birth, and I have injected elements of playful eroticism throughout. Adding symbols and figures from classical myths and stories has also played a part in fitting this theme, particularly in the form of Sirens, Dragons, and mysterious women.

Christina Peek

The Rococo period highlighted the frivolousness and flirtatiousness of romance. Although the subject of romantic love had been depicted in visual art before, it was often as an allegory, while artists of the Rococo aimed to explore romance as a contemporary phenomenon.

Centuries later, romance is still a contemporary concern. My work explores the disjunct between lived experience and cultural narrative in relation to romantic love. With a particular focus on the flirtatious beginnings of romance, I am interested in the ways we might manifest our tentative ideas of romance in sincere yet futile actions.

Tayla Carlaw

Tayla Carlaw is an Adelaide based self-taught Artist. Her works are inspired by her love of nature and animals. She works in various mediums, mainly focusing on Watercolour, and more recently Aerosol. Her current work marries the painterly styles of Watercolour with Aerosol, producing uniquely rendered, bright, colourful masterpieces that evoke happiness and capture the spirit and imagination on many.

My work for Echoes of Rococo includes, Candy, Own World and Hush, which represent a series of ladies and their connection with nature. It is inspired by the painterly styles, boldness and the thought provoking ways of the Rococo Art. Rococo was originated in the 18th century and is identified by the scenes of atmosphere, love and fantasy. As described by Novala Takemoto *'Prizing elegance, sweet emotions, and fantasy more than morals and truth; wallowing in fleeting romance rather than trying to give meaning to life'*. I wanted to create works with the same feeling of peace in nature, as that is how I view Rococo art. I see women dressed in heavy gowns, reaching nature and allowing themselves to breath. I hope to inspire the viewer of my work in the same light.

Find out more about the artists:

Georgina Chadderton

Website: www.georgerexcomics.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/georgerexcomics/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/girlrexdoor/>

Amanda Ng

Website: <http://www.amanda-ng.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/amandangart>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/mandwillow> or @mandwillow

Christina Peek

Website: <https://www.christinapeek.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Christina-Peek-1659934434290397/>

Tayla Carlaw

Website: www.taylacarlaw.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/artoftaylacarlaw

Instagram: @tayla.carlaw

Artwork list:

Georgina Chadderton

Series title: Saturday Morning Toons

Individual titles:

- 1) Georgina, Chadderton, *Saturday Morning Toons // Arthur*, 2017, Copic markers and felt tip pens on watercolour paper, 15.5 x 20.5 cm (includes frame)
- 2) Georgina, Chadderton, *Saturday Morning Toons // Daria*, 2017, Copic markers and felt tip pens on watercolour paper, 15.5 x 20.5 cm (includes frame)
- 3) Georgina, Chadderton, *Saturday Morning Toons // Fairly Odd Parents*, 2017, Copic markers and felt tip pens on watercolour paper, 15.5 x 20.5 cm (includes frame)
- 4) Georgina, Chadderton, *Saturday Morning Toons // Ahh, Real Monsters*, 2017, Copic markers and felt tip pens on watercolour paper, 15.5 x 20.5 cm (includes frame)

Price: \$160 each or set of four for \$600

Amanda Ng

- 5) Amanda Ng, *Silks*, 2017, Ink and watercolour on paper, 52 x 40 cm (framed), \$500

I have a best friend that is an aerial silks artist. Her strength, grace and beauty while performing inspired me to paint her in her element. This painting is also themed around the mystery that comes with 'circus life' and the magical world in which it takes the audience.

- 6) Amanda Ng, *Today's Dragon*, 2017, Ink, watercolour and acrylic on paper, 52 x 40 cm (framed), \$500

In Chinese mythology, dragons are a symbol of power, good luck, and male fertility (among many other positive adjectives). Chinese dragons are also gentle and wise creatures, rather than the ferocious monsters they are often depicted as in other cultures. In this painting, the dragon greets the swimmer while it swirls its way through the clouds, making sure to keep the pathways of the modern aircrafts unobstructed.

- 7) Amanda Ng, *Siren*, 2017, ink and watercolour on paper, 60 x 50 cm (framed), \$420

This image is loosely based on the Sirens of Greek mythology. Sirens were beautiful creatures - half woman, half bird - who lured sailors to their doom using their beautiful singing voices. In all of my new paintings, I have considered some of the elements of Rococo art movement,

focusing mostly on the colour palette and ornate curves present in many of the artworks of that time.

8) Amanda Ng, *Nu*, 2017, ink and watercolour on paper, 57 x 38, 70 x 50 cm (framed), \$650

This painting is a nod to the surreal nature of growing a child. I used to consider pregnancy and birth to be unspectacular, something that adults were a part of. Now I am an adult, and becoming more aware of how absurd and remarkable it is for two people's cells to create a whole new person.

9) Amanda Ng, *Quince Hands I*, 2015, ink and watercolour on paper, 24 x 34, 34 x 44 cm (framed), \$180

Both Pome Hands and Quince Hands I are works that I created at a time when I was working in a small fruit and veg shop. I'd been enticed by the bright red of the pomegranate skin; the sheen and smoothness of it. I began to play with the arrangements of various fruit and discovered that if held in a certain way, there was an erotic playfulness that shined through the image.

10) Amanda Ng, *Pome Hands*, 2015, ink and watercolour on paper, 24 x 34cm, 34 x 44cm (framed), \$180

Christina Peek

11) Christina Peek, *Someone Like You*, 2016, bespoke perfume created to imitate a past lovers scent, 9 x 3 x 3 cm, \$800

12) Christina Peek, *The Love Jumpers*, 2015, artist's own jumper, wool, sizes variable, \$600

13) Christina Peek, *I love the idea of you*, 2015, linen, cotton thread, Australian oak, 180 x 51 cm, \$1,000

14) Christina Peek, *Dirty Pretty*, 2016, bed linen, lipstick, wax, 21.5 x 26 cm, \$200

15) Christina Peek, *It started with a kiss... (framed)*, 2016, lipstick on paper, 35.5 x 46.5 cm, \$220

Tayla Carlaw

16) Tayla Carlaw, *Hush*, 2012, Watercolour, aerosol and marker on canvas, 38 x 76cm, \$125

17) Tayla Carlaw, *Own world*, 2016, Acrylic, aerosol and marker on canvas, 70 x 30cm, \$185

18) Tayla Carlaw, *Candy*, 2016, Watercolour, acrylic and aerosol on canvas, 60 x 60cm, \$265