OBJECT LESSONS I: PAINTING

CRUTHERS COLLECTION OF WOMEN’S ART
28 APRIL – 27 JUNE 2015

OBJECT LESSONS is an exhibition in three parts, unfolding over three consecutive exhibition periods in the Lady Sheila Cruthers Gallery at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, University of Western Australia.

Each discrete ‘chapter’ presents contemporary art from the Cruthers Collection of Women’s Art in which the fundamental properties of the art object are used to address enduring questions of representation, perception and the role of art in society.

OBJECT LESSONS I: Painting brings together works that muse on painting as a noun and a verb, considering its heavy history, its continued re-invention and its shifting forms and meanings. Paintings made from ochre from the far North West of Australia meet paintings made using nail polish from the East Coast meet animated PowerPoints that reference well-known painters like Robert Motherwell and Sidney Nolan in pixels. Rather than seeking to define what is or isn’t a painting, the exhibition offers a buffet of different approaches to and perspectives on painting and painters that shed light on the medium’s enduring significance and popularity.

“Painting has been declared dead and resurrected so many times over the history of modern art. It tends to survive as a relevant medium no matter how technology evolves, and I think that’s because of, rather in spite of the historical ‘weight’ of the medium. There’s the possibility of infinite variety and experimentation but also a sense of an ongoing framework and continuum.” – Curator Gemma Weston

In addition to works from the CCWA, OBJECT LESSONS I: Painting features a new site-specific commission from Western Australian artist Shannon Lyons. Lyons is also featured in HERE&NOW15, presented concurrently in LWAG’s main galleries, but her multidisciplinary practice transcends the genres of painting, the subject of OBJECT LESSONS I, and sculpture, the subject of HERE&NOW15, working with the usually invisible ‘behind the scenes’ languages of installation and the gallery infrastructure itself.
ABOUT THE CCWA

The Cruthers Collection of Women’s Art (CCWA) is a unique collection of over 600 artworks by Australian women artists, including works from the 1890s to present day. The foundation of the collection is a substantial gift made to the University of Western Australia in 2007 by Sir James and Lady Sheila Cruthers. It continues to expand through focused acquisition and generous donation and is the focus of a year-long series of exhibitions at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, overseen by collection curator Gemma Weston.

OBJECT LESSONS I: Painting
Opening: Friday 28 April, 6 - 8pm
Exhibition: 28 April - 27 June 2015
Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm
FREE EXHIBITION

NEXT

OBJECT LESSONS II: Curtain Situations, 11 July – 19 September 2015
OBJECT LESSONS III: Pattern Recognition, 3 October – 5 December 2015

For further information, interviews and images, please contact Clare McFarlane, Marketing Assistant, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, The University of Western Australia, on +61 8 6488 7806, or at clare.mcfarlane@uwa.edu.au (NB: Clare works Monday – Thursday)