

Alberto Gabellone and Cathy Zhang
Negative Space

6 - 15 March 2020
at Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Manuka
curated by Sophia Holloway



Cathy Zhang, *The Quantity of Being* 2019

Alberto Gabellone and Cathy Zhang

Negative Space

Negative space, in regard to sculpture, refers to the space around an object (ie the gallery space), or the space within that emphasises form. These seemingly empty voids are a space of becoming. Negative spaces conjure up a vast nothingness – of blank canvas or white porcelain – but also signify potential and a moment of creation. These spaces are at once absence and presence, on the cusp of being and nothingness. Negative spaces prompt us to contemplate the void in art, and the void within.

Negative Space, curated by Sophia Halloway, explores concepts of negative space through the work of **Alberto Gabellone** and **Cathy Zhang**. Gabellone and Zhang's practices in drawing and ceramics respectively manifest in sculptural works that rely on proportion, line and geometric qualities to emphasise form. The medium and form of the works comprise their reality, encouraging contemplation.

Gabellone's practice originates in drawing. The progression of abstraction into sculptural forms on paper reflect Gabellone's dual Italian and Finnish heritage. His works use scale, line, tone and colour to create non-specific space. Light effects on the low relief elements create shadow and reflection, altering the pictorial plane and engaging the viewer with the negative space around the line and colour elements. The negative spaces in Gabellone's work could just as easily be interpreted as positive space, as the artist draws on colour theory to bring our attention to these voids between.

Zhang's practice examines our relationships to self through ceramic objects. The negative spaces within her work encourage introspection, while other forms such as pyramids reference our place in the world. These forms at once suggest the stable foundations of civilisation, and our increasingly fragile position on the earth in the current era. Zhang integrates other media such as metal to extend her ceramic medium and alludes to the complexities of contemporary life.

Negative Space examines the complimentary and conflicting aspects of the artists' respective media and practices, encouraging contemplation of the space around us, and within us.

Alberto Gabellone is a Queanbeyan-based gold and silversmith whose practice originates in the drawing process, investigating themes of harmony, tension, form, movement and rhythm that manifest in sculptural pieces. Gabellone integrates his dual Italian and Finnish heritage into a simultaneously contemporary and enduring aesthetic.

Gabellone completed his first degree with Honours at the ANU School of Art & Design Graphic Investigation workshop sub-majoring in Glass, and went onto complete postgraduate studies with distinction in the Gold and Silversmithing workshop. Select exhibition history includes 14th Jewellers and Metalsmith Guild of Australia (JMGA) Biennial in 2010, Bilk Coloured Christmas, Sideshow Adelaide, Bilk Green Christmas and Snowy Mountains 50th Anniversary Exhibition.

Cathy Zhang is a Canberra-based artist whose practice examines the hidden self through ceramic objects. Her work explores interpersonal relationships and the inner self, aspects that are often neglected in our hyper-connected world. Zhang extends the relationship between clay and other mediums, with the addition of metal and paper to signify the various distractions of the human condition.

Zhang graduated from the ANU School of Art & Design and is the recipient of several awards including the Canberra Potters Society Residency Award and Group Exhibition Award, and the Mansfield Ceramics Clay Gulgong Exhibition Prize. Zhang has exhibited in a number of group and solo shows including *Some-thing* at Gaffa Gallery, *ANU School of Art & Design Drawing Prize*, *Solo Pegboard Exhibition* at M16 Artspace and the *Annual Members' Exhibition* at Canberra Potters Society.

Sophia Halloway is a Canberra-based emerging curator and writer. She graduated from the ANU School of Art & Design with a Bachelor of Art History & Curatorship with First Class Honours and was the recipient of the Janet Wilkie Memorial Prize for Art History & Art Theory, the Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation's Curatorial Award and the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Internship Prize.

She is a 2020 Critic-in-Residence for Australian National Capital Artists (ANCA) and Art Monthly Australasia. Her work has been published by Artonview, Canberra Contemporary Art Space and the ANU Student Research Journal. Sophia currently works at the National Gallery of Australia.

canberra
contemporary
ART
SPACE