



**HOLDSWORTH HOUSE MEDICAL
PRACTICE & HIROMI TANGO**
MONDAY 13TH JULY

“Make it crazy! Populate the space,” directs Dr Dick Quan, as the artist Hiromi Tango installs her work. We are in the newly relocated Holdsworth House, a medical practice which rivals an art gallery and with Dr Quan, who is like the medicinal version of David Walsh – funny, inclusive, mad and visionary, at the centre of it all. Dr Quan purchased the Nature/Nurture piece by Hiromi Tango at Art Basel Hong Kong earlier this year. It will compliment the natural views out across Hyde Park here in Sydney and sit explosively alongside the Tracey Moffat’s and other incredible works that Dr Quan has amassed over the past decades of collecting. And so we are here to watch Hiromi install her work, like a private installation just for us. Nature/Nurture is a beating heart of memories and tokens, and so many emotions. “Scotch guard and regular dusting,” she quips will keep it clean. Love a practical artist.

Hiromi has been working on it for many years and it is extremely personal, including a thick ponytail of her hair cut off when her daughter was six months old and a celebration of her first baby’s safe delivery; it captures her anxiousness thought the pregnancy with all the tiny obsessive stitching; her daughters breast feeding book is bound into it with her milk records, her sleep patterns; it records her first daughter’s obsession with Dora; her grandmother’s Kimono, subtly hand painted; and bits donated by people taking part in performance workshops, and so there is a randomness, a watch, explosions of wool and colour. “It’s an exchanging dialogue and whatever box I chose I pick and mix – it’s like left over fridge cooking,” she laughs describing it. “I can’t hold on to all of those memories, it’s a relief to let go, and that process is very similar to the neural network – you have to cut, we used scissors for all the cutting.”

In the last two years Hiromi has particularly researched the trauma recovery process, “And worked with psychologists and psychiatrists about how to create a safe environment for people to unwrap their emotions – and so even though the work is dynamic, the choice of colour I applied uses colour therapy – and those pink and reds can put you in touch with the very strong part of your memory, red is of course a colour of passion but potentially negative – anger and resentment – and so I apply the rose oil which is good for anger, aromatherapy, light therapy and colour theory and those mirror balls are for the reflections which are good for children’s brain development.”

She adds “Hopefully it is a gentle way for patients to engage with the work and be in touch, activate their brains in a safe environment and that the warm bright colours are uplifting.” It is fascinating watching her at work, adding ‘tentacles’ with the collaboration of Paul the professional art installer, hammering, staple gun at the ready. It grows ever more luscious and untamed.

“It has a movement, Japanese breathing techniques, archery and stillness and I’ve combined all those. It has brush movements and calligraphy which is a performance in itself” she explains. And so the shapes suggest this movement, organic and yet formed. “Nature/Nurture is the biology and psychology, the health of the garden and the rainforest are all part of this too.” And of the giant tear drop with the neon words she explains “This was originated by the peoples tears coming out of the heart and the brain and it’s painful and they haven’t been processed yet. And so the main goal of the work for me is to be intimate and to be in touch with your emotions.”

You want to be sick, if you aren’t a patient then become one.
by av

www.holdsworthhouse.com.au

Hiromi Tango is represented by Sullivan + Strumpf.







AV, Hiromi Tango and Dr Dick Quan