

May 2021

## SIAN KELLY

### Artist Statement

The body is a site in Western art that is categorised by corporeal symbolism pertaining to a specifically binary model of gender.

The way we are taught to read the body as gendered presents a significant chasm between the expanded philosophical concept of gender, and its translation into a visual field of thought.

*Residues 1-5 (2019-20)* sit in the space between embodiment and legibility. Born from the performative gesture of the artist binding their chest with artificial skin, each sculpture presents a relief of the artist's body, fossilizing what is an otherwise temporal state of transformation.

The *Residue* sculptures make up part of the artist's work *Body Language (2020)*, a collection of works across sculpture, performance and installation that seeks to prompt the audience to critique binary perception, categorisation and consumption of the body. To push up against spectularity and gain autonomy.

*Residues 1-5* are a series of auto-biographical sculptures that strive to align the visual presence of the artist's body not just with their own identity as non-binary, but with the expanded philosophical and phenomenological concept of gender as a whole.

### Biography

Sian Kelly is an emerging artist based on Gadigal Land of the Eora Nation [Sydney], in so-called Australia.

Their interdisciplinary practice utilises core mediums of drawing, ceramics, performance, installation and sculpture to investigate the political landscapes of both gender and the body. They are particularly interested in the subtle points at which the two touch, or pull away.

Kelly has exhibited in galleries throughout the greater Sydney region, including Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, UNSW Galleries, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. 2020 Saw their debut solo exhibition, *Body Language*, at Kudos Gallery, and second solo exhibition, *Eggshells*, at Sydney Art Collective.

They have been placed as a finalist in such awards as the TWT Excellence Award, Kudos Emerging Artist and designer Award, Yen/Staedtler Art Award, and ArtExpress.

Kelly has received a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from UNSW Art and Design.





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### Solo Exhibitions

2020 Sydney Art Collective, Eggshells, November  
Marrickville, Australia

Kudos Gallery, Body Language, February  
Paddington, Australia

### Group Exhibitions

2019 UNSW Galleries, 'The Annual' Graduate Exhibition, November-December  
Paddington, Australia

Roller Door Projects, 'Analysand', October  
Erskineville, Australia

2018 Roller Door Projects, 'Feast', September  
Erskineville, Australia

UNSW A&D Black Box, 'Unveiled', June  
Paddington, Australia

2017 R.A.W. Presents 'Transcend', November  
Campsie, Australia

Goodspace Gallery, 'Goodstuff at Goodspace', November  
Chippendale, Australia

AD Space, 'Sydney Craft Week', October  
Paddington, Australia

Kudos Gallery, 'Kudos Live, Volume 2 Part 2', October  
Paddington, Australia

AD Space, 'This is Where Your Tax Payer Dollars are Going', June  
Paddington, Australia

2016 Art Gallery of NSW, 'Bring Back the Bush' Annual Member's Dinner, public performance, November  
Sydney, Australia

UNSW Art and Design, 'I am Having a Bath With My Friend' public performance, November  
Paddington, Australia

# Stanley Street gallery

## Awards

- 2019    UNSW Galleries, TWT Excellence Award, November  
         Paddington  
         Finalist
- 2018    Kudos Gallery, Kudos Emerging Artist and Designer Award, August-September  
         Paddington  
         Finalist
- 2017    Kudos Gallery, Kudos Emerging Artist and Designer Award, August-September  
         Paddington  
         Finalist
- 2016    Kudos Gallery, Kudos Emerging Artist and Designer Award, August-September  
         Paddington  
         Finalist
- 2015    Gaffa Gallery, Yen/Staedtler Art Award, June  
         Sydney  
         Finalist
- Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Artexpress, February-March  
         Gympie