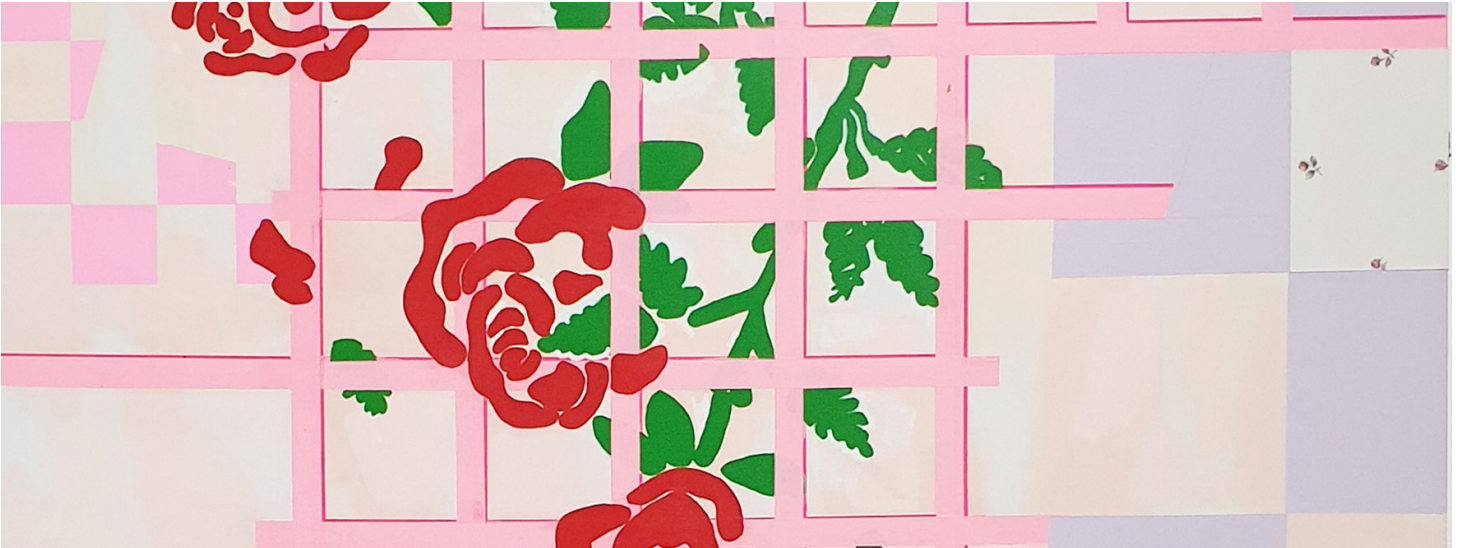


GRID INTERRUPTED

Melissah Grace Chalker Solo Exhibition

December 7 - 28, 2019

Opening Reception: Saturday, December 7, 5-7pm



The Cluster Gallery is pleased to announce “Grid Interrupted”; a solo show featuring works by Australian artist Melissah Grace Chalker, curated by Dr. Sabrina Puppin. The exhibition presents the work created by the artist during her residency at The Cluster Art Studios Brooklyn in New York. It will be on view from December 7th through 28th 2019 with a public opening reception on December 7th, 2019, 5-7pm.

The body of work presented is the result of the artist’s experiences and reflections on the chaos engulfing our contemporary society. Anxiety may be unavoidable, pathological and possibly the most prevailing condition in a civilization undergoing radical change. Inspired by the words of Rosalind Krauss, Melissah G. Chalker reflects on the use of the grid as a flat foreclosure – a conceptual surface structure that insistently flattens space and in so doing shuts down pictorial space and simultaneously acts as the sign of modernist originality.

Through the use of layered spaces and grids the artist conceals the anxiety of conflicted machine-like gender-neutral female worker-object. Grids organize the pictorial space as imaginary depth allowing the eyesight to pass into imaginary spaces while leaving the other senses behind, much like looking through a fence. Things can appear “behind” a grid, “in front” of it or “on it” – the grid prefigures separation and ordering of space. Melissah uses a minimalist vocabulary to create both two- and three-dimensional work. Her practice situates itself within the paradigm of geometric abstraction. There is a strong interest in the materiality of objects and this is displayed through an interplay of reflective and matte surfaces, as canvasses are redefined as art objects, inviting the viewer to consider their sculptural qualities. Blurring the line between sculptural relief and hard-edge abstraction her practice has a reliance upon a precise square and grid formatting inferring a link to modernist traditions. Her non-objective art practice is playful, as she tails an atypical approach allowing for the creation of contemporary non-objective art.

Melissah Chalker was born in Sydney, Australia and Graduated from the National Art School in 2010 with BA Hons in Fine Arts. She has shown at FirstDraft, Sydney, The Hole NYC, New York, Sydney Non- Objective Gallery, Sydney, Melbourne University, Melbourne, This Is Not Art (TINA), Sydney, Articulate Projects, Sydney, SCA DedSpace, Sydney, and Lilac City, Sydney.

She lived and worked in New York City from 2012-2015 where she was inspired whilst being surrounded by concrete in New York, and influenced by all she saw around her from the neon signs to objects processed and manufactured through technology that alter the viewing of it. These materials created infinite possibilities and that are abstractly tangible, and affected her day-to-day work as a visual merchandiser and stylist at MUD NYC. She now resides in Sydney where she has continued to bring her experience of living in New York into physical materiality through her practice.