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**Practice** I am a Textile Artist specialising in free machine embroidery, hand stitching and mending based in Melbourne. I explore my surroundings and interpret what I see through the medium of embroidery. In my works composition, I combine light, colour, shape and texture to recreate images that inspire me. My work has been exhibited in Australia and the United Kingdom. My practice engages with the environment recreating the images and shapes in my embroidered works in both 2D and 3D form. Photos are the starting point as I explore my subject matter onto fabric, painting with a needle and thread. Much of my work portrays my concerns surrounding climate change and the treatment of asylum seekers. I find textiles to be a perfect medium to express my thoughts using hand and machine stitching.

The majority of my work incorporates upcycled or reclaimed materials. Working with found materials I find the joy is the unexpected uses that can be found for them. I love this unpredictability and enjoy the inventiveness necessary to transform them. The choice of materials can also be a key part of the story. The materials not only highlight a need to address the amount of waste we produce, but also contributes to the story, things with a history that have been discarded and might otherwise end up in landfill.

I teach workshops passing on the core skills to enable mending, reclaiming, upcycling materials along with embroidery workshops. It is a core part of my practice along with my work promoting and facilitating community arts projects and sustainable practices.

**Solo Exhibitions**

2020	'Fractured Earth' – Lane Cove Gallery Sculpture Plinth - Sydney
2016	'Stitch by Stitch' - 69 Smith St Gallery – Melbourne
2009	'Spring Landscapes' – Body Works Studio – Canberra

**Prizes**

2015	Honourable Mention - End of Year Show – 69 Smith St Gallery – Melbourne
2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize 'Reuse, Reclaim, Recycle' – Green Lifestyle – Canberra
2004	People's Choice - 'Recycled – Reborn'- Cuppacumbalong Gallery – Tharwa
2004	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - 'Footsteps on Campus: Connections with Environment' - Australian National University – Canberra
2002	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - Seer Green Art Show – Buckinghamshire, UK

**Curatorial Projects**

2017	Moreland Quilt exhibition – Town Hall Art Space - Melbourne
2014 - Present	Developed and curated Creativesandmakers.com.au –supporting Melbourne artists & craftspeople
2009-13	Developed and curated www.CanberraHandmade.com –web portal promoting arts and crafts.
2009	Switch to Green art show – Exhibition Centre - Canberra

**Group Exhibitions**

2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make A Fuss – Queen Victoria Women's Centre - Melbourne</li> <li>• Stitch On – Schoolhouse Gallery - Hobart</li> <li>• Miniature Textile – Wangaratta Art Gallery</li> <li>• Arts Under Lockdown – Counterweave - Online</li> <li>• TransCultural Exchange's Hello World project - Online</li> <li>• The Meaning of Things – Craft Victoria</li> <li>• Woman Up! - Impress Printmakers Studio &amp; Gallery - Brisbane</li> </ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Another Artist' - No Vacancy Gallery - Melbourne</li> <li>• 'Circular' – Blakdot Gallery - Melbourne</li> <li>• 'Language and Liberty' – Counihan Art Gallery – Melbourne</li> <li>• Linden Post Card Show – Linden New Art - Melbourne</li> </ul>
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Works – Brunswick Street Gallery - Melbourne</li> <li>• Strut Your Stuff – Art Exhibition – Brunswick</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 x 40 Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery - Melbourne</li> <li>• 'The Last Show' – 69 Smith Street Gallery - Melbourne</li> <li>• 'Factivism' – Counihan Art Gallery - Melbourne</li> <li>• Linden Post Card Show – Linden New Art - Melbourne</li> <li>• Small Works Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery – Melbourne</li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 x 40 Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery - Melbourne</li> <li>• Linden Post Card Show – Linden New Art - Melbourne</li> </ul>

- Small Works Art Prize – Brunswick Street Gallery – Melbourne

- 2012 • Sustainable Art, Craft & Design – Belconnen Arts Centre – Canberra
- 2011 • Harvest Festival of Art, Design & Wine – Belconnen Arts Centre – Canberra
- You Are Here – Reloved Creations Design Hub – Canberra
- 2010 • Footprints Festival in the Gardens – Australian National Botanic Gardens – Canberra
- Re Loved Re Vamped – Craft ACT – Canberra
- Belco Bazaar – Celebrating local Environmental Design, Art & Craft – Belconnen Arts Centre – Canberra
- 2006 • Local Hands – Craft ACT – Canberra
- Designers & Creators Expo 06 – Canberra
- 2004 • ACT Embroidery Guild Exhibition – Canberra
- Tuggeranong Regional Art Prize - Tuggeranong Arts Centre – Canberra
- 2002 • Beaconsfield Exhibition of Art – Buckinghamshire, UK
- 2001 • Beaconsfield Exhibition of Art – Buckinghamshire, UK
- 1999 • Aylesbury Exhibition of Art – Buckinghamshire, UK

#### Residencies

- 2019 - Artist Residency – Curtin Springs – NT
- 2017 - Desert Harmony Festival – Volunteer Artist

#### Workshops

- Free machine embroidery, hand embroidery, remake, repair and upcycling workshops
- 2019 Sustainable Living Festival – workshops and presentations – Melbourne
- 2019 Craft Cubed – workshops – visible mending and embroidery
- 2016 Craft Cubed – Repair, Remake and Swap workshop

#### Projects

- 2020 • Zero Waste Festival – coordination committee and online mending demonstrations
- Sustainable Living Festival – mending demonstrations
- Brunswick Repair Café – Brunswick Tool Library
- 2019 • Brunswick Repair Café – Brunswick Tool Library
- Zero Waste Festival – mending demonstrations
- Social Studio – teaching and mentoring students learning to sew.
- 2017 • Facilitating the Moreland Quilt - community engagement arts project to create 5 wall hangings representing City of Moreland resident’s cultural diversity and curating the final exhibition
- Teaching hand embroidery – Robinson Reserve Neighbourhood House
- Art + Climate = Change 2017 - Festival Volunteer
- Craft Victoria – Volunteer
- 2016 • Community Grant recipient to create the ‘Moreland Quilt’ – Moreland City Council
- 2011 • Sustainable Festival – ACT Government
- 2010-13 • Remake workshops – Teaching reclaiming, up-cycling and remaking techniques to update clothing and home wares
- 2009 • Management Committee for Switch to Green conference, art show and expo - Canberra
- 2004-6 • Leading Craft Classes introducing nature weaving to Year 5 children – Canberra
- 2000 • Working with children aged 4 – 11 creating Millennium Banners - UK
- 1996 - 2003 • Demonstrating spinning and weaving to children aged 6 – 10 – UK

#### Publications

Machine Embroidery & Textile Art – Vol 13 No 2  
 Textile Beat - <http://textilebeat.com/a-meditative-process-tamara-russell/>  
 ClimateXChange – <http://canberra.climatexchange.org.au/recycling-in-the-arts-and-crafts>  
 Arts Muster - <https://www.artsmuster.com.au/post/tamara-and-the-art-of-mending-and-recycling>

#### Memberships

Society for Embroidered Work (S.E.W)  
 Embroiderers Guild Victoria  
 Craft Victoria  
 Naarm Textile Collective  
 Women's Art Register