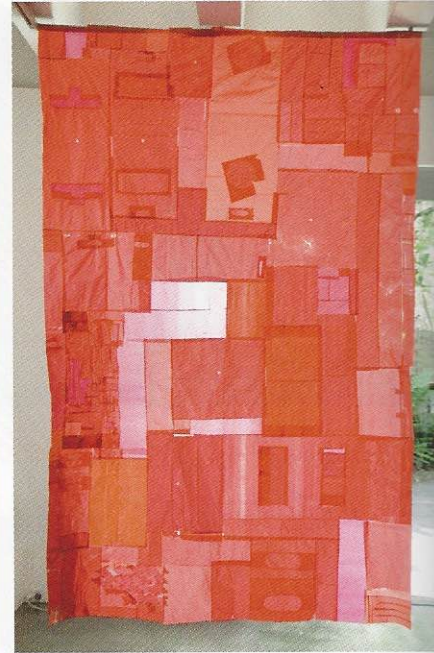
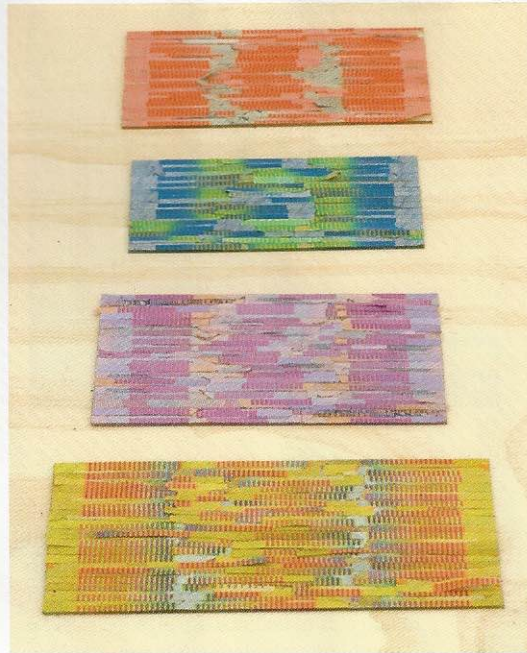


Sarah Goffman

Born: 1966 | Price Range: \$150 – \$1,000 | Contact: goffgirl_2000@yahoo.com | Web: peanutbutterandchocolatecups.blogspot.com



Sarah Goffman's practice is not just concerned with the ethics of living sustainably or driven by righteous anger about our throwaway culture. It is also suffused by love for beautiful objects and by the delight that creating and beholding such beauty can bring. As an inveterate collector, Goffman has for years honed her eye to pick out beauty in the most unlikely places – the gutter, the recycling bin – indeed wherever something is discarded or overlooked as useless. Beauty for Goffman is all the more poignant when it is unexpected, as when it emerges from transformations born of resourcefulness. Beauty, then, becomes a grassroots survival strategy, a clever defence against the ugliness of inequity, greed and conspicuous consumption.

Goffman discovers what is resilient and timeless in what was thought to be only the superfluous packaging for the real thing. In recent work, she creates *trompe l'oeil* sculptures and installations inspired by

the aesthetics of museum-worthy Asian antiquities, using plastics collected during regular gleaning rounds of the street or local doorknocking. Touched by the artist's wit, a transparent doughnut box becomes a sacred scroll, a takeaway container lid a willow pattern plate, a PET bottle a Ming vase. While the artist is interested in the idea of fakery, these exquisite works are not trying to fool us; rather, they are a reminder that the world is indeed not all appearances. Their irony is not detached but pinpoints the hubris of consumerism as much as our tendency to equate monetary value with moral value.

Goffman's is the perfect art for a post-growth economy, an art that can find beauty in thrift and improvisation rather than endless expenditure, an art that inverts the hierarchies of value that disempower the 99 per cent. Beautiful, witty and ethical – what more could we ask of contemporary art?

Jacqueline Milner

From above left:

Sarah Goffman, *Plastic Arts*, 2010. PET plastics, enamel paint and permanent marker.

PHOTO: MIKE MYERS

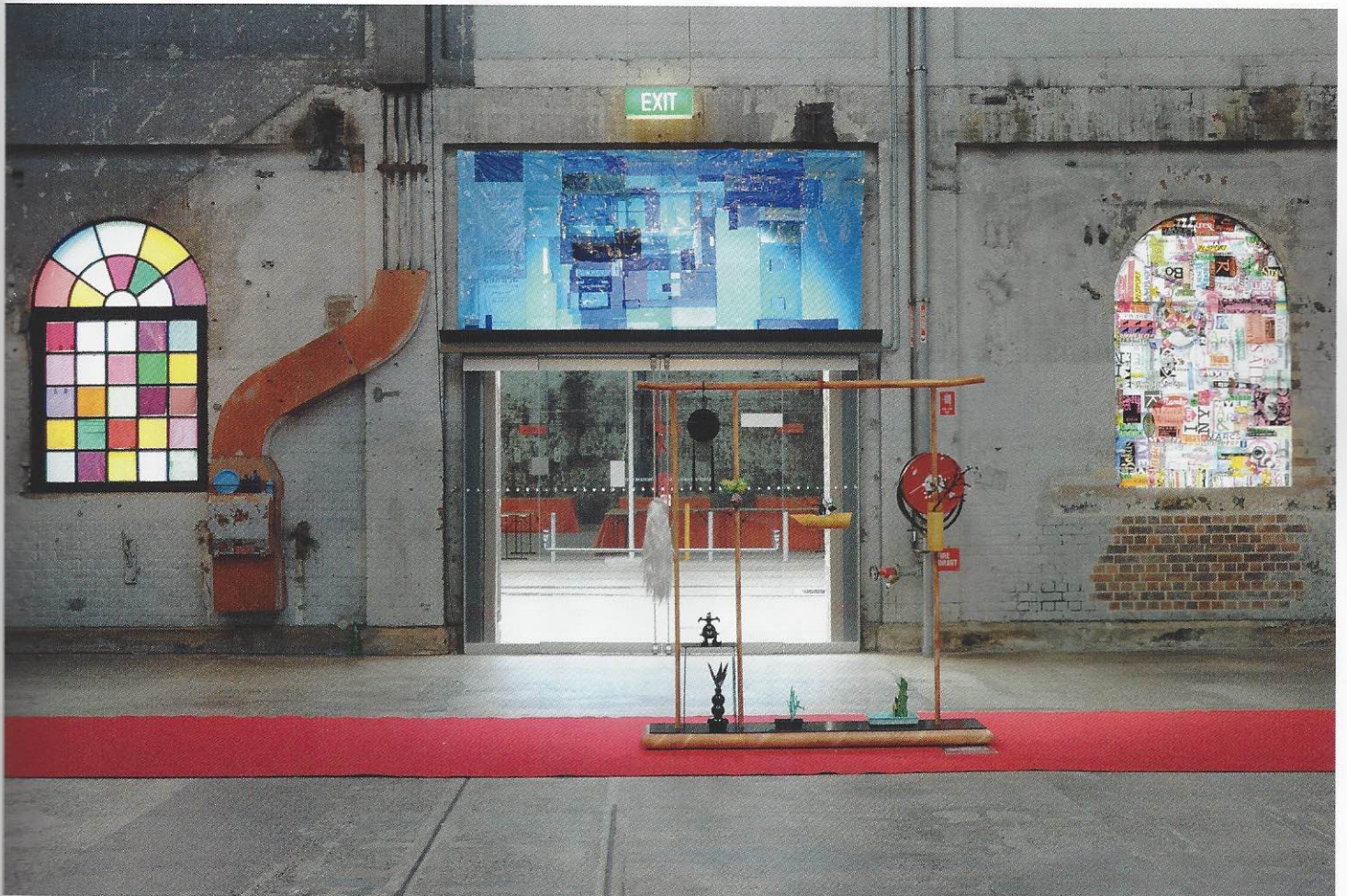
Sarah Goffman, *Pineapples and Lobsters*, 2009. Collected fragments of banknotes, adhesive and glass. PHOTO: JAMIE NORTH

Sarah Goffman, *Paradise Found*, 2008. Plastics, sellotape. PHOTO: NORTH SULLIVAN

Sarah Goffman, *Trashcan dreams*, 2010. Plastics, PVC, paint, wood, hot glue, resin. PHOTO: GARTH KNIGHT

Sean Crossley

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