

Monica Rohan

Disappearing Act

25 April – 13 May 2023

Jan Murphy Gallery is pleased to present *Disappearing Act* by Brisbane based artist Monica Rohan.

“Disappearing Act examines feelings of anxiety and concern toward landscapes under threat. In these paintings, curtains of patterned textiles are drawn back by disembodied hands, creating portals to seemingly idyllic environments beyond. Against the depth of these vistas the fabrics flatten into abstract designs that hinder and distract the eye, drawing attention to the way paintings mediate our experience of the landscape. This tension between the textiles and what they conceal transforms the landscape into an ambiguous, uncanny space that oscillates between anxiety and calm.” – Monica Rohan, 2023

Disappearing Act is Monica Rohan’s sixth solo exhibition with the gallery and her most ambitious to date. Known for her intimate and intricate style that displays a sensitivity to her surroundings, these works theatrically celebrate the Australian landscape and explore the anxiety of climate uncertainty.

Meticulously painted vistas are slowly revealed behind swathes of patterned, vintage fabric. Hands slip between these makeshift curtains; seemingly pulling us towards the environment and gesturing that the show is about to start. In her own gentle, surreal way, Monica is spotlighting slithers of the natural landscape, at threat of becoming remnants themselves.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Monica Rohan has been a finalist in some of Australia’s most prestigious art prizes including the Archibald Prize (2020 and 2016), the Dobell Drawing Prize (2019), Sunshine Coast Art Prize (2018) the Sulman Prize (2017) and the Gold Award (2016). Most recently Rohan has been a finalist in the Brisbane Portrait Prize (2022 and Highly Commended 2021) and was featured in the major group exhibition *Wrestlemania* at Rockhampton Museum of Art in 2022.

Her work is held in private and public collections, including Artbank, University of Queensland Art Museum, QAGOMA, Museum of Brisbane, Tweed Regional Gallery, and the Griffith University Art Museum.