

Lincoln Austin

Unbecoming

16 May – 3 June 2023

If you want to find the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency and vibration.

Nikola Tesla (1942)

“Search below the perceivable surface and solidity of all matter and you will find simple energy fields, bustling in states of constant adjustments, endlessly becoming, unbecoming, and rebecoming. Quantum particles buzzing and vibrating at various frequencies in a dance of attraction and repulsion.

In his 2018 article in Scientific America Dr Tam Hunt, University of California, Santa Barbara (with colleague Dr Jonathan Schooler) presents their ‘resonance theory of consciousness’.

Their theory postulates that all matter is conscious, i.e. capable of synchronised interaction. Bring two particles together and their behaviour changes, in time they sync to each other’s rhythm. They are communicating, calling and responding, however rudimentary. As the complexity of the amalgam of particles increases new paths (and modes) of communication are possible, consciousness increasing by more than the sum of its parts.

I recently redefined my personal definition of art to be ‘the physical manifestation of thought through effort in time’.

Consciousness co-exists with matter, matter can only exist in time, matter and thought are inseparable. Matter is the conduit of communion, sound through air, image through light, growth through ingestion, touch through flesh, and data through glass fibre and radio waves.

As is my custom, this exhibition is not a monoculture, it reflects the complexity of an individual’s fertile experience. I promised Jan Murphy on our first meeting ‘this show will be operatic in its range’. These works are a conversation between me and the various materials I have lived alongside, fought for and against, and loved. If Dr Hunt is correct these objects and I have communicated. These amalgams of matter, brought into proximity, are communicating and harmonising with each other, and in their turn, talking to an audience. ‘*Unbecoming*’ is an amalgam of autonomous yet deeply connected objects, hopefully increasing by more than the sum of their parts. My thoughts (influenced by those of many) materially manifest through effort in time.”

– Lincoln Austin, 2023

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lincoln Austin’s sculptural works play across materials and scale, from intricate assemblages to expansive installations. Austin’s artworks invite the viewer to engage and experience shifting fields of colour, movement and form. The works in *Unbecoming* span a variety of media including painting, sculpture and a hand-sewn quilt. The quilt took Austin over 8 months to complete, a vortex pattern using their late father’s clothing, with over one hundred metres of meticulously hand-sewn seams. Each piece follows a geometric logic but is also deeply personal, seeking to release rather than define the possibilities of form.

Based in South-East Queensland, Lincoln Austin has exhibited nationally and internationally, receiving numerous grants and prizes. In 2021, a 20-year survey exhibition, *Lincoln Austin: The Space Between Us*, was curated by Samantha Littlely for Ipswich Art Gallery.