

# firstdraft

Gallery 3

6 April - 19 May

## Cubbyhouse (Nothing is Certain, said the Curtain)

Ali Noble

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As a collection of sequences, *Cubbyhouse (Nothing is Certain, said the Curtain)* can be viewed simply as three children, friends, arranging and rearranging mobile sculptures, working freely in collaboration. As I regularly draw upon my lived experience to investigate ideas relating to the limitations of conventionality: motherhood and invisible labour, neurodiversity and standardisation, these ideas also permeate the work.

I like to imagine mobile curtains as nimble provocateurs; agile agents of re-invention, reclamation, and fantasy, conjuring speculative spaces of joy and poetry. What ideologies are subverted when curtains assert versatility, sensuality and movement in spaces typically defined by fixedness? What new spaces can we create? What of play? What of beauty? *Cubbyhouse* merges the familiarity of my existing textile-based practise, with the exploration of a new format, video.

I consider *Cubbyhouse* a visual poem that foregrounds sensuality, movement, and the inherent inventiveness of children. Finally, much of the video remains at half speed to indulge in the drape of the curtains, the folds, and the flow of the fabric. I wanted to invoke lingering, intimacy, immersion, interiority and imagination.

I would like to thank Motel Picture Company for bringing this idea to fruition; to Gotaro Uematsu for installation: to Hannah, Mika and Miro for bringing their enthusiasm, and to Richard Healey-Finlay, my steadfast supporter.

This project was made possible by the David Harold Tribe Postgraduate Research Fellowship, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney.

Gallery 1

**Ellen, Eduardo, Emma**

Unruly Edges

**firstdraft**  
**gadigal land**  
**13-17 riley street**  
**woolloomooloo**  
**nsw 2011**  
**+61 2 8970 2999**  
**firstdraft.org.au**

Gallery 2

**Firstdraft**

Class S2

**we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.**

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Gallery 4

**Ali Noble**

Cubbyhouse (Nothing is certain, said the curtain)



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## Ali Noble

For **Ali Noble**, textiles are soft contrarians in hard spaces. Textiles communicate adaptability and 'soft power' in typically hard-edged gallery environments. Skilfully subverting the implied power structures (architectural and ideological) of 'stability' and 'permanence', textiles embody fluidity, versatility, and eroticism.

Noble is an Australian artist based on Gadigal Wangal land/Sydney. Her extensive history of exhibiting in artist-run-initiatives, institutions and commercial spaces throughout Sydney and interstate, reflects a commitment to developing studio research through consistent solo and collaborative/curatorial projects.

Recent projects include Noble's exhibition, *Telepathic Lovesong* (2021), at Galerie Pompom, featuring a 7-metre silver velveteen curtain that wrapped around the gallery wall. In 2021 Noble curated *Supernatural Light Affinity* at ANCA, Canberra. In 2022 Noble exhibited at Schmick Contemporary in *Light Duet* with Nadia Odium, and at Prop gallery with Monica Rani Rudhar in *Mediums*. In 2023 Noble held her graduating exhibition titled *Nothing is Certain, said The Curtain*, at the University of Sydney.

As a recent MFA graduate, Sydney College of the Arts, Noble was awarded a Fauvette Loureiro Travel Scholarship, and the David Harold Tribe Postgraduate Research Fellowship (Sculpture). Noble's next project is a group exhibition 'between buildings as between stars' at the School House Gallery nipaluna/Hobart.

## Artwork

Ali Noble

*Cubbyhouse (Nothing is Certain, Said The Curtain)*, 2024

2-channel video work

7 minutes and 14 seconds

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