

firstdraft

Gallery 3

12 Jan – 13 Feb 2022

Lesser palace

Sofiyah Ruqayah

'Lesser palace' is the name of the pressure point located between index finger and thumb. In acupressure, this zone is known to store anxieties pertaining to the heart. Taking this site of emotional geography as a point of departure, this exhibition explores ideas of 'oceanic feeling', and imagines ways of being in the world that rely less on notions of discrete selfhood, and more on porosity, kinship, and affective encounter.

In *Lesser palace*, the ocean is treated as a site of both lethal and vital encounter. Seen and unseen encounters between oceanic bodies and zones are staged through processes of assemblage, soft sculpture and video, and draw reference from a broad range of sources, including familial and cultural myths, bathymetric expedition footage, dream archives, communist theory and science fiction.

Sofiyah Ruqayah works across watercolour, assemblage, sculpture and installation to explore themes of personal and collective entanglement. A reverence for the non-human world underpins her practice, as well as an obsession with 'irrational' cultural practices such as fortune telling and dream interpretation. Recent work explores these concepts within the context of romantic love, using obsolete fisherman's weather instruments that house crystals that slowly mutate in relationship with their environment. She is currently undertaking a 12-month studio residency at Parramatta Artists' Studios and presented her first solo exhibition at 4A in October, 2021 as part of the Holding Patterns exhibition series. Ruqayah has exhibited both locally and internationally, including group exhibitions at Lubov Gallery, New York; Peacock Gallery and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney, with Woven Kolektif, a collective of Australian artists with personal ties to Indonesia.

Sofiyah Ruqayah's exhibition *Lesser palace* is powered by Lūpa Media Player.
More information at lupaplayer.com

lūpa

www.lupaplayer.com

Gallery 1

Circling the Sun

Curated by Tim Marvin

Gallery 2

Lectus

Spence Messih

Gallery 4

Haunting In Kensington

Blake Lawrence

firstdraft
gadigal land
13–17 riley street
woolloomooloo
nsw 2011
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firstdraft.org.au

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.

firstdraft is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW; and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



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Sofiyah Ruqayah

Artworks

Cascading Failures, 2020

gang hooks

dimensions variable

Bismillah, 2021

video with sound, galvanised steel anchors

9 minutes 11 seconds

Photography of this artwork is not permitted

Gutted, 2021

digital collage print on satin, storm glass

dimensions variable

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