

firstdraft

Gallery 3

2 June 2023 – 9 July 2023

Body Says, No

Danica I. J. Knežević

Body says, No, by Danica I. J. Knežević, examines the complex association and dislocation of the medicalised body and the invisibility of care. The exhibition merges videos and images with mobility aids to draw attention to the medicalisation of the body.

Knežević's works include: *Enacting Dreams/Always Knitting*, a video embedded into a walker; *Two Way Street*, where the artist and her mother display mutual acts of care as a silent comedy movie; *Being Home*, a photographic series of the artist's home modifications; and *Body Says, No*, a video projection portraying miniature medical furniture that mimics the way structures demand the body to say, no.

These works aim to disassociate mind from body, spirit from body and emotions from the body by drawing attention to assistive devices, medical support aids and body equipment. How do machines stand in for the body and support it? Uncomfortable and far from individualised, they hold, imprint and hurt the body. When the body says no, it is either for it to hold its ground, to protect itself or because the structure and support aids do not give access to the body. Mobility aids and the body work together to ensure survival. While the aids become a portrait of the body.

Danica I. J. Knežević is a performance artist working across endurance performance, video, sound, installation and photography. Her practice explores how we negotiate each other and our bodies through acts of caregiving. Implicit in her work is Knežević's use of her own body and the transference of communication that often comes into play between audience and performer, which mimics the interchangeability of caregiver and receiver. Catalysing emotional and physical labour, Knežević asks questions about gender assumptions and taking space through her body in public space. Knežević holds a PhD from The University of Sydney, Sydney College of the Arts. She currently resides on Dharug and Gadigal lands, Australia as a practising artist and sessional lecturer at The University of Technology Sydney and Australian Catholic University. She has exhibited in many exhibitions, awards and prizes.

Gallery 2

**Staging Portraits: Queer
Community photos at the
Bearded Tit**

Dorcas Tang 邓佳颖

Gallery 3

Body Says, No
Danica I. J. Knežević

Gallery 4

Main Drag
Easton Dunne

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

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Artworks

Danica I. J. Knežević
Body Says, No, 2023
video projection
8 minutes 51 seconds

Danica I. J. Knežević
Couch, Walker, Chair, Electric Chair and the Bed, 2023
miniature sculptures
dimensions variable

Danica I. J. Knežević and Anne Knežević
Two way street, 2023
video sculpture/video performance
video: 3 minutes 38 seconds
sculpture: 91 x 62 x 46 cm

Danica I. J. Knežević
Enacting Dreams/Always Knitting, 2018
video sculpture
56 x 76 x 60 cm

Danica I. J. Knežević
Being Home, Xray Edition, 2023
photographic media
107 x 48 x 12cm

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