

firstdraft

Gallery 3

9 February - 24 March

I feel the weight of the minute as I bend my body towards the clock

Amanda Bennetts

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I feel the weight of the minute as I bend my body towards the clock is a multimedia installation examining time and the labour of self-care for the disabled and ill body. In a society that centralises wellness as the default mode of existence, sickness is placed as temporary, an abhorrent to the norm. Through its use of medical, sanatorium, spa, and disability aesthetics, the installation dissects how time for the non-normative bodies is bent, stretched, slowed, rewound, expanded, and fastened. The rationing of energy, due dates, the time taken to perform a specific task, working hours, ideal hours of sleep that a body needs, etc., are largely normative and fixed in nature. Rather than society bending the clock to meet the ill and disabled bodies, many with detrimental effects bend their bodies to meet the clock. While the sculptural works within the installation involve found objects that should serve the body at rest, the body well, the body at ease - each speaks instead to the body afflicted. Forming a space where tension and balance precariously coexist, inviting a deeper conversation about the intricate realities of living with illness and disability.

Amanda Bennetts is a new media and installation artist, based on the Sunshine Coast (Kabi Kabi Country). Living with a progressive neurological disease and a rare muscular disease, Bennetts draws on her experience to critically dissect issues relating to care, sickness and disability. Examining what it means to be an ill-body in the world, Bennetts navigates a realm of living that is politically charged and socially determined. She creates large installations that engage materiality, incorporating video, sound and mass-produced objects, often with clinical and disability aesthetics.

Gallery 1
Charles Levi
Luddite/Sodomite

Gallery 2
Corey Black
You Won't Believe The Snap In Your
Throat

Gallery 4
Vedika Rampal
Residues

firstdraft
gadigal land
13-17 riley street
woolloomooloo
nsw 2011
+61 2 8970 2999
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 Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



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Bennetts graduated from the Queensland College of Art (QCA) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Photographic Art Practice), where she was awarded the 2022 Industry Award for Best In Show: Visual Arts, Photography and CAIA and the 2022 Outstanding Achievement in a Major— Photographic Art Practice. Her work has been presented in exhibitions at Metro Arts, Brisbane and the Institute of Modern Art (IMA), Brisbane and is a 2023 finalist in The Churchie national emerging art prize.

In 2023 Bennetts exhibited internationally at Ars Electronica festival with a collaborative artwork as an outcome of Ars Electronica x IT:U FOUNDING LAB. Bennetts was a former co-director of IN | artist-run initiative at the Old Lockup in Maroochydore and the founder and co-curator of the 40 Under 40 Exhibition and Art Prize 2020-22. In 2021, her work was curated in the annual Undergrowth exhibition among QCA students' most innovative and conceptually coherent work. Bennetts' high aptitude for art was earlier recognised through the QCA Art in Bark Bursary 2019 award. In 2024, Bennetts will perform as a Hacklab Artist/ Fellow at the CTM x Transmediale Festival in Berlin.

Artworks

Amanda Bennetts

I feel the weight of the minute as I bend my body towards the clock, 2023

multimedia installation, stainless steel, velvet, pvc, analogue tv, commode, digital tv, oscilloscope, paper clay, tiles, medical trolley
dimensions variable

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