

Tanya Leighton

Press Release

Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way

5 October – 12 November 2022

Preview: Saturday 1 October, 5–8pm

Tanya Leighton, Los Angeles

4654 W Washington Blvd, Los Angeles

Tanya Leighton, Los Angeles is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way, presenting new works by Sheelagh Boyce and Annabelle Harty, the artists behind the collective.

Hailing from Glasgow and London respectively, Boyce and Harty have undertaken a half-decade-long project of translating their shared experience of architecture's sense of place and garments' sentimentality into quilt installations. At the center of the artists' work is an interest in how patterns of positive and negative space can shift the way individuals see form.

Taking hundreds of hours of production time, each quilt tells a layered story that combines imagery, memory, and ideas to *de*-structure formal relationships in a manner that recalls what designer Alan Fletcher describes as "the art of looking sideways", namely to revisit well-worn paths from new angles in order to see them as if for the first time. The germination of 'Quilt 42', 'Quilt 41', and 'Quilt 43' began with site visits Boyce and Harty made to Arne Jacobsen's Bellevue Theatre and Jørn Utzon's Bagsværd Church in Denmark and the Can Lis home in Spain, respectively.

Just as a plan, section, and elevation are methods of imaging the abstractness of space, Boyce and Harty's architecturally inspired works aim to articulate not only the contours of the buildings' designs but also the sense of faded optimism the structures' imparted on the artists during their visits. Accompanying these quilts are two examples of Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way's longstanding interest in working with garments sourced from a personal collection of clothing from friends and family.

'Quilt 35' and 'Quilt 45' attend to what might be called the architecture of the clothes people wear, such as a shirt or a pair of gym shorts. The collective's interest in each garment ranges from the structure of the pattern cutting to its emotional attachment and significance. A shirt worn and loved for reasons, whether for celebration or utility, is taken apart and is then reconstructed to form new narratives. What ties together Boyce and Harty's studies of buildings and garments is an implicit understanding that things are never just given to be seen as if the individual who examines them is an absent observer.

Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way's work underscores how people do not merely inhabit the world but rather are literally entangled with it. Unlike the rigid abstractness of architectural renderings, Boyce and Harty's quilts describe space in a manner that foregrounds individuals affective investments in it. In doing so, the artists' work translates the hardness of one phenomenal world into the softness of another.

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Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way is a collective formed in 2016 by Sheelagh Boyce (born in Glasgow in 1969) and Annabelle Harty (born in London in 1965). Boyce taught in Primary Schools in Glasgow for twenty years before moving on to study textiles in 2013. A trained architect, in 1997 Harty formed an architecture practice with her partner called Harty and Harty Architects, with whom she still works today. The collective's recent exhibitions include a solo show at The Modern Institute, Glasgow, in 2022; Mount Stuart Trust, Bute; Linn Luehn Gallery, Düsseldorf, and Glasgow Print Studio, Glasgow International, all in 2021.

Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way is included in the public collections of Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; Langen Foundation, Neuss; and the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh.

For more information, please contact info@tanyaleighton.com or telephone +49(0)30221607770.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, 11–6pm and by appointment.