

# A tale of two studios

Julian Laffan goes home and away

**A**NTONIA THROSBY ALLOWED me to spend some time in her studio, a free standing shed in the garden, a quiet place that feels like a beacon of concentration. It is a studio that has the feeling of being outdoors with light streaming in from every direction.

Antonia is someone who usually has her hands occupied, moving objects, holding something, getting into the garden, ripping out the leeks with energy and determination. The ceramic middens she makes with the stuff of meals past, shells, bones, and seeds carefully rendered and glazed recall this hunting and gathering life. Antonia the maker takes on life with determination and fire and her ceramics wear this same story, enlivened by the heat of the kiln with the makers hand on show.

Antonia's studio brings the earth in. Her colours evoke the ground where you stand and escape to the sea. The beach and the bush are brought together as she experiments with layers and textures that get at the raw beauty of the landscape.

Tools of the trade and traces of slip and porcelain are scattered about. This is the functional space of an artist who manages to move between creating lamps and cups as well as her detailed installations of cast objects that recreate the detritus of our current time. Antonia dances between art and object in a studio where life and art happens.



**M**Y OWN PRACTICE REQUIRES a space with room to draw, to ink and print and a workshop to cut and shape timber. The timber lined walls of my attic, an upstairs ship-like cabin, the ideal space to escape from the world and to be able to make and comment on it. The space looks out over Mt Gillamatong and the hills beyond. This room is filled with images and tools to cut into timber



blocks. Many of the hand tools I use are as old as the house they inhabit, they are sharp and I need to be decisive to cut in order to amplify the subtle contours of a drawing or a block of timber. This space is at once reflective and productive, romantic but gritty, a push and pull between what is and what is perceived.

My best work is, however, often made on the kitchen table. The heart of a home and where an honest interrogation of life is possible. I try not to mess up the kitchen but it is a better place to work and talk of ideas and the next meal.

Up and down the stairs, out to the shed and back again. Moving in and out of spaces as the need arises, thinking of an image that says it all.

JULIAN AND ANCHO



ANTONIA AND ORLANDO



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# DEE'S



Julian Laffan: Radio City (detail) woodcut, ink, acrylic and gouache on ply 195 x 195 mm

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Over the Christmas period Altenburg & Co is excited to be showing the exhibition: Radio City – Observations of New York by local artist Julian Laffan. It features wood cuts inspired by his recent visit to New York City.

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