

am I listening?
assembly point exhibition, south bank, australia
6 may – 26 june 2020

"Beerens' action of 'crafting', the slow performative element of the work, can be read as a vital conduit mediating between 'mattering' and 'encountering'. Standing in like an understudy, Beerens' permits trace elements of action to remain as an active protagonist in the reading of the work post performance."
(assessor 2020)

installation text

Created for a group exhibition titled *Am I Hearing an Echo?* with Victoria Jost and Elnaz Nourizadeh.

Tracing the co-emergence of material thinking by inhabiting the space.

The pandemic was reason to slow down and to create this artwork that was ongoing for 64 days. In recognition of living with constraints, the space was conserved, and materials rationed.

"The quiet streetscape and the contained glass box made it easier to focus on the mattering I was part of. The context was less complex than the underpass: most places were closed; passers-by were locals escaping for a walk, and the coffee shop was takeaway only. Other than via a wave or a nod, I needed to come out of the vitrine to engage with passers-by." (artist)

Each day started with a walk to the exhibition space. Flowers, leaves and branches were collected along the way. Friends and relatives gifted ingredients for the experimental dyes.

"I was caught taking leaves from the back of a gardener's truck – amused he said, he usually catches people putting things in." (artist)

Inhabiting as a process became material and discernible in the trace.

What started as a clean white space where the artist could be mistaken for a window dresser, became cluttered with traces of living. A cave emerged, where maybe it would be rude to look in. The vitrine operated like a glass aquarium - a container – of the artist. The window performed as an ontological wall – as though the habitat in the window “belonged to another order of reality”

(Timothy Morton, “Thinking Ecology: The Mesh, the Strange Stranger, and the Beautiful Soul,” 2010, p288)

“Do you realise there is a person in there? You know how you have to go back to look again because you don't believe what you saw? There is actually a lady inside that window.” (passer-by)