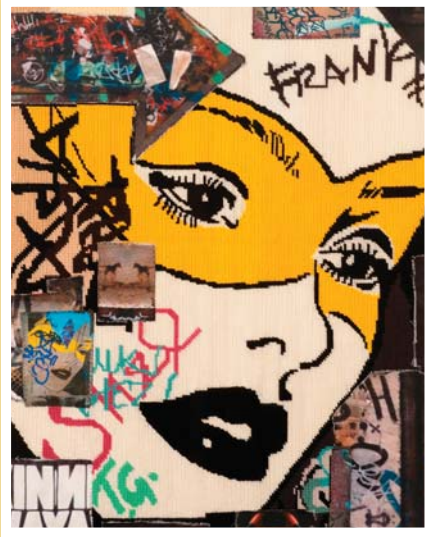


Niki McDonald - Tapestry Girl



My tapestries reflect the design elements from the tagging, graffiti, stencil art and ripped tagged bill posters that are omnipresent in every neighborhood, laneway and city. If there is a blank wall someone will fill it, and others will add to it, creating a disorganised collaborative piece of creativity at its rawest. It offers a social commentary of the urban cultures

and a feeling of visual claustrophobia that abounds wherever urbanisation takes root.

At the end of my street there was a garage door that had been bombed out with tagging. Gravity was in play and hundreds of drips ran down the door. The drips were interspersed with arrows and tagged names. This was vandalism at its worst for the property owner, but a right to a plain metal garage door aside, it looked absolutely amazing to me. It was definitely a collaborative piece, unconscious, unpredictable and unique.

I am sure the artists had not given the final piece much thought as it was created in a moment of energy, adrenaline and release. For me the image was powerful, I could almost hear the hurried voices of the painters, I could smell the fear of being sprung and I could see the flicker of thought that had stopped the process at that perfect moment. I photographed the garage door and kept walking.

When I looked the next day for those interwoven paint lines and sub cultural jargon; it was gone, painted over. The urban landscape blossoms and decays to a beat of its own rhythmic lifecycle.

The decaying, tagged, ripped and vandalised urban landscape possesses me. I never tire of its inspiration or the will to reproduce it in the tapestry medium. The repetition of the tapestry stitches echoes the pixels in digital work and spray-paint used to make an expressive mark. I also love the irony that street art is so fast, contemporary and masculine and tapestry is time consuming, traditional and feminine.

I am currently involved in creating a body of work for my next exhibition, November 6-19, 2011 at the Hardware Gallery in Enmore, Sydney (phone 02.9550.4595). I am also hoping to exhibit one of my tapestries in the Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Award in June, and have entered two works in the Waverly Art Prize in July of this year. <http://nikimcdonald.wordpress.com> / nikimcd@bigpond.net.au

The work on the front cover, also shown here, is FRANK-LY, 500 x 480cm and was selected for TAFTA's Fibre Design Gallery as was B-FRANK seen above, 450 x 600cm. The third work in this series is FRANK-ED, 450 x 600mm. All works made 2010; tapestry wool and mixed media; woven tapestry technique.

