

Reflective Realities

Jude Broughan / *Soapbox*

Justine Walker / *do undo redo*

ART LAB

SUNY Old Westbury Social and Environmental Justice Institute

Woodlands Hall 1

<https://www.amelieawallacegallery.org/art-lab>

www.oldwestbury.edu.

October 9 – November 11, 2024

Exhibition Opening Reception: Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Artist Talk: Monday, October 21, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

ART LAB and SUNY Old Westbury Social and Environmental Justice Institute (SEJI) are pleased to present *Reflective Realities*, a duo exhibition of works by two artists from New Zealand: Jude Broughan and Justine Walker. Both artists reference personal experiences in their work. Broughan meditates on everyday behaviors and values, while Walker delves into the social and psychic condition of women. They use their art to address societal expectations and limitations. Broughan subverts product packaging and advertising, while Walker challenges societal norms surrounding gender, age, and family expectations. Incorporating elements of repetition and process in their work is something they have in common. Broughan's *Soapbox* installation features repeated motifs and patterns, as well as multiples in the form of soaps and soap dishes, while Walker's video works use repeated performative gestures. Both artists consider and react to their realities—Walker's *do undo redo* installation speaks to the disenfranchised grief and shame associated with the experience of childlessness, while Broughan's exploration of sustainable living habits and consumer culture can be seen as a response to the environmental impact of human behavior.

Jude Broughan's *Soapbox* is part of her ongoing *Personal Care* series, which speaks about modifying everyday behaviors over time, i.e., finding small and large ways to live more sustainably. For this exhibition, Broughan presents three large mixed-media works that feature an enlarged template for a literal cardboard soapbox on actual pattern making paper, oaktag manila, with its distinctive weight and green tone. The exhibition also includes two limited edition screen prints, handmade ceramic soap dishes, two varieties of handmade soap, and a free handout featuring DIY personal care recipes. One print, *Lemon Soaps Stack*, is based on a photograph of the handmade soaps she and her twelve-year-old son have been making together. *Strawberry Sundays* is another print featuring the fruit popsicle her son made. The literal and figurative meaning of a 'soapbox' applies to Broughan's work—a crate or box for packaging soap, but also to a physical or media platform which gives prominence to the person standing on it and the views they speak about. *Soapbox* goes beyond aesthetic experiences, aiming at sustainable living that begins in small ways—Broughan has been making her own deodorant and

soap, among other personal care items, using organic materials that reduce the use of plastics and petrochemical substances. Broughan encourages visitors to join her activism in environmental justice.

Justine Walker's *do undo redo* features works from *For Sale: baby shoes, never worn*, a body of work reflecting on her journey into childlessness. These works express the disenfranchised grief of not having much longed-for children. They use non-emotive references to missed birthday parties and bedtime stories, while being process driven to distraction. The works speak of the lengths parents will go to, to draw children into existence and the shame society projects on their failure to do so. Yet we witness Walker and her partner quietly reclaiming their dignity from this experience. Walker presents one photographic and three video works in this exhibition. *Shame tryptic* is a photographic work featuring three portraits of the artist wearing baby pink balaclavas, one revealing her eyes, one an ear and the last her mouth. *do undo redo* is a video work of the artists hand drawing squiggles in graphite. Filling the screen with scribbles only for the hand to un-draw the scribbles by reversing the footage and then redrawing them again. In the video work *HAPPY* the artist lights birthday candles spelling the word 'happy', we watch as they melt and fall setting alight the surface they are standing on. *Balloons* is a video work focused on the artist mouth blowing up different coloured balloons only to release them. We imagine childish giggles as we hear them emitting a wonderful farting noise as they fly from her grasp.

Artist Biographies

Jude Broughan is a Brooklyn-based New Zealand-born artist. She has had solo exhibitions at Marisa Newman Projects, New York; Benrubi Gallery, New York; Calder and Lawson Gallery, Hamilton, New Zealand; Dimensions Variable, Miami; and Churner & Churner, New York. Her work has been included in group exhibitions and projects including at the MoMA Design Store, New York; Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami; Jarvis Dooney Gallerie, Berlin; Document, Chicago; Sanderson Contemporary Art, Auckland, New Zealand; Magnan Metz, New York; Dorfman Projects, New York; and the Essl Museum, Vienna. Broughan holds an MFA from Hunter College, New York, and a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York. She was awarded a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, and a Yaddo residency. Her work has been discussed in *Musée Magazine*, *Domino*, *Art in America*, *Blouin Artinfo*, *Collector Daily*, *Eye Contact*, *The Village Voice*, and *Whitehot Magazine*.

Justine Walker is an interdisciplinary artist living in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. She has an MFA and was awarded Massey Scholar from Massey University, New Zealand. She recently completed the NARS Foundation International Artist Residency in New York, with support from the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa. She has had solo shows at both public and artist run spaces including at Toi Tauranga Art Gallery, Tauranga, NZ; FELTspace, Adelaide; play_station, Wellington, NZ; SEVENTH, Melbourne; Toi Poneke, Wellington, NZ; and Blue Oyster, Dunedin, NZ. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions including at NARS Foundation, New York; Whakatane Museum & Arts, Whakatane, NZ; A.I.R Gallery, New York; Meanwhile, Wellington, NZ; Enjoy, Wellington, NZ; City Gallery, Wellington, NZ; and The Engine Room, Wellington, NZ. Following an interest in female subjectivity, Walker uses repetition, performance and lived experience to produce video and photographic works that are performative in nature, with themes of longing, loss, acceptance, and family.

The ART LAB and SUNY Old Westbury Social and Environmental Justice Institute

[ART LAB](#) is collaboratively operated by the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery and the Visual Arts Department of SUNY Old Westbury. Founded in the context of SUNY Old Westbury Social and Environmental Justice Institute (SEJI), which embodies SUNY Old Westbury's historic and ongoing social justice mission, it is housed on the lower level of Residential Hall 1. SEJI is a living-learning environment that enhances student education through civic engagement and applied learning, thus sustaining initiatives for social justice locally and abroad. ART LAB focuses on interdisciplinary exhibitions, performances, and creative activities that draw attention to social and environmental justice issues while creating opportunities for professional artists, students, and faculty to display their work.

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For more information, contact Dr. Hyewon Yi, Director of Art Lab and Amelie A. Wallace Gallery at yih@oldwestbury.edu.

ART LAB Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10 am–5 pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 am –2 pm, Saturdays 12 pm – 3 pm, and by appointment.

