

Joanne Linsdell

I am a regionally based, mid-career artist working across sculpture and drawing.

My interest in replicating objects began while working as a props maker for the Sydney Theatre Company. The role required the creation of purpose-built substitutes for real objects, using any method or material necessary to serve the needs of a stage performance. This process of replication, transformation, and material problem-solving has remained central to my practice.

After returning to teaching, a colleague gave me a battered suitcase, accompanied by a story about his elderly aunt. This encounter became a catalyst for my current body of work, which has since evolved into an exploration of love and humanity told through everyday objects. By recreating these objects and carefully attending to their surface treatments, I seek to preserve and re-tell the stories they carry.

My observational drawings respond to the planning, care, and labour my father invested in creating a substantial garden after retiring from owning and running an orchard. As his health deteriorated, I began producing large-scale illustrations of the plants he could no longer tend.

Following my father's death, my focus shifted to documenting the tools lining the walls of his workshop — a space where he spent countless hours maintaining the orchard and developing original engineering projects. It was within this workshop that I learnt my sculptural and construction skills. It was a place of shared curiosity and ambition, filled with tools passed down through generations.

