

GRAZIELA GUARDINO

Finalist: Contemporary Art Awards 2017

Reconciling Pain and Loneliness

By Di Erlichman

Born in Brazil, Sydney-based Graziela Guardino (b.1979) is a mixed-media artist who is concerned with the binary forces that life presents. Her work *Your absence is as strong as your presence* (2016) forms part of a new body of work which explores opposing ideas of fragility and resilience; darkness and light; and presence and absence—born from the artist's real and personal experience of loss and grief. The materials Graziela works with, such as fabric and wood, and her application of paint—a restricted monochromatic palette—provide a gradation of shade and texture that evokes space, distance and volume. It is this which gives the viewer the impression of movement, presence and absence and, potentially, a sense of loss. Through shade and texture, the work can be viewed as a visual interpretation of the varying stages that people go through when experiencing grief and loss.

Her investigations into how the experience of grief and loss are expressed has led Graziela to create work that simultaneously conveys beauty and sadness, and reconciles pain and loneliness. Graziela's intention is to create a body of visual forms that allows a sense of healing to occur for both the artist and the viewer. These notions of loss and grief are intrinsically linked to what makes us human: at some point in our lives, we will encounter loss and grief and will experience it in a unique and individualised way.

Graziela wants the viewer to reflect on their life when viewing this piece. She invites the audience to consider what is important—knowing the fragility and ephemeral nature of life. What matters is the pause or 'breath'; what is in-between. By exposing fragility and vulnerability in her work, she creates an emotional resonance in the viewer, by which they might transform their own experiences of these into a strength.

Graziela graduated with a Bachelor in Visual Communications at the FAAP in Brazil in 2001, attended the Julian Ashton Art School in 2012, and is now undertaking a Master of Fine Art at RMIT University. She is a multi-award winning artist and has been a finalist in a number of art awards around Australia, Brazil, Singapore and Hong Kong. Graziela recently held her first solo exhibition, at the Hong Kong Arts Centre; one of the most respected



art institutions in the city.

On this page, *Your absence is as strong as your presence* (2016), acrylic, tulle and wood, 100 x 80 x 4cm.

Image courtesy of the artist

Graziela Guardino's artwork can be viewed at:

<http://www.contemporaryartawards/finalist-exhibition-2017.com>