

Five female artists you should invest in now

Neha Kale

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Australian art history has an alarming tendency to conflate notoriety and originality. The shiny allure that inspires cult biographies and mass hysteria among collectors, like in the case of Adam Cullen or Brett Whitely, isn't just down to talent – it's also about the ways in which the figure of the self-destructive artist squares up with a white, male tradition.

It's a good thing that tradition has never been the best recipe for potential greatness. With practices that span everything from painting, sculpture and portraiture to installation, collage and assemblage, these five young female artists are expanding the possibilities of their respective mediums and rewriting dated art-world myths in the process.

[Emily Hunt](#)



Gnarled faces. Dismembered limbs. Creepy grins. If Emily Hunt's intricate sculptures, wrought in glazed porcelain and stoneware, feel like dispatches from the kiln of a deranged potter, it's because she believes that dread isn't the stuff of nightmare but the natural consequence of our cultural moment. For the Sydney-based artist, who's completed several residencies in Berlin and whose pieces appear as part of the MCA's *Primavera* exhibition this year, carvings and artworks from the Middle Ages inform her intriguing take on modern-day vice and darkness.



Image credit: The Commercial Gallery

"I look back to the historical period between 1490 and 1550 A.D. because during this time grotesque caricature and woodcuts were totally gnarly and rude," explains Hunt, who's also inspired by sci-fi, drinking, long conversations and hard work. "Humans are pathetic and my work is motivated by the desire to cultivate a mode of catharsis by forcing viewers to grapple with the vulgar, the profane and the intemperate."