



Julie Rrap

Julie Rrap has been a major figure in Australian contemporary art for over 25 years, not least for her stature as a pioneering female artist in the country's creative field. Since the mid-1970s, she has worked with photography, painting, sculpture, performance and video in an ongoing project concerned with representations of the body, with a particular emphasis on the female body within western art history. Photography has been a particular focus because as a medium it bridges fine art and popular imagery, allowing the artwork to dialogue with broader concerns about the body. The use of digital techniques has allowed the exploration of the surrealism of the image in a world gone surreal with medical interventions into the body.

Using her own body as part of her practice, once casting her own feet in bronze, or wearing shoes made out of ice in order to 'paint' with her feet as the ice melts, Rrap demonstrates an intensely visceral and live approach to displaying the female figure – but one which is about creating a vehicle for mining wider social and gender-based issues. Representations of the female body within western art history have led Rrap on her artistic exploration through a variety of media that challenge the conventions of content and of form.

Rrap has utilised numerous media, including sculpture, painting, drawing and video, often combined as installations. A pivotal work, 'Body Double' (2007), combined silicon body casts, projected video, sound and interactive elements and created an immersive environment for the viewer. As well as her own body, the audience has always played a central role in Rrap's investigations, allowing 'their' bodies to become entangled in these representational questionings.

Rrap's work has been selected for numerous international and national exhibitions, including the 1986, 1987, 1992 and 2008 Sydney Biennales, and more recently the 2007 Auckland Triennale, the 2009 Clemenger Contemporary Art Prize, NGV, Melbourne and in 2010, the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea. She has won the Hermann's Art Award for her photograph 'Overstepping' in 2001, the Redlands Art prize for a combined sculpture and photographic work in 2008 and the University of Queensland National Artists' Self-Portrait Prize for her video work, '360 Degree Self-Portrait', in 2009.

In 2007, a publication and 25-year survey exhibition, 'Body Double', was curated at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney by Victoria Lynn.