

Daughters

The Work

This series of work began with two scraps of fabric left over from sewing for my daughters when they were small - floral pieces, one with blues for Zoe, and for Phoebe with reds, slightly smaller. The garments are long gone, but the original remnants are collaged in the first painting.

These shapes, in my imagination, became 'monumental' and seemed to represent a mother's quandary in knowing her children to be part of, but separate from herself - a symbolic transformation of the remnant. The garment shape has possibilities, however it's the scraps, that have the poignancy.

Working with this idea, these 'monuments', can read as either positive or negative and I've juxtaposed them with the garment shape with deliberate ambiguity.

The colour contrast of blue & red is deliberate to describe the push/pull of sister relationships as perceived by a mother. Being suggestive of sibling relationships I suppose, with togetherness and separateness, with the differences accentuated by being one of two only. And, the blue was worn by Zoe and the red was Phoebe's colour.

Femaleness is also part of the inspiration, and a play on my daughter's given names. Zoe, the word for 'life' in Greek, I represent with a sun - and Phoebe, personifies the moon in Greek mythology. Sun and moon - metaphorically representative of the female in this work.

Some early works on paper (gouache) have the rural setting of our time as a family on a farm in Goulburn New South Wales.