

Lorelei Siegloff

## ***Measure for Measure***

The Three Fates of ancient Greece are said to measure out one's lot in life at the time our birth. The first Fate spins the thread of life, the second measures out its length and the third and most unyielding cuts it. Not even the gods can alter the portion of life once the tread had been cast. The message here is life is short. The passing of time is beyond our control and therefore the notion that we should "live well, live full" is central to Lorelei Siegloff's series of Vanitas works titled *Measure for Measure*.

Intimate vignettes; small scale still life paintings in vintage colour-ways unravel the stages of life; birth, courtship and death. Thoughtfully and with a sense of whimsical humour the artist has selected the subject matter captured in her works, predominantly from her personal collection of 1930's and 1950's domestic objects. Siegloff has a degree in archaeology and it is this interest that has imbued these objects as material culture rather than simply clutter. As these are carefully reproduced in paint, the studied transform into the made.

Siegloff questions the transitory nature of objects; the profusion of stuff once treasured but with time become inclined to pass out of fashion. As with hopes and dreams in life, things taken for granted tend to lose their lustre. Through tenderly detailed brushwork in the realist style, Siegloff appears to trick the Fates and suspended time. Images of Imperial measuring devices become metaphors for the organic rather than the precise; references to times past when life was lived at a slower pace. Artfully placed petit ceramics engage in endlessly mute dialogues. Eggs will never hatch or make a tasty batter, and bugs remain trapped forever in a sarcophagus of resin, thus deferring the age old of cycle of death and return to earth. However, it seems that she is aware that when you weigh it up, measure for measure, without the passing of time things never reach their true potential.

Lorelei Siegloff was mentored for professional development by painter Dianne Gall via the Helpmann Academy mentorship program.

*Niki Sperou, April 2012*

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