

*When life gives you lemons
you find colour
Clementine Belle McIntosh
and Emily Ebbs*

Rofe St Gallery

8th May - 12th May 2025

Supported by The CORRIDOR Project

Exhibition Text by Finn McGrath

This exhibition presents works created by Emily Ebbs and Clementine Belle McIntosh during their residency at The Corridor Project (TCP), Cowra NSW, on Wiradjuri Country.

The artists began the residency through a collaborative community workshop which taught natural dyeing and ink-making using materials from the immediate vicinity.

The trajectory of the residency was changed when Emily's father suffered a stroke, after her departure the artists started down separate paths. Much of the show embodies this rupture, reflecting their parallel narratives: the literal alchemical extraction of colour from one's surroundings, and the more ephemeral, emotional impressions left by place and circumstance. The works capture the tensions between presence and absence, collaboration and solitude.

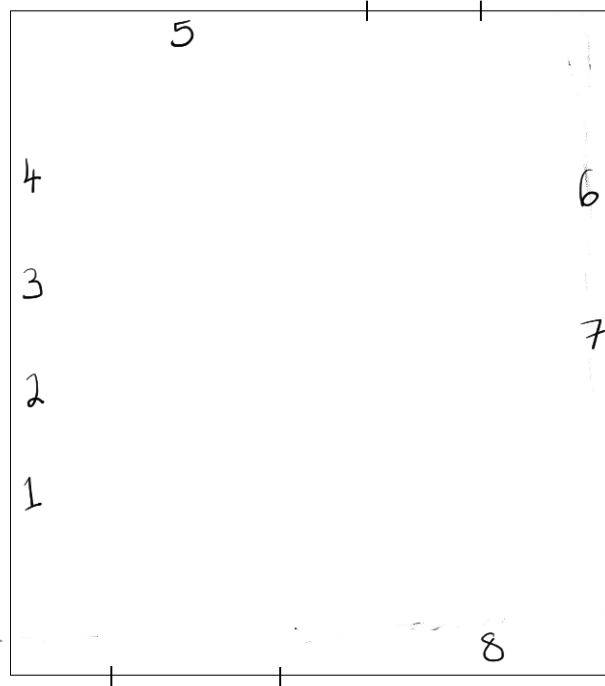
Emily's paintings act as portals through which she stakes that the fluidity caught in her transient paintings echo those of life's movements. Behind each painting, the phrase 'One Door Closes Two Doors Open' serves as a gentle reminder of life's capacity for renewal and resilience. Put another way, she is offering a moment to consider the fragility of the day-to-day body deeply informed by witnessing her father's gradual process of relearning daily tasks.

Clementine's textiles, stained with histories from local plants and second-hand fabrics sourced from nearby op shops, confront dualities; self and other, consumption and reuse, objectification and reclamation. Animal materials, such as gifted snakeskin and wool fleece from her family's farm, are dyed and embroidered, becoming tactile meditations on identity, inheritance, and the passage of time. Her embroidered interventions activate these materials, elevating often undervalued textures into emblems resisting traditional notions of "women's work."

Throughout a time spent both together and apart, the making of these works necessarily converse with one another. They are placed in the space together, once again bound by a shared place and seek to utilise the nuances of natural hues to establish a subtle language that is intimately human.

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ROOMSHEET



1. *One Door*, Emily Ebbs, 2025, 40x50cm, Acrylic, Door Hinges, Vinyl Sticker, Clay
2. *Closes*, Emily Ebbs, 2025, 40x50cm, Raw Pigment, Gum Arabic, Rosemary Dye, Door Hinges, Vinyl Sticker, Clay
3. *Two Doors*, Emily Ebbs, 2025, 40x50cm, Acrylic, Door Hinges, Vinyl Sticker, Clay
4. *Open*, Emily Ebbs, 2025, 40x50cm, Raw Pigment, Gum Arabic, Acrylic, Eucalyptus Leaf Dye, Door Hinges, Vinyl Sticker, Clay
5. *Dressing*, Clementine Belle McIntosh, 2025, gifted cotton drop sheet from Emily, Eucalyptus bark/leaf dye, lichen dye, lemon juice, homemade copper ink, homemade rust water, heirloom adornments, metal parts from my late grandfather's tool box, silk thread and found farming fencing wire.
6. *Floorless*, Clementine Belle McIntosh, 2025, secondhand cotton/polyester bedsheet from Cowra Vinnies, Lichen dye, homemade copper ink, Eucalyptus dye, Acacia seed pod dye, Rosemary dye, various leftover dyes from workshop, homemade rust water, gifted embroidery thread from Carole and pearls from my mum's broken necklace
7. *Honey*, Clementine Belle McIntosh, 2025, snakeskin gifted by Sofie and lichen dyed, childhood ribbon, beads from reverse garbage QLD, gifted embroidery thread from Carole and found farming fencing wire
8. *Hairdo*, Clementine Belle McIntosh, 2025, childhood ribbon, raw wool fleece dyed with plant-based dyes, pearls from my mum's broken necklace, silk thread and found farming fencing wire

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