

## Pipe Dreams:

Erica Gray

25 August – 7 October 2012

Foyer Gallery

Gold Coast City Gallery

**Local artist Erica Gray literally turns the Gold Coast City Gallery walls inside-out with this bright, quirky and fun exhibition of soft sculpture and paintings.**

*Pipe Dreams* is the first solo exhibition by Gold Coast artist Erica Gray. Growing up in the suburbs with a father who worked as a plumber and three brothers that would eventually follow him into the trade, Erica and her childhood friends would fashion games out of various pipes and componentry.

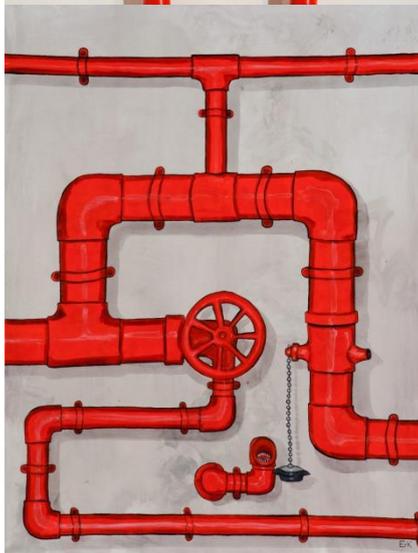
Erica Gray has perfected her craft over two decades in the fashion industry. She first worked on various surf label contracts, among them the surf-wear brand *Pipedreams*. She then worked across a range of projects that involved sewing, costuming and accessory-making. On occasion she would deviate from contract work, beckoned by pieces of discarded lycra, latex, PVC and an array of rubberised and composite materials. It is this deviation and experimentation that led to Erica's artistic practice:

*I take special care to make my stitches shown on my artwork, in all their random and uneven way. Nothing makes me happier than seeing those stitches bunched up and on display where once it would have been unsightly.*

The componentry of the sculptures are also born from Erica's genuine knowledge of pipes and the vernacular of the plumbing and construction world. In addition to being raised by a family of plumbers, she now lives and works with her partner – an architect. Surrounded by architectural plans with electrical and plumbing layouts for industrial buildings or large homes, she is literally immersed in the world of plumbing and building construction, replete with pipes and their deliciously worded componentry such as elbows, couplings, reducers, olets, nipples and barbs. Erica's paintings and sculptures marry the domestic act of sewing with the industrial world of engineering, plumbing and construction.

By rendering these pipes in a shiny red plastic fabric, cramming them with polyester stuffing, completing them with crazy-edged stitching, and displaying them on a white wall in a Gallery, Erica transforms something purely functional into something purely aesthetic. We do not need to understand the mechanics of water pipes – only stand before these sculptures and wonder.

Works are for sale. Catalogue available.



From above. Erica Gray, *Water gauge assembly and faucet* 2012, PVC, polyester fibre and plywood; *Isolated whistle valve* 2012, synthetic polymer paint on canvas. Courtesy of the artist

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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