

AGSA



Tarryn Gill's career-defining body of work *Guardians* presented for the first time at AGSA

The Art Gallery of South Australia is thrilled to announce *Tarryn Gill: Guardians* will be presented for the first time since its acquisition following the 2016 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art.

Created by Perth-based artist, Tarryn Gill, after a residency at the Freud Museum in London, *Guardians* is a series of nine soft-sculptures each fitted with a speaker, creating a soundscape as they chatter among themselves.

These stitched and sewn objects are reminiscent of characters found in folktales, pop culture, myths and legends. Their powerful presence is similar to the Japanese tomb ornaments known as *Haniwa*, which are arranged around a burial site in order to protect the dead and drive away evil.

Drawing on the artist's research at the Freud Museum, the soft-sculpture series is inspired by the studio of psychoanalyst Anna Freud, daughter of Sigmund Freud, who would knit or weave at the loom while analysing her patients. Each meticulously hand-made, *Guardians* also plays tribute to Gill's family, specifically her seamstress mother and tailor grandmother.

Rhana Devenport ONZM, Director, says, 'Tarryn Gill's *Guardians* exemplifies AGSA's key role in supporting contemporary Australian art practice.'

Leigh Robb, Curator of Contemporary Art, says: 'Tarryn Gill is a contemporary artist whose ambitious practice spans photography, video, performance, choreography, set and costume design. AGSA is proud to present the *Guardians*, a career-defining body of work which represents a new voice in sculpture. The installation harnesses Gill's interest in the theatrical and captures her idiosyncratic, feminist vision.'

To complement the display, Tarryn Gill has curated AGSA's public programming for the month of May. The artist has selected talks, workshops and entertainment for First Friday held on May 3 from 5-9pm, as well as Start at the Gallery, AGSA's dedicated kids and families program, on Sunday May 5.

Tarryn Gill will be presenting a talk at AGSA on Tuesday 26 March at 12.30pm.

Tarryn Gill: Guardians is on display from 23 March – 5 May 2019 | Free entry.

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Images available for download from:

https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/TarrynGill_Images.zip

Image caption: detail: Tarryn Gill, Australia, born 1981, *Guardians*, 2014-16, Perth, nine sculptures with soundscape, composition by Tom Hogan, mixed media including speakers, (dimensions variable); Gift of the Art Gallery of South Australia Contemporary Collectors 2016, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Courtesy the artist.

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ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

