

[Reception] Crucible: Ross McLeod in collaboration with CushCush

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June 21, 2016

by CushCush Gallery

CushCush is pleased to announce the unfolding of an exciting chapter



Reception

Closed now

Ending on Oct 15, 2017

Venue

CushCush Gallery

Address

Jalan Teuku Umar, Gang Rajawali no. 1A

Opening Hours

By appointment only

Admission Fees

Free



CushCush is pleased to announce the unfolding of an exciting chapter. CushCush Gallery, a space for the intersection of contemporary design + art, will open with *crucible* on the 15th of July 2016. The inaugural exhibition will feature sculptural objects made in collaboration between Ross McLeod, designer, educator and academic based in Melbourne, and CushCush. Ross was hosted by Cushush Gallery as its first creative-in-residence in January 2016, leading to conceptual and material explorations afforded by the time-space in Bali.

The artistic process was both conceptual and corporeal. Through a series of watercolour and oil pastel sketches, Ross contemplated the vessel, as an idea, function and form. He then went on to translate these sketches into full-size hand drawings that sought to connect the initial ideas with the physical realities of the selection of beautiful off-cut timber slabs (sustainably sourced Suar wood) that were stacked beside CushCush Gallery in Denpasar, Bali.

The drawings were undertaken as a form of meditation. Arcs and curves were drawn and redrawn until lines became ingrained as bodily gestures; the drawings embodied a certain roll of the shoulder and a well-timed flick of the wrist. Through this technique Ross sought to 'feel' the form that would suit the chosen timber. Ross shared "I became acutely aware of the differences between the thoughtful process of design and the haptic nature of crafting materials. I became mindful of the physical engagement and the expressive potentials that are manifest in the hand-crafting of objects."

The selection of timber and the detailed hand-drawn patterns of the works were then passed on to the skilled wood craftsmen at CushCush. While the drawings and instructions on each piece were extensive, the craftsman embarked on their own creative journeys through the choice of appropriate tools for the job and their reactions to the specific grain patterns of each piece of wood. In this way the resulting finished pieces can be seen as collaborative projects which Ross began and which the craftsmen completed.

Ultimately the collection acts as a rumination on the primal relationships between ritual and craft. The collection title '*crucible*' reflects the desire to explore an alchemical synthesis; a fusion of functional, sculptural, material and archetypal concerns. The final transformation of *crucible* will occur when the vessel forms fulfil their function as utilitarian objects in everyday living.

CushCush Gallery will present a year-round program of curated exhibitions, and will continue to grow its residency and collaboration programs, facilitating exchanges between an international community of artists and creatives and Bali.