





OPPOSITE: Rachel Hope Peary, *There is a sweet ease*, 2021. Cotton, cedar, acrylic, chalk and oil pastel, 71 x 59 x 6.2cm.

ABOVE LEFT: Rachel Hope Peary, *A scoop of light*, 2021. Cotton, cedar, acrylic, chalk and oil pastel, 71 x 59 x 6.2cm.

ABOVE RIGHT: Rachel Hope Peary, *An invitational space*, 2020. Cotton, cedar, acrylic, chalk, oil pastel and rabbit skin glue, 141.7 x 117.5 x 6.5cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND LAREE PAYNE GALLERY, HAMILTON.

RACHEL HOPE PEARY

Why pay attention?

Hamilton-based painter **Rachel Hope Peary** has had her work presented in exhibitions at Waikato Museum's ArtsPost gallery and Laree Payne Gallery, Hamilton. In addition to her studio practice, Peary has also created large outdoor murals for Boon Street Art and produced textile designs for independent New Zealand fashion label, NYNE. In 2019, Peary was a finalist in the Parkin Drawing Prize. Following a successful run at the 2021 Auckland Art Fair with Laree Payne Gallery, Peary is looking ahead to her next body of work, *My Mother's Hands*.

What do they do?

To create her minimally abstract pieces, Peary favours translucent materials like chalk, pastel and cotton. Using sustainable and fragrant woods like cedar and birch to

frame her paintings, Peary then wraps sheer cotton or silk around the entire work to create a three-dimensional study of translucency, light and colour. Now becoming more self-sufficient, Peary has added another handmade approach to her work by weaving her own surfaces from cotton.

What's going on?

Having recently given birth to her second child, Peary's work has been focused on the multi-layered experience of motherhood. The linework she employs is subtly autobiographical and speaks to lived experience and random moments in time. Recording the rhythms of physical movement, Peary's softly hued paintings are a harmonic balance between painting and sculpture, delicately embodying the tactile connection between her mark making and chosen materials.

The artist says...

"My work is an exploration of line and surface tension, relating to traditions of making and embroidery techniques passed down through maternal lineages. Many of my new pieces were created in the late stages of my second pregnancy and contain elements I also worked on during labour. It's about physicality, embodiment and motherhood."

See it at...

Peary presents work in the group show *Caught; slack and taut* at Laree Payne Gallery, Hamilton (Kirikiriroa) from 23 June to 17 July alongside artists **Isabella Loudon**, **Daegan Wells**, before presenting her solo show *My Mother's Hands* at the gallery from 15 September to 9 October 2021.

Briony Downes