

Tomoko Yamada / Curriculum Vitae

tomokoyamada.com@gmail.com / www.tomokoyamada.com / Broome, Western Australia, Australia

Artist Biography:

Tomoko Yamada is a Japanese-born artist based in Broome, Western Australia. Working across fibre, installation, and research-led practice, she explores the relationships between memory, place, materiality, and cultural connection. Central to her work is the concept of the thread, employed both as a physical medium and as a conceptual framework through which histories, experiences, and environments become interconnected.

Drawing on traditional fishing-net weaving techniques and community-based knowledge, Yamada creates site-responsive installations that emerge through processes of accumulation, repetition, and transformation. Her work investigates how materials can carry traces of lived experience and how acts of making can reveal connections between personal narratives, collective memory, and the cultural landscapes we inhabit.

Yamada has presented work in solo, collaborative and group exhibitions across Australia and Japan, and has undertaken residencies at Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA). Her practice is informed by ongoing engagement with local communities and cultural heritage, exploring migration, cultural exchange and the evolving relationships between people, place and environment.

Key Themes:

- Materiality
- Memory
- Migration
- Community Engagement
- Cultural Connection
- Site-responsive Practice

Selected Solo & Collaborative Exhibitions:

- 2022 Common Language of Thread: Flow Movement...,
Studio Residency/Open studio exhibition, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), Perth, WA
- 2021 Bricolage (with Vanessa Margetts),
Corrugated Lines A Festival of Words, Goolarri Media, Broome, WA
- 2021 Common Language of Thread: Flow Movement...,
Chinatown Discovery Festival & Broome Fringe Festival, Broome, WA
- 2017 Reincarnation, Broome Fringe Festival, Pearl Shed Framing Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2016 Continuation, Broome Fringe Festival, Pearl Shed Framing Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2015 Continuation, ex-Gecko Gallery, Broome, WA

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2021 Future Prediction, Mihara Daruma Art
JR Hiroshima-Mihara Central Station/Space Mihara Satellace, Hiroshima, Japan
- 2020 Circular Sequence, Wangaratta Petite Miniature Textile Award/Finalist, Wangaratta, VIC
- 2018 Over and over, Deadly Threadly (with Jody Loaring, Jacky Cheng and Regi Cherini)
Chinatown Project HQ Space, Broome, WA

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Public Commissions & Cultural Projects:

2020-2021 Public Art Design - Japanese Cultural Theme at Napier Terrace,

Shire of Broome Chinatown Revitalisation Project Stage2, Broome, WA

2018-2021 Shinju Matsuri Lantern Ceremony

Created three Japanese lanterns featuring original Japanese calligraphy artworks.

Presented to Japanese Pearl Family, Kim Male (Male Co, Ex.Pearling Company),

Atsushi Matsuo (Consulate General of Japan in Perth),

Mark McGowan (Premier of Western Australia)

2019 Community Art Workshop: Traditional Fishing Net Making, Shinju Matsuri, Broome, WA

2018 Judge's Panel, Shinju Matsuri Art Award & View to Asia Sculpture Exhibition, Broome, WA

Current Research Projects:

2022-2029 *Trace the Traces: The Past Wrongs, Future Choices*

Research-based art project exploring the history of Japanese internment in Australia during World War II through archival research, oral histories, thread-based installation, and data visualisation. Ongoing research across Western Australia, Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Formal Residencies:

2022 Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), Perth, WA

2021 Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), Perth, WA

Grants:

2022 Arts Creative Development Grant

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), WA

2021 Arts New Project Grant

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), WA

Affiliations/Memberships:

Japanese Artist Directory, Japan Foundation, Sydney, NSW

Nikkei Australia, Sydney, NSW

Broome Historical Society & Museum, Broome, WA

Qualifications:

1987 3rd Dan Certification in Japanese Brush Calligraphy (Shodo), The Japan Calligraphy Association

1999 Colour Theory, Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Relevant Employment:

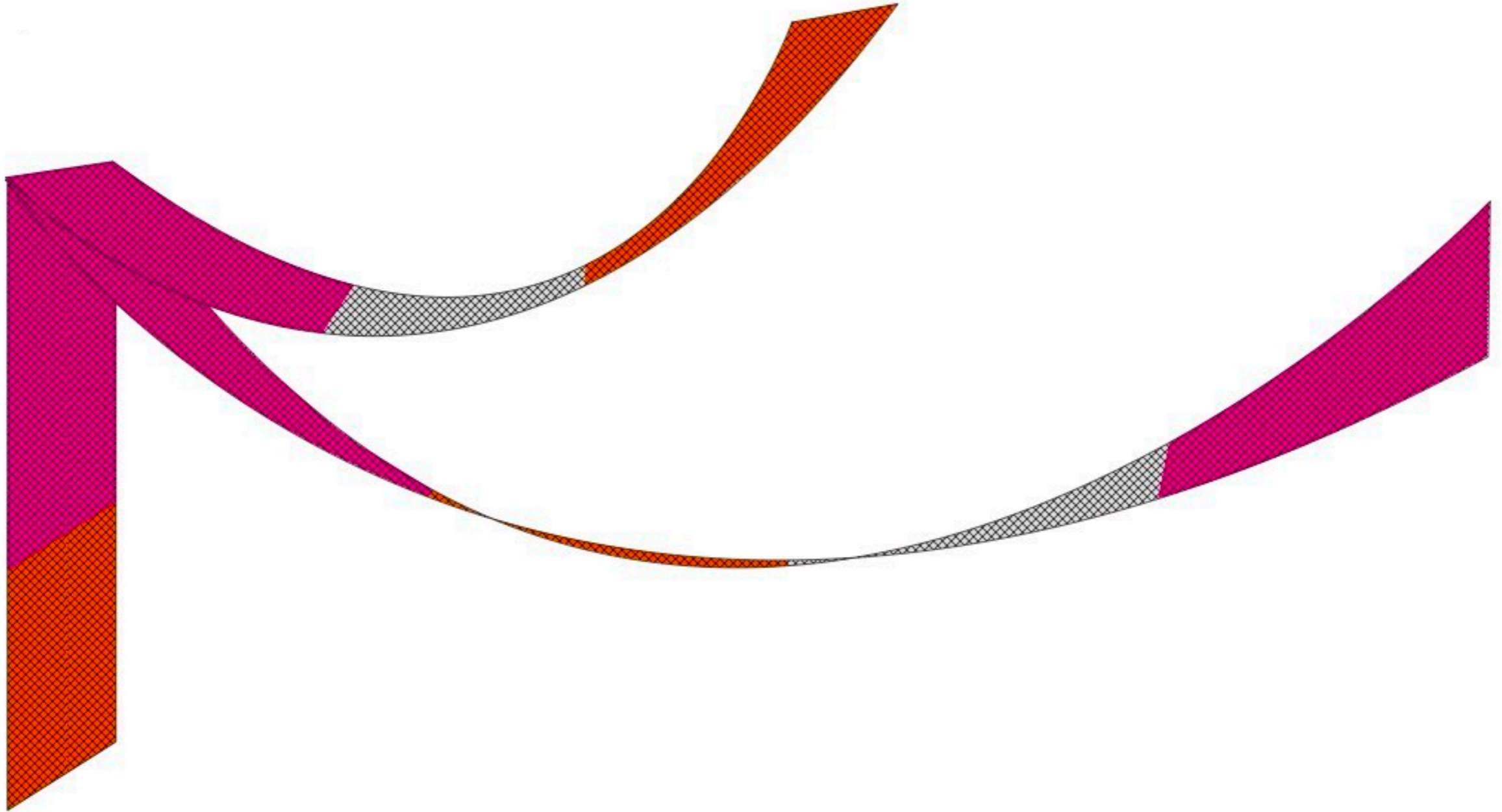
1994–1998 Shimada Photographic Studio - Creative Coordinator

1998–2008 ARTRA Co. - Creative Director, Art Coordinator

Tomoko Yamada: Visual Presentation of Proposed Artwork

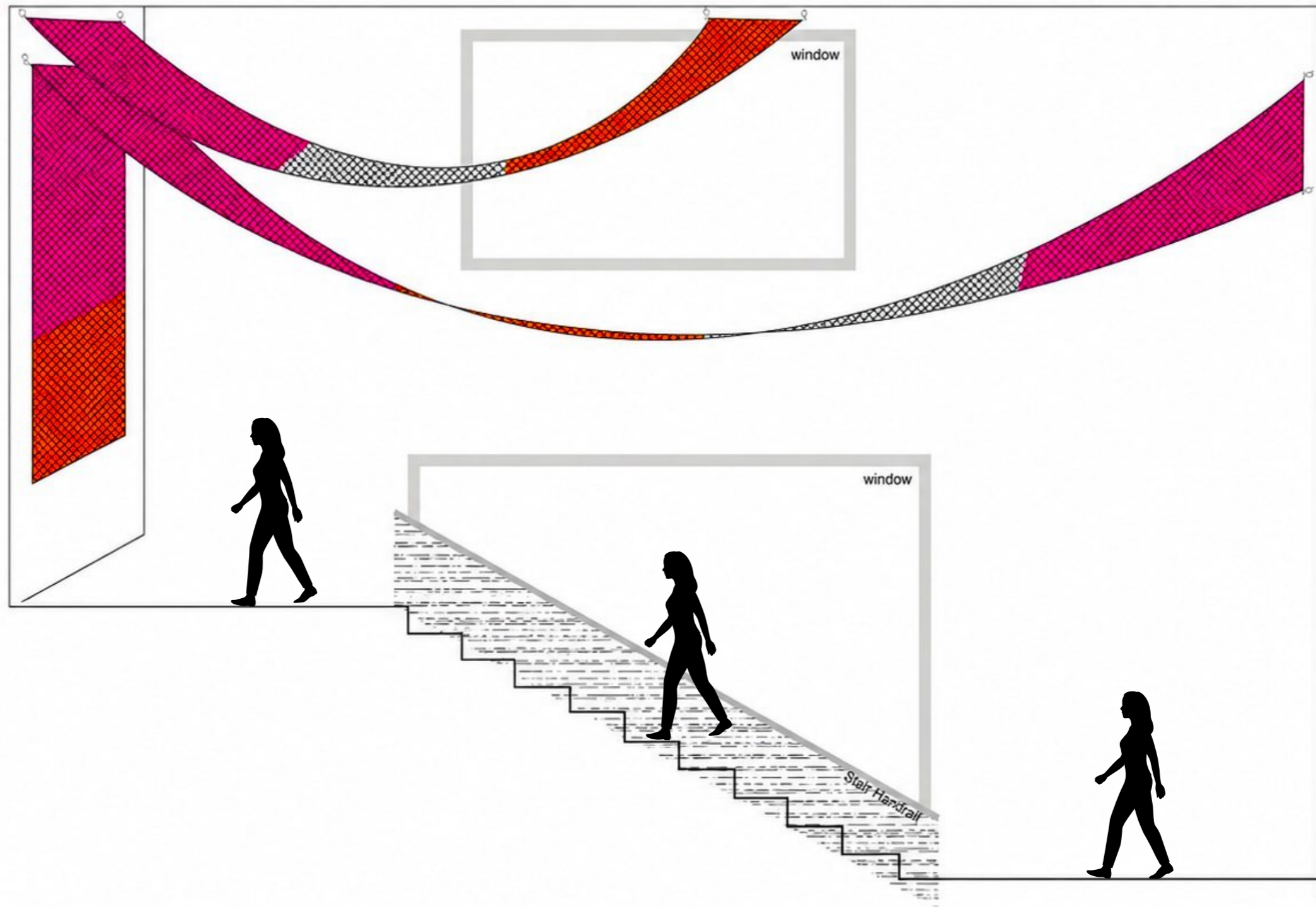
Artwork Title: The Space Beyond
Artwork Form: Fishing Nets Installation
Proposed Location: Stairwell site

Artwork Image

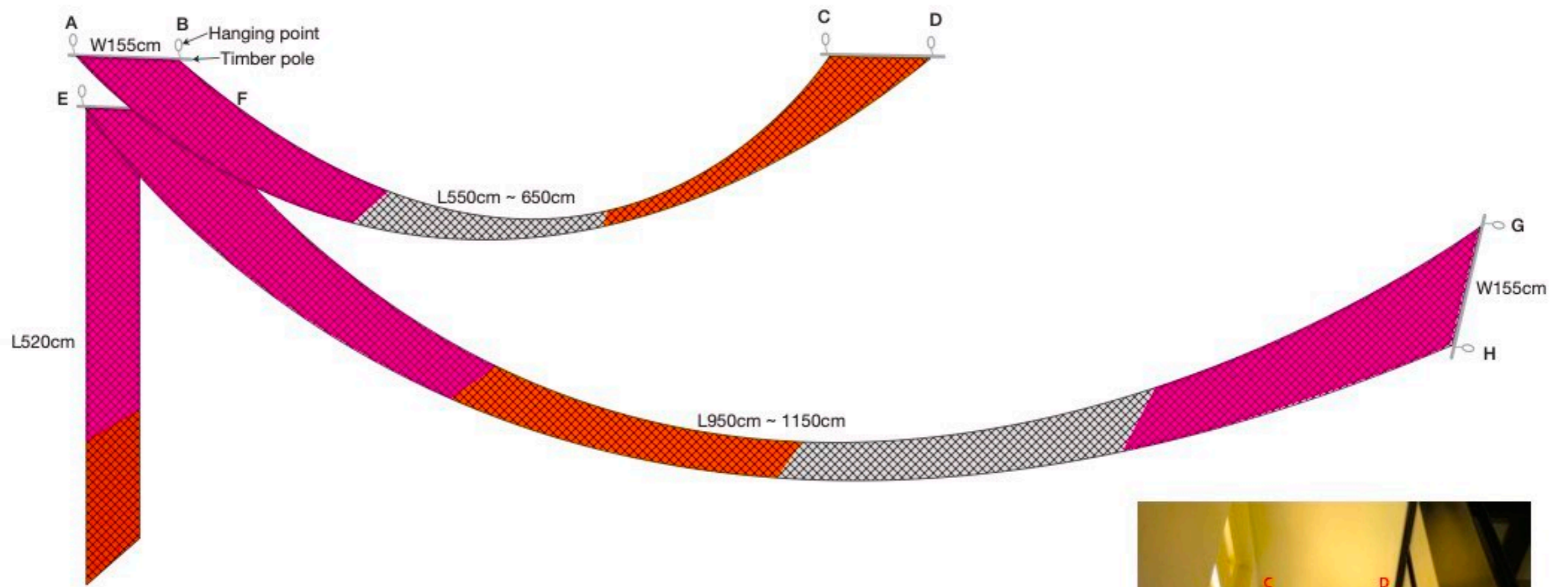


Tomoko Yamada: Visual Presentation of Proposed Artwork

Site Installation Image

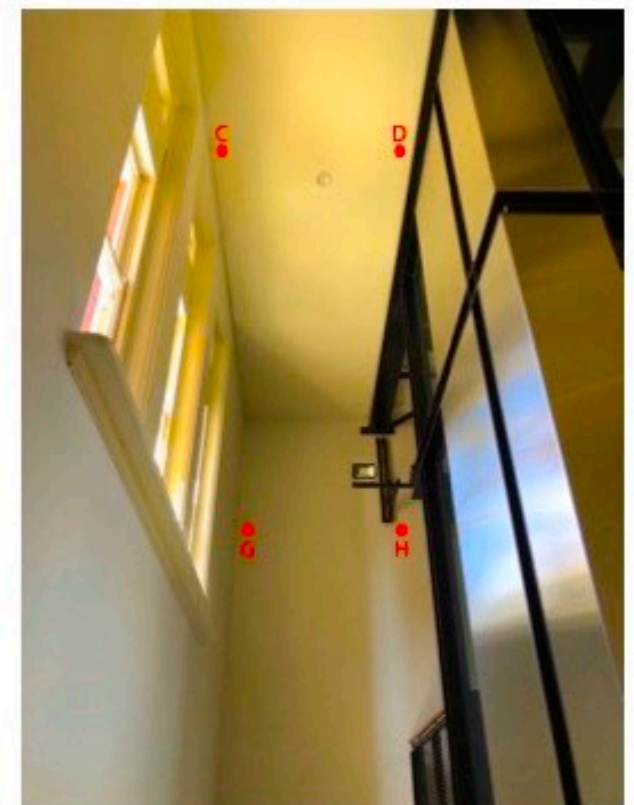
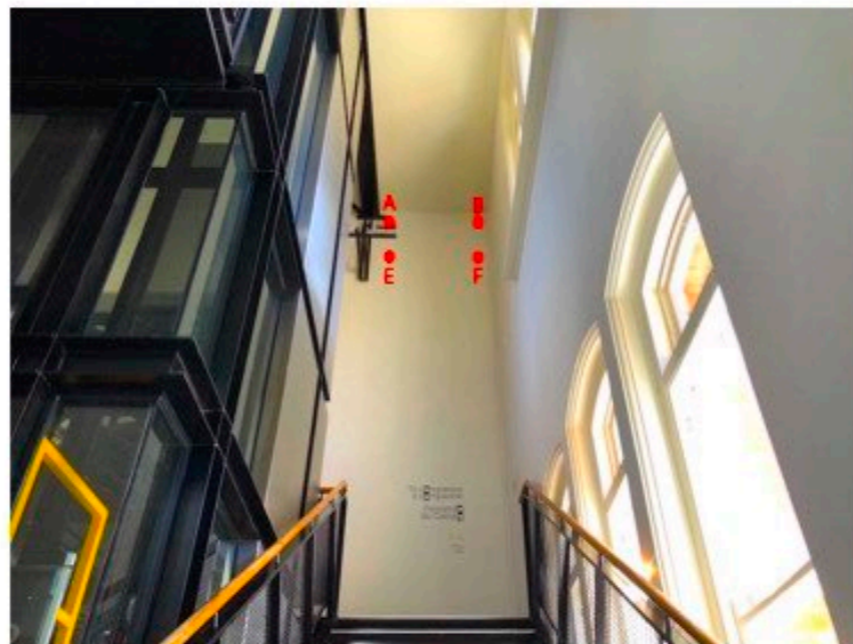


Tomoko Yamada: Visual Presentation of Proposed Artwork



Installation detail

- Require eight hanging points (A,B,E,F,G = Wall / C,D = Ceiling)
- Artwork size (Two bundle nets)
W155cm x L550cm ~ 650cm
W155cm x 1470cm ~ 1670cm
- Artwork attached with timber or aluminium pole



Tomoko Yamada: Visual Presentation of Proposed Artwork

Digital Image



Tomoko Yamada: Visual Presentation of Proposed Artwork

Similar Artworks



Tomoko Yamada: Budget List

INCOME				
Judy Wheeler Commission Artist Fee	\$10,000.00			
Contribution towards materials	\$10,000.00			
Contribution towards travel (flights, taxis, accommodation, per diems)	\$5,000.00			
Total	\$25,000.00			
EXPENSES				
Expense items may include materials, printing, framing, equipment, travel, etc.				
Judy Wheeler Commission Artist Fee	\$10,000.00			
Artwork Materials (Thread 100m roll x 320, Rope 10m x 4, Twine 100m roll x 4)	\$6,500.00			
Artwork Tools (Custom made netting scale x 2)	\$500.00			
Artwork Equipments (Timber pole 2m x 8, Screw eye hook 7mm x 400, Steel wire, etc.)	\$2,500.00			
Printing (Colour computer print-outs)	\$500.00			
Travel: Flights (Broome - Perth \$600 x 3 times) *Phase1, Phase5, Phase6	\$1,800.00			
Travel: Taxis (Airport - Accomodation, ect.) *Phase1, Phase5, Phase6	\$700.00			
Accomodation @250 x 10 days *Phase1, Phase5, Phase6	\$2,500.00			
Total	\$25,000.00			
INCOME - EXPENSES				
				\$0.00
This number should be \$0.00 to show that you have the income to cover your expenses.				
Notes on how to use the template				
Add in extra expense lines where necessary and provide as much detail as possible				

Relevant Previous Work-1

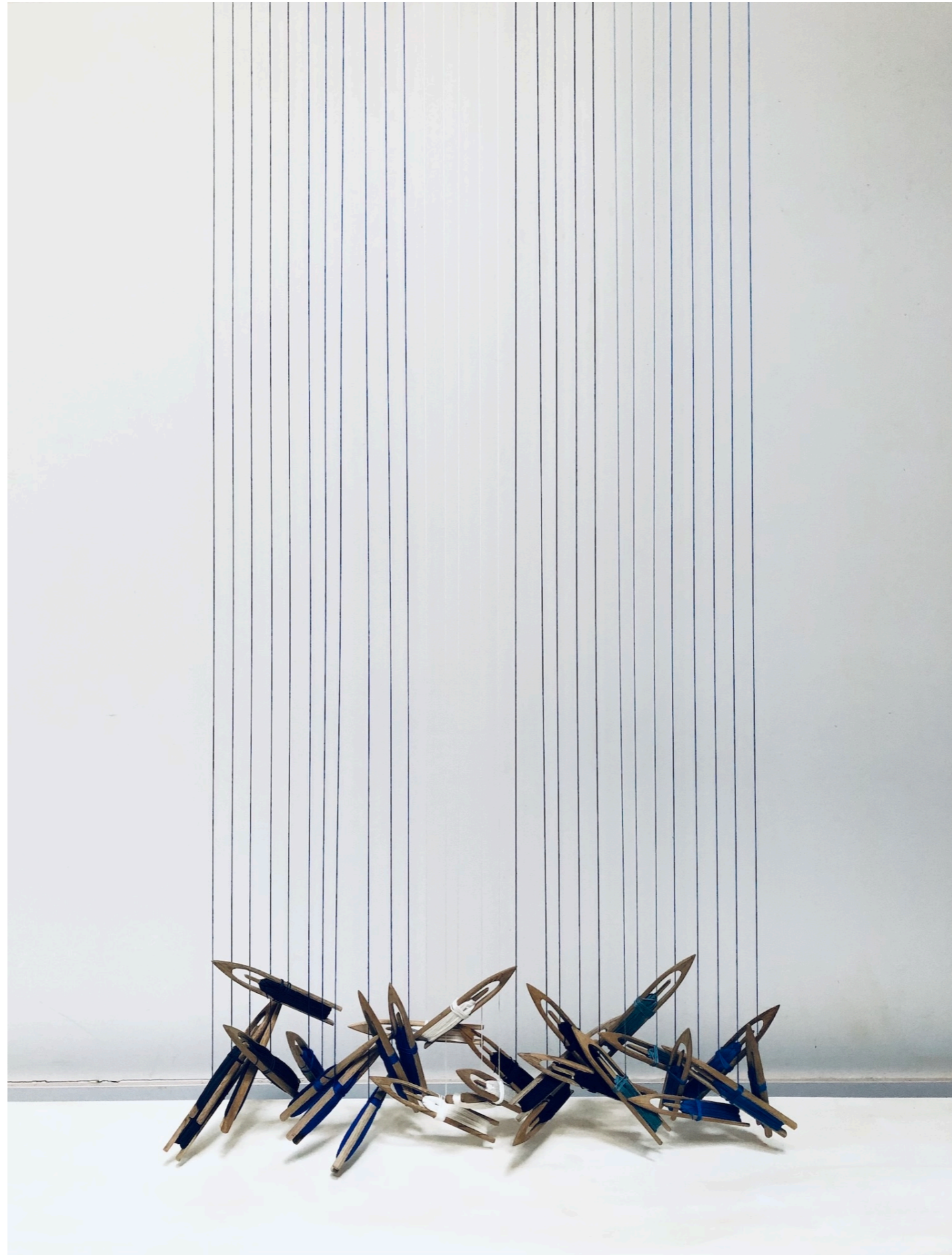


Fyke Nets / Broome Historical Museum Sail Makers Shed / 2026

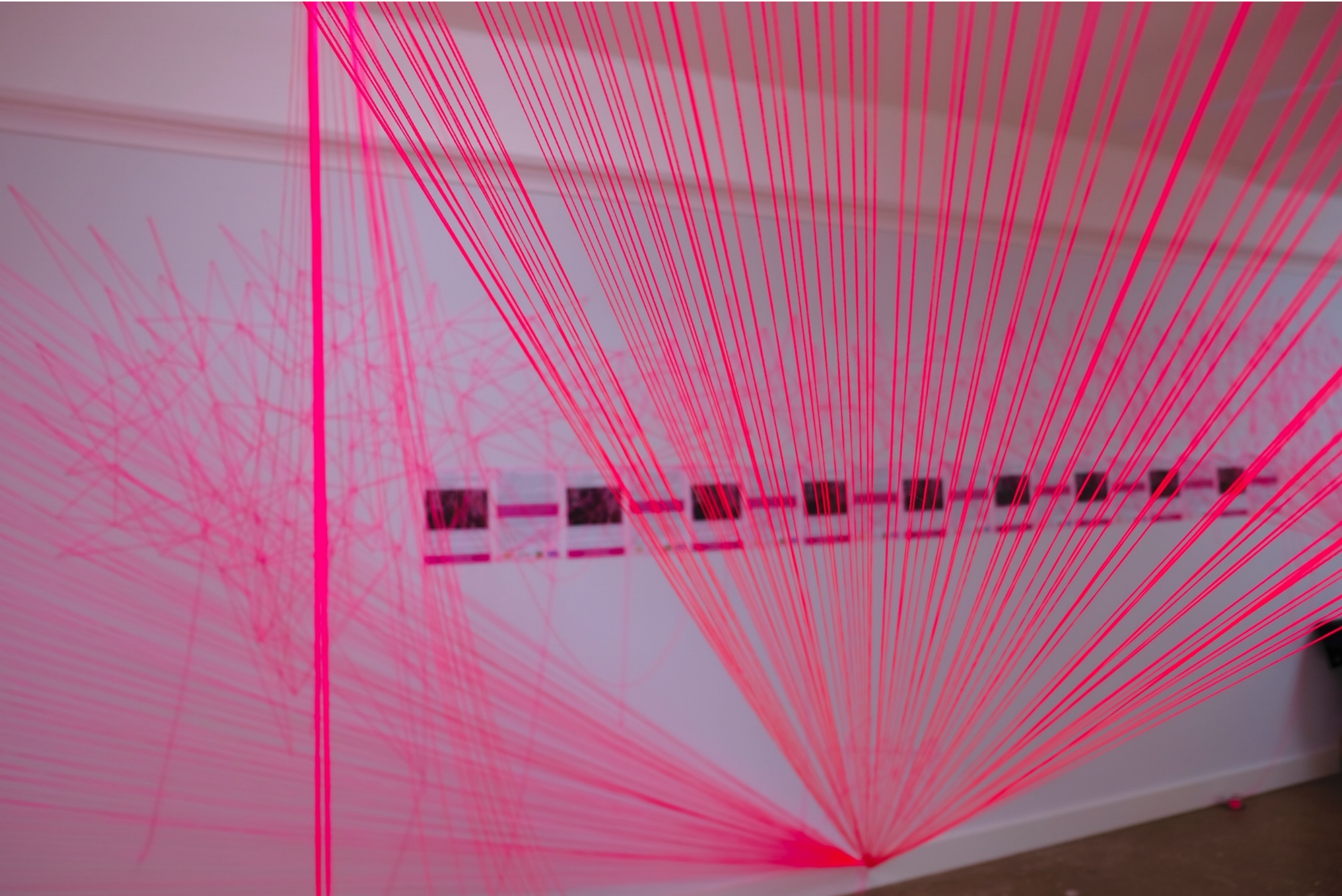
Relevant Previous Work-2



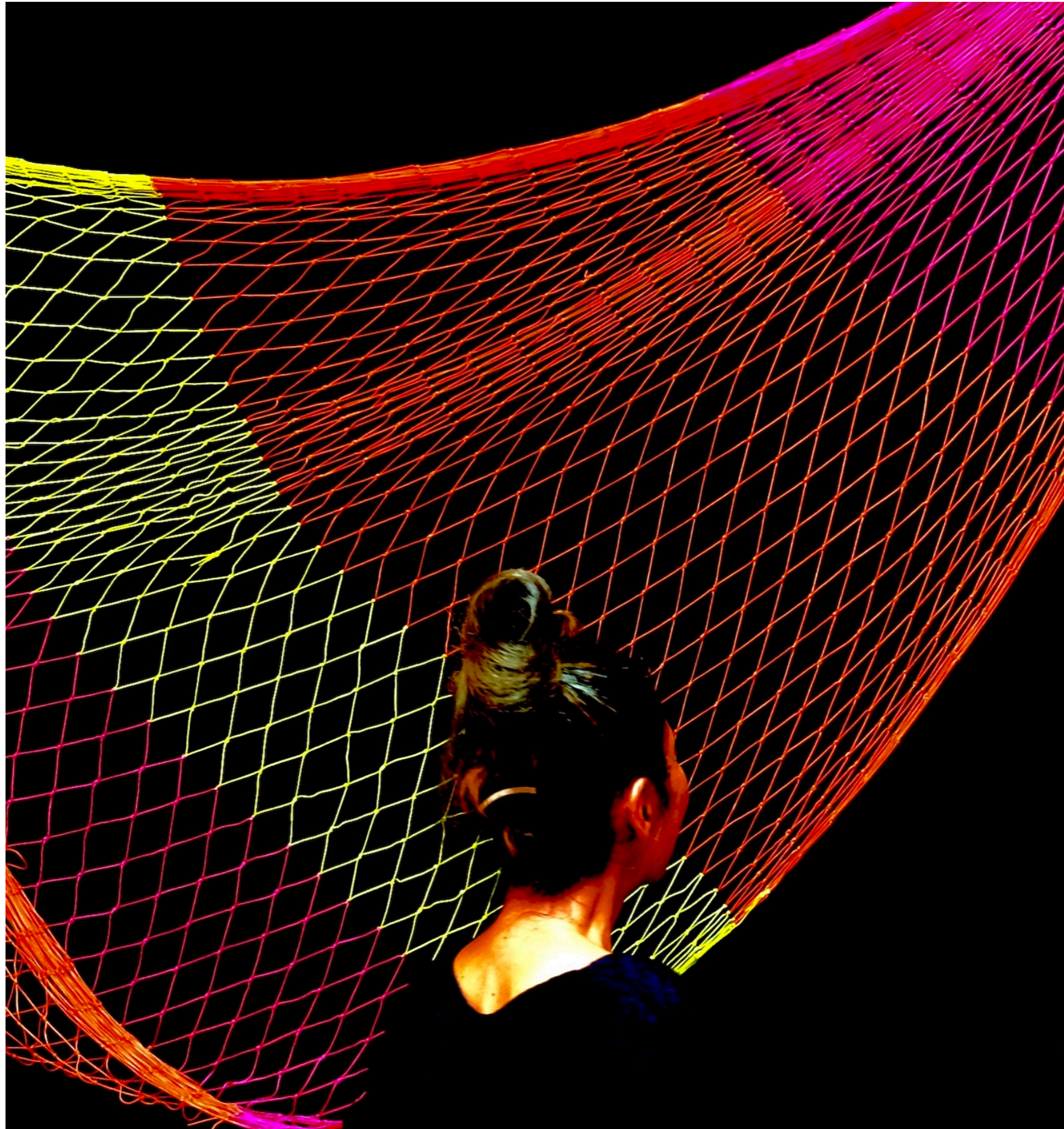
Common Language of Thread: Flow Movement...#4 / Studio Residency / The Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA) / 2022



Untitled / Installation 150 x 280 cm / 2021



Common Language of Thread: Flow Movement...#1 / Broome Fringe&Chinatown Discovery Festival / 2021



Flow... / Installation 3m x 28m / Shinju Matsuri 50th Golden Jubilee / 2019