

Home Security

Rebecca Shanahan

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'Home Security' uses surveilled activity to synthesise ideas about transience, gendered labour and networked life.

Central to the work is a meditation on time. The act of re-working one generation's garments into garments for the next considers the transient nature of existence, acknowledging this impermanence with a labour-intensive material response. By refusing the single use of a resource, the work also critiques an economy that requires market growth to the detriment of future life.

'Home Security's documentation operates in the present, contrary to the usual process of understanding live art practice after the fact through documentation. The continuous unrolling of live image capture in real time aims to heighten awareness of time passing – an expression of the Japanese *mono no aware*, a poignant consciousness of transience.

Women's labour is measurably undervalued and often invisible. Volunteer labour props up capitalism to the extent that the system could not function without it, yet this labour remains economically unaccounted-for. The empathetic act of women voluntarily knitting for others has a long history that is often entwined in politics: socks for soldiers, blankets for displaced persons. This particular act of knitting is sited in the context of current global family trauma, the existence and extent of which are denied by Australia's border security laws and the worst of which is inflicted on children.

This activity is filmed constantly and recorded through motion detection. While the technology used is derived from surveillance, its broader context is social media, reflecting networked contemporary life in which daily life is performed and recorded for distribution. 'Home Security' recognises this new default way of being in the world and speaks to the complex re-negotiation of relationships between personal and public lives.

List of Works

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'Home Security'

2017

Used wool jumpers, dressmaker's dummy, swift, stool, chair, artist's labour, wool hats, security camera system , monitor

Variable dimensions

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