

Artist statement

Carole Wilson
Vietnam Twice 2007

Vietnam Twice was created between 2007 and 2008 in my backyard studio in Ballarat. It formed part of a new body of work entitled 'Contained Worlds' the remainder of which will be exhibited with Dianne Tanzer Gallery in September 2008. The work is comprised of three different maps and some embroidered sections. The black and white maps are shipping maps which contain some handwritten notations and the coloured map is of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. The maps were sourced in a local second hand bookshop.

My research focus is with various aspects of colonisation and I am particularly interested in the lengths early European settlers went to in imposing their own sense of order on the Australian landscape through the creation of their homes and gardens. Long standing concerns with the history of women's handicrafts, textiles and the decorative arts is given full play in my recent and current bodies of work.

Materially speaking, the use of second hand or cast off materials is very important to my practise. In an affluent society such as ours, the wealth of options is practically inexhaustible and unexpected finds of richly patterned old carpet and stained maps has led to surprising results. Diverse as the materials may seem, there are in fact correlations on a number of levels and some of the patterning of the 1950s Axminster carpet resembles the contoured lines and tones of the geographical maps. Through a textile-based process of cutting, piecing and stitching the mapped representation of a given piece of land loses its original sense of meaning and is transformed offering multiple new readings.