

Jennifer Hawkins MACS Artists Profile Series
 “Are you an Artist?”



Automated Walk

I am always a bit at a loss with the question ‘Are you an Artist?’ and usually side-step it with ‘I just like to make things.’ I will, however, readily admit to being ‘a compulsive maker’ and, if pressed, ‘a gardener’.

Being a very mature student at art school was a challenge as all information was new, and even the language was strange. I remember quietly asking an experienced student what they meant by ‘form and content’. Any other department might have failed me, but my life-long thanks go to my teacher, Petr Herel, who saw something worth nurturing. I graduated from the Graphic Investigation Department of Canberra School of Art in 1981.

I have earned the label ‘oh, you do that weird stuff’ with works like a documented *Automated Walk* when I obeyed the traffic lights at the four-way pedestrian crossing at St James Station in Elizabeth Street, Sydney for 8 hours; those vital hours between 9 and 5 when we become automata in work-places. And the audio-visual *On the Edge* using the sound of a metronome measured against my own heart-beat (after a quick run around the block).



the last of me

over the past few years I have been making large installation works concerning extinction of species and the conditions and consequences around that. We will see that work later this year.

After I moved to Narooma in 2001 I took time to play, to do trials, to make mistakes, to enter competitions, and to be part of the creative and supportive community.

As the captioned images show, my practice is driven by an idea, linked to curiosity to explore whatever materials and processes serve that idea, and with the title being an integral part of the work.



Quilt for a Park Bench
 made from one issue of the *Financial Review*.
 the blocks are job ads, the joining strips are share market listings.
 Over 100,000 people in Australia are homeless



Remember us
 - so relevant now



The Hollow Men
 human over-population