

Media Release

Australian Design Centre

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Helen Britton, *Freaked Out Crying Weeder* (left) and *Jewellery for the Jewellery Fiends*. Photos: Eisel Dirk

The art of adornment: jewellery master Helen Britton

Australian Design Centre (ADC) is proud to present **Helen Britton, *The Story So Far*** from **28 August to 1 October 2025**, part of the ***Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft*** exhibition series. Helen is the tenth outstanding artist to be selected for this important accolade, an initiative of the Australian Design Centre that launched in 2004. The series aims to celebrate the achievements of Australia's best crafts practitioners, through a touring solo exhibition and major monograph publication.

A multidisciplinary Australian artist based in Munich, Germany, Helen is internationally acclaimed for her contemporary jewellery work, meticulously constructed pieces using precious metals, glass, stones and collected components. Her practice also includes sculpture, drawings, stencils and installations, and is informed by popular culture and folk art, threatened traditions, environmental destruction and human anxiety, as well as the built environment and its complex histories. Helen's work is a meditation on her own history as she engages with artefacts that act as powerful triggers to memory and association.

The Story So Far is inspired by Helen's photographic essay taken on her visits to Australia from 2017 to 2019. It documents the house of her great-aunt and Godmother Kath Carr, on the Clarence River on Ngunitiji, Yaegl Country (NSW Northern Rivers). Kath taught Helen how to paint on porcelain, make jewellery and create collages with pressed flowers or metal filings from the lathe in the shed. Kath's house was full of wonders – shells, gemstones, driftwood, dried seaweed, fish – and when she died it was locked and left completely intact. Helen's detailed photographic investigation was a journey back to the beginnings of her creative practice, building a network of connections between that time and the present.

The exhibition features new work, jewellery, painting, installation, drawings and objects alongside photographs of Kath's house. It also acknowledges the rich and complex world of country women, of a time of creative frugality that formed Helen's early experience of Australia, of lost possibility, and of a colonial past and present, still so deeply problematic.

Australian Design Centre's Artistic Director Lisa Cahill will provide curatorial and production input, working with exhibition designers Maria Mosquera and Vania Contreras. Lisa said: "It's an honour to work with Helen on this important project, celebrating her incredible work and career, and also as the 10th Living Treasures artist. Given Helen grew up in regional Australia, taking the show on tour around the country has special meaning, enabled by a grant from the Federal Government's Visions of Australia program."

Tour venues: Tamworth Regional Gallery (NSW); Ipswich Art Gallery (QLD); Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (VIC); SECCA Bega (NSW); Grafton Regional Gallery (NSW); Griffith Regional Gallery (NSW); JamFactory (SA); DEsign Tasmania (TAS); Busselton Cultural Precinct (WA).

Accompanying the exhibition is a major monograph, also titled *The Story So Far*, with German art publishing house Arnoldsche and award-winning book designer Alexandra Rutischka. Special screenings of the 2021 feature documentary *Hunter from Elsewhere, A Journey with Helen Britton* will be shown across Australia alongside the exhibition.

About Helen Britton

Helen grew up in Newcastle, and has lived and worked in Munich, Germany for more than 20 years. Her MFA at Curtin University in Western Australia included guest studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, the Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam, and San Diego State University, California. She established her own studio in Munich in 2002 and has had major institutional exhibitions in Germany and Australia. Her jewellery is held in collections around the world including the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, The Boston Museum of Fine Art, Neue Sammlung, Munich and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. In 2020 the Bavarian Chamber of Crafts invited Helen to curate SCHMUCK, the prestigious international jewellery show in Munich. In 2021 Elena Alvarez-Lutz's documentary film *Hunter from Elsewhere, A Journey with Helen Britton* premiered at Dok.Fest Munich.

FOR HIGH-RES IMAGES PLEASE SEE [HERE](#).

Helen Britton, The Story So Far

28 August – 10 October 2025

Exhibition Opening Night: Wednesday 27 August 2025

Australian Design Centre, 101-115 William Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

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Australian Design Centre upcoming dates in 2025

- **10 October – 19 November** *MAKE Award Biennial Prize for Innovation in Australian Craft and Design 2025; Remade-Reloved 2025*
- **27 November 2025 – February 2026** *Second Look – Legacy; Melinda Young, Trace lines Landlines; Annemaree Dalziel: Imperial Stockings*

For more exhibitions, events and ADC On Tour, see [here](#).

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Acknowledgement of Country

ADC is proud to be a creative place on Gadigal Country. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, the Gadigal People, and Elders past and present. As a cultural organisation with national reach, we also pay our respects to all First Peoples across the country, and acknowledge that the lands on which we live and work are unceded.

About Australian Design Centre

Established in 1964, Australian Design Centre is an independent impact organisation based in Sydney. We support and promote Australia's innovative designer makers, established and emerging, and encourage people to engage with design, craft and creativity through dynamic and high-quality national touring exhibitions, publishing, digital and educational activities.