
PEOPLE & PLACES

56

LOCAL, SAFE AND LUCKY CLAY MAKING IN HOTEL QUARANTINE

by Robyn Phelan

60

PHOENIX RISING POTTERS CROFT

by Penny Smith

Image: **Robyn Phelan**, 12 works made in hotel quarantine and displayed on food containers November 2020; photo: artist





All work was made using earthenware clay; unfired.

Day 1 Curls of a returned child

Day 2 Vessel for breathing

Day 3 A day spent in my head after a night of heavy dreams

Day 4 ... looping, swirling, doodling with coils

Day 5 Remembering Kangaroo Grass & other things



LOCAL, SAFE AND LUCKY CLAY MAKING IN HOTEL QUARANTINE

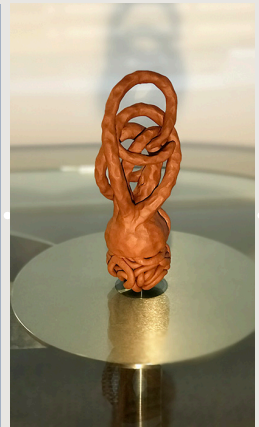
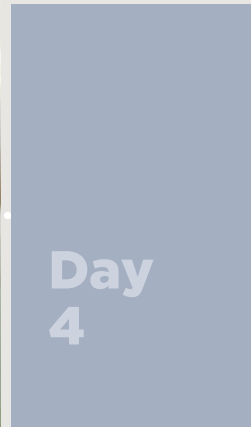
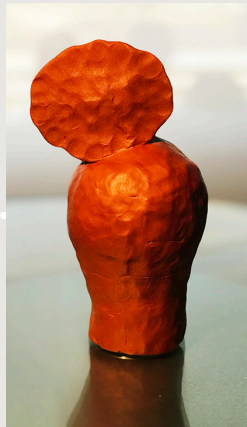
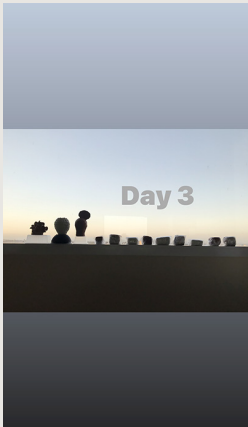
In late November 2020, with Melbourne out of lockdown, I rushed from a rural residency to meet with my fifteen-year-old son and quarantine in a Tullamarine hotel. He was returning from ten months exchange on a farm in rural Michigan, USA. In the frenzy, alarm, and uncertainty of this time, I grabbed whatever clay I had at home (slim pickings having been locked out of my studio for most of the year), a guitar, yoga mats, a 12-day stash of chocolate and met him at the airport gate lounge.

These were my Quarantine Residency Parameters:

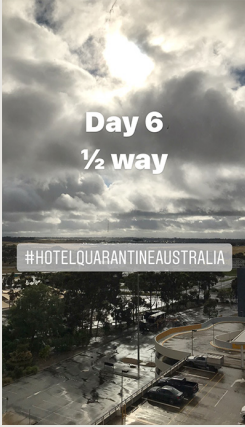
- 1 Reacquaint myself as mother to my son
- 2 12 pieces of clay cut, wrapped and displayed on hotel windowsill
- 3 Make one sculptural object per day
- 4 Use food containers as display devices
- 5 Post daily on Instagram
- 6 Wait for time to expire
- 7 Exercise
- 8 Watch great movies
- 9 Hope that there are no other cases of COVID-19 in our hotel

I acknowledge that we are white, middle-class, citizens of Australia, giving my son a 'passport' to return to this country without challenge. We quarantined safely and in comfort. I had the luxury to turn this experience into an art residency. I am local and I am lucky.

Robyn Phelan; robynphelan.com.au



PEOPLE & PLACES

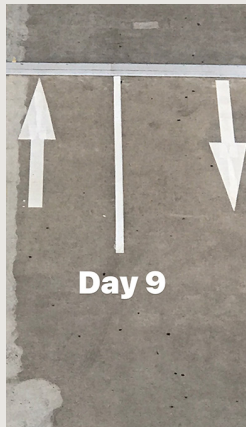
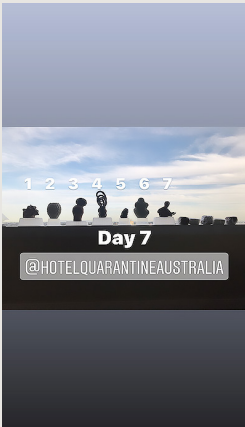


Day 6 It seems right to make a cloud today

Day 7 A portrait request

Day 8 Remembering being with trees

Day 9 Topsy turvy; a bad day





Day 10 Vessel for grounding and tethering to earth
Day 11 Conjuring the surmountable
Day 12 Life compressed into a rectangle

Photos: The Phelans

