



ABOVE  
Aubry James Byrnes  
*Remnant*  
2012, oil on board, 75 x 75cm

FRONT COVER  
Aubry James Byrnes  
*Full stop*  
2012, silk ribbon, 25 x 25cm

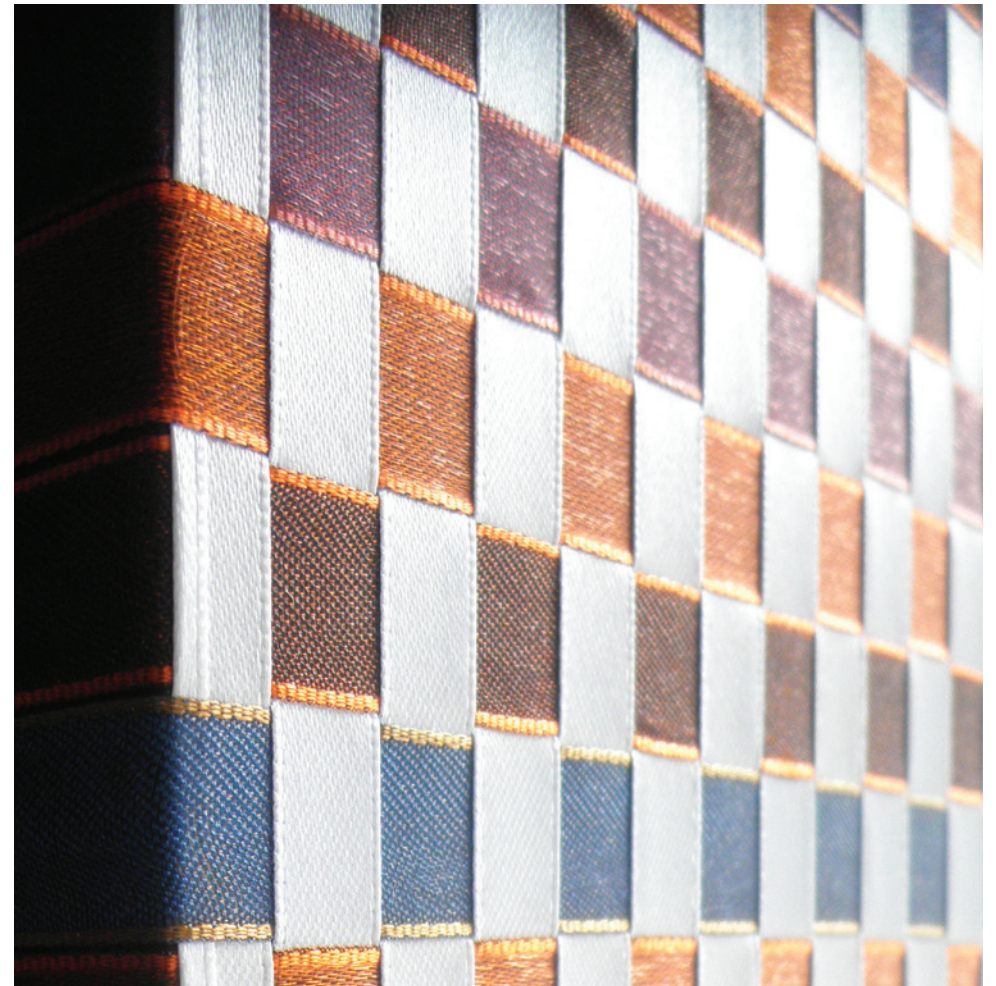
## AUBRY JAMES BYRNES

*Convergence: the minimal and the beautiful*

PhD EXAMINATION EXHIBITION DATES 20 June - 7 July 2012



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA



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Contemporary theories about beauty and how these are exemplified in Minimalist paintings and sculptures has informed the work of Aubry James Byrnes.

Research has shown that there is an interdependence between the object, the viewer and the gallery/exhibition environment. Here the Minimalist aesthetic creates a space where the viewer is encouraged to become reflexive, open to ideas of temporality, free thought and the imagination.

The foundation for Byrnes' painted and woven works is undoubtedly the form and structure of the grid. The repetition of marks is also fundamental to forming a Gestalt, that along with the seductive exploration of surface texture, materials and the restrained use of colour entice the viewer to acknowledge that there is indeed a convergence between beauty and the minimal.

*"This notion that Minimalism and beauty are ethically accountable to doctrines of broader social consequence has significantly altered my perspective on many issues relating to the function of art in society. In particular, the power of aesthetics to influence behaviour, whether it is through the call of Minimalism to embrace its implied values of social uprightness and integrity or beauty's innate capacity for self-perpetuation, and with it, the perpetuation of capaciousness and moral veracity.<sup>1</sup> These complex narratives of the social and the moral are continually re-contextualised through my art practice."*

**- Aubry James Byrnes, 2012**

<sup>1</sup> Elaine Scarry, *On Beauty and Being Just*, Princeton University Press, 2001, p62



ABOVE TOP  
**Aubry James Byrnes**  
*Untitled*  
 2012, oil on timber, 25 x 25cm

ABOVE  
**Aubry James Byrnes**  
*Arabesque*  
 2012, oil on board, 75 x 75cm

OPPOSITE  
**Aubry James Byrnes**  
*Ridiculously tedious art contemplations* (installation detail)  
 2012  
 muslin cloth, cotton cord, enamel paint, silk ribbon, painted timber, dimensions variable

**AUBRY  
 JAMES  
 BYRNES**