

# By the cape and horns

Lucienne Rickard, 31, of North Hobart, is fascinated by the rituals of bullfighting

**I** HAVE never been to a bullfight, but it's a big ambition. I have watched many bullfights on YouTube and read heaps of books about it.

I read Hemingway's [bullfighting novel] *Fiesta* at the end of my PhD in 2005 and something about that story – and the brutality and beauty inherent in the bullfight – resonated with me.

When I was alone in Paris for four months in 2006 I spent a lot of time wandering around graveyards, including Pere Lachaise Cemetery, looking at all the mausoleums and family crypts. The connection with death and bullfighting and ornamentation around death all came together.

I am fascinated by the ornamentation with which humans surround death. Death is so final – and I find the idea of injecting beauty into it through useless decoration really beautiful.

When I started this matador series, I was looking for a way to push my drawing practice further, through repetitive mark-making and the scale of the works. I found a direct relationship with the sewing and embroidery that goes into making the clothes – and I am almost mirroring that process as I draw them, stitch by stitch.

In the past six months, I've had a couple of weekends off, but apart from that, I'm in the studio whenever I'm not working [teaching at the UTAS art school and waitressing at a city cafe]. Usually, I get five or six hours of drawing done at night in my garden studio.

Today, I am with my partner fishing for flathead off Bellerive



ABOVE: Lucienne Rickard with *Untitled (bull diptych)* at Despard Gallery.

Picture: SAM ROSEWARNE

## MEET the ARTIST

**Beach.** He has been waiting for six months for me to spend any time outside the studio. I have been sketching the stadium and beach while he has been fishing.

AMANDA DUCKER

**Un-Natural Selection**, with works by Lucienne Rickard, Anne-France Fulgence and Sebastian Galloway, is on at Despard Gallery, 15 Castray Esp, until May 27



ABOVE: *The night kept coming on in*, 2013 (detail).



ABOVE: *As if there were no other way anymore*, 2013 (detail).