

VISUAL ARTS

Cellar Sweatshop

Laura Wills, Jessica Dare, Renate Field,

Kel Mocilnik, Alice Potter, Evette Sunset,

Irmina van Niele

Light Square Gallery

February 20 – March 19

Reviewed by Stephanie Radok

Cellar sweatshop draws on recycling as a way of life and a way of thinking. Being thrifty and recycling, tuning into nature and grooving on old things has been around for a really long time, both in art and life. And yet embracing recycling as serious play to the extent that these artists do means making a very current political statement against the drive to consume, be silent and die.

Irmina van Niele who shows a small silvery city of plastic houses has also made a book. One part is photos of marketers (the simple act of putting down a blanket and spreading out what you have to sell is what this whole show evokes – self-sufficiency and a kind of openness). The other part of her book is cut-out words reviewing climate change and suggesting that ‘the slow decline may prove to be a potential source of good fortune’. Piled up among many other things, the wooden cotton spools and the leaves cut from Agave plants along with pale pastel flattened plastic bags, all awaiting recycling, have a quiet beauty. There are also interactive elements in the show. Kel Mocilnik has made a blackboard for your input, Laura Wills has made a scratch and see board, and markets will be held in Rundle Mall during the Fringe.

