

FRONT COVER

Lezlie Tilley
Verse 16 from the Halloween series
2012 ongoing
mixed media
21 x 15cm

INSIDE TOP

Lezlie Tilley
A poetry of infinite possibilities series
2013 - 2014 ongoing
ink or graphite on paper
59 x 42cm (paper)

INSIDE BOTTOM

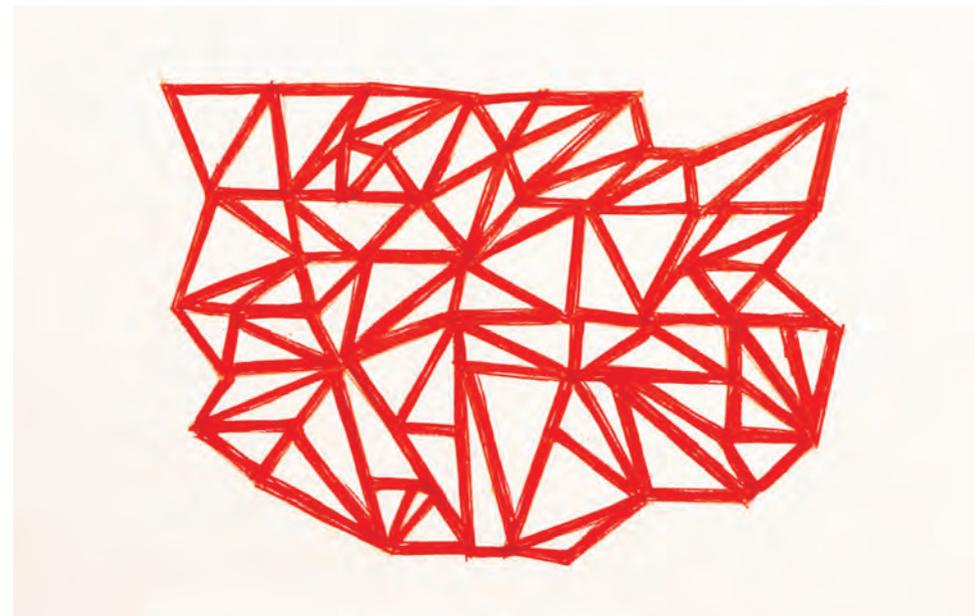
Lezlie Tilley
Pages from an a-less novel
2012 ongoing
coloured pencil on perforated paper
21 x 15cm

BRENDA MAY ▲ GALLERY

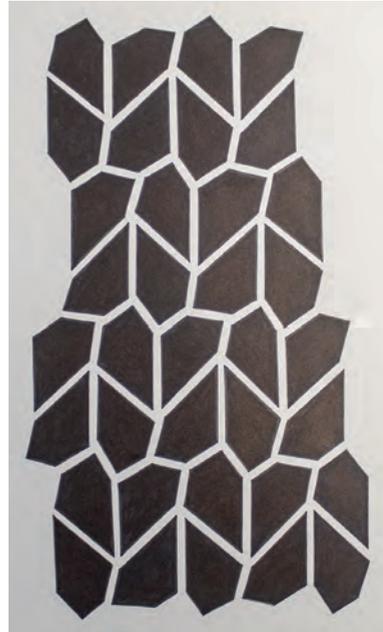
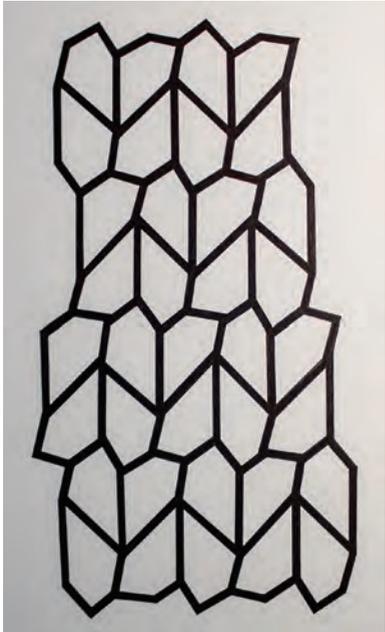
LEZLIE TILLEY

Soundings

EXHIBITION DATES 24 June - 11 July 2015



Each work is a small part of a wider work in progress – the infinite mapping of letters, words, marks, geometry, networks and time in a visual world. They are born of poetry, and, through the hand of the artist, return to poetry in a changed form.



Jean slips in twa, wi' tentie e'e
Wha 'twas, she wadna tell;
But this Jock, and this is me,
She says in to herself:
He bleez'd owre her, an' she owre him,
As they wad never mair part;
Till fuff! he started up the lum,
And Jean had e'en a sair heart
To see't that night.
- Robert Burns, *Halloween*, 1785, Verse 8

This exhibition emerges from ongoing investigations in Lezlie Tilley's art practice, each exploring the possibilities created by taking a fundamental form or idea and extrapolating it infinitely. In each series she searches for the essence of form, revealing the simple and inherent beauty in the minutiae of lines, patterns, and the seemingly random arrangement of individual marks on a surface. As she explains, 'my drawings are dragged between the extremes of sketchy and finished, spontaneous and measured. The linear images can be viewed as maps, pathways, or a system of writing time itself.'

In pages from *an a-less novel*, Tilley turns words and letters into images using a methodology that isolates vowel sounds and reconnects them on a new picture plane. After marking the positions of the letter 'a' on each page of text, then punching the new marked surface, these random assortments of reference points are joined together to become graphic and vibrant geometric compositions.

The Halloween series takes this suggestion further, responding to a specific piece of literature: the 28-stanza poem, *Halloween*, written by Scottish poet and lyricist Robert (Robbie) Burns in 1785. Taking the verses directly from a well-loved and fragile book of poetry given to her by her grandmother, Tilley explores each canto and transforms words and sounds into their own elegant visual poetry. Again, fragments of language become points, then lines, connections, shapes, shadows; images that encompass everything and nothing.

Lezlie Tilley is a Newcastle based artist, represented by Brenda May Gallery, Sydney.

