

MATTHEW DE MOISER

ARTIST STATEMENT

My family arrived in Australia after the Second World War as Estonian refugees – I have a photo of mum standing on the dock clutching a small suitcase with all her worldly possessions. They eventually settled in Geelong, building their first home out of discarded packing crates from the Ford factory where my grandpa worked. Although a lot of the furnishings were found at the nearby tip, the house was not without some luxuries and included a small home-made sauna off to one side.

A few years before she died, after spending the best part of her life in Australia my Grandma confided feeling she belonged neither here nor back in Estonia. Estranged from her home, she existed somewhere else in-between.

In many ways, this family legacy still influences my practice today – informing my concerns for issues of place, identity and belonging in contemporary Australia and underpinning appropriation and re-use as strategies for art-making and making sense of the world.

At various times I have worked with found long stitch embroideries, IKEA furniture parts and even other artists' work. The objects we live with have power and meaning; not because of what they are but because of what we bring to them. Their familiarity is both an entry point to the work and a powerful way to explore the Australian condition.

Matt de Moiser 2015

Noella Lopez Gallery 2015