



After Blue Jean Sisters

Belinda Smith

Macnaughton Focus Gallery and Kelly Wall

Friday 5 March to Sunday 2 May 2021

Blue Jean Sisters is a craftivism project by artist Belinda Smith, which shines a light on the exploitation of human labour and environmentally destructive practices of today's fast fashion industry. This community participation project invited participants to make a doll from upcycled jeans and consider the effort that goes into the clothes that they wear. 1650 dolls were made over a year (September 2018 – September 2019) through workshops and home-based making.

The bi-product of making hundreds of dolls from secondhand jeans is that there are many off-cuts and unusable parts such as waistbands and seams, and reusing these became a preoccupation for the artist throughout the project. *Blue Jean Sisters* will be installed along with Smith's exploration and re-use of macro and micro denim and textile waste that range from a large-scale twined installation to intimate embroideries using denim weft threads and amber topstitch cotton.

Blue Jean Sisters was commissioned and exhibited at Adderton: house & heart of mercy for *A Fierce Hope*.

Photo: Nat McComas