



Press Release

Nabilah Nordin

Covergirl Adhesives

Dates:
7 February - 29 February, 2020

Opening Reception:
Friday 7 February, 6-8pm

COMA is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Australian Singaporean artist Nabilah Nordin - her first solo with the gallery - titled *Covergirl Adhesives*.

This new body of work is concerned with celebrating surface, texture and colour. Functioning on an immediate, visceral level the sculptures act as both stand-alone objects and work to convey the rigorous labour that goes into them. To achieve a *finish* and to create a final *appearance*, whether it is shiny and glossy or activated through globules and ridges, the physical undertaking for Nordin is enormous. These processes - sweeping, sawing, drilling, mixing - are embedded in the sculptures, something the viewer may or may not discern when presented with only the final layer.

In *Covergirl Adhesives*, Nordin is actively challenging the commonly-held assumption that to appreciate a *surface*, or an *appearance* is a superficial act. To the artist the surface of an artwork is like a performance, and one that conceals the labour that maintains it. In their natural state the materials of these works experience cracking, crumbling and loss of shape. It takes this performance of sorts, the laying of adhesives and holding matter, to keep them composed and contained.

The title, *Covergirl Adhesives*, speaks to the labour required to prop up appearances. It expresses feelings of materiality, personal processes and the glossy final image itself. It also presents a certain aesthetic - a sleek, photographic, sparkling appearance that is, ironically, made from construction and everyday materials - cement, paint, wood, wire and metal.





Recent News:

- In November 2019 Nordin was included in the 2019 edition of the Singapore Biennale. The artist created a precarious obstacle course in the Singapore Art Museum.

More information [here](#).

- It has recently been announced that Nordin will be included in a group presentation opening in November 2020 with the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art titled *Things that fall apart*.

More information [here](#).

- Nordin was featured in Issue 90 of Art Collector Magazine as an 'artist to watch' selected by Isobel Parker Philp - Senior Curator of Contemporary Australian Art with the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

More information [here](#).

Nabilah Nordin (b. 1991, Singapore) lives and works in Melbourne, Australia. In 2013 she completed a Bachelor in Fine Art at RMIT University, VIC, and in 2015 completed a Master of Contemporary Art at the Victorian College of the Arts, VIC. Nordin creates large-scale sculptural installations by assembling various found objects and construction materials. Employing a haptic approach to making, Nordin's works are autobiographical yet playful in nature. Select recent exhibitions include; *An Obstacle in Every Direction*, Singapore Biennale, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, 2019, *Stop Peeping*, Cement Fondu, Sydney, 2019, *Rules of Engagement*, Substation SAD Bar, Singapore, 2019, *The Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Scholarship*, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne 2019, among many other presentations.



For all press inquiries
please contact:

info@comagallery.com

COMA

First Floor, 71-73 Stanley Street
Darlinghurst
NSW, 2010
Australia