

Looking Back
There Were Signs

by

SAMUEL LEIGHTON-DORE

Looking Back There Were Signs is a multidisciplinary exhibition exploring visual artist and screenwriter Samuel Leighton-Dore's adult diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and the ways in which new diagnoses can recontextualise old ideas of self.

From a wall-mounted ceramic screenplay, to an animated 'cardboard cutout' factory production line, Leighton-Dore draws on different elements of his varied creative practice to examine ideas around authenticity, 'masking' and the performance of self. Just as an actor might run through their lines before arriving on set, Leighton-Dore reflects on a private rehearsal of social interactions ahead of time, along with the detached, out-of-body sensation that comes with watching oneself move through day-to-day life, as if a character in an imagined film.

The resulting artworks are inherently self-conscious in nature, capturing the artist's ongoing struggle with rejection-sensitivity and the anxiety of anticipating new people and environments, while thrumming the tension not only between contrasting mediums like ceramics and animation, but between who one is and how one edits, constructs and presents oneself in order to move through the world.

Together, these reflections form a self-portrait that simultaneously gives life to, and eulogises, narratives of self – constantly re-edited, rearranged and recomposed as the artist works to project versions of himself for audiences, real and imagined.

Even as he writes this, untied from himself in third person, Leighton-Dore is considering gallery visitors reading his words – composing a particular version of who he is, in this instance, an artist he hopes you might accept.

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

Visitors pause at a ceramic text-based artwork.

THE ARTIST
times I wonder what
ould say if you
; standing there
g it.

GALLERY VISITOR
What does it mean
; standing there
g it.

Looking
Back
There
Were
Signs

SAMUEL LEIGHTON-DORE





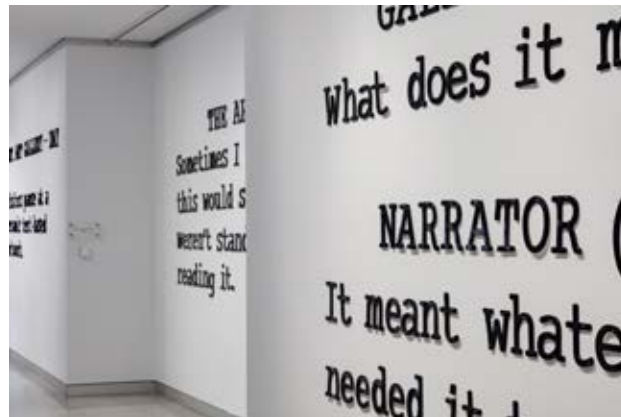
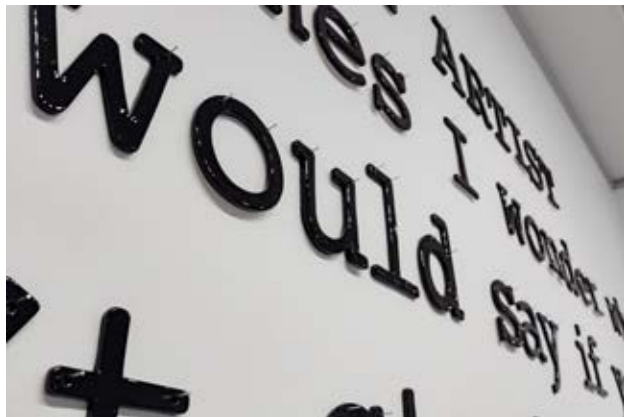
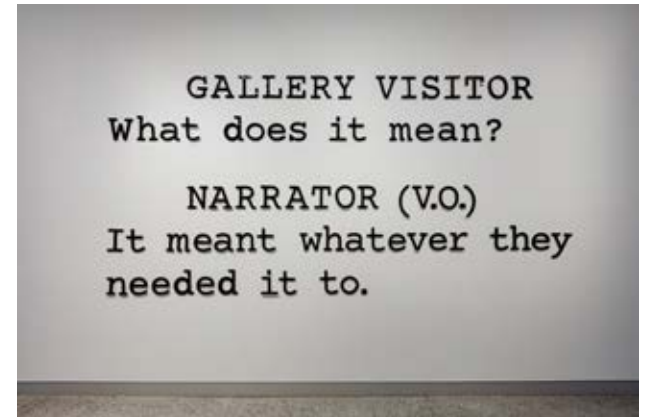
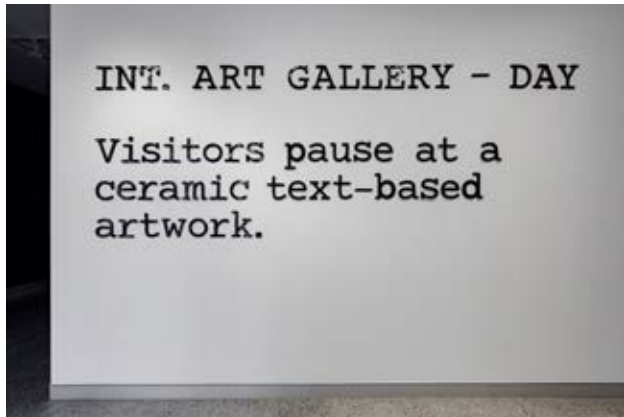
Samuel Leighton-Dore

Looking Back There Were Signs (Title) 2024

glazed ceramic

dimensions variable, 39 pieces

\$3,000.00



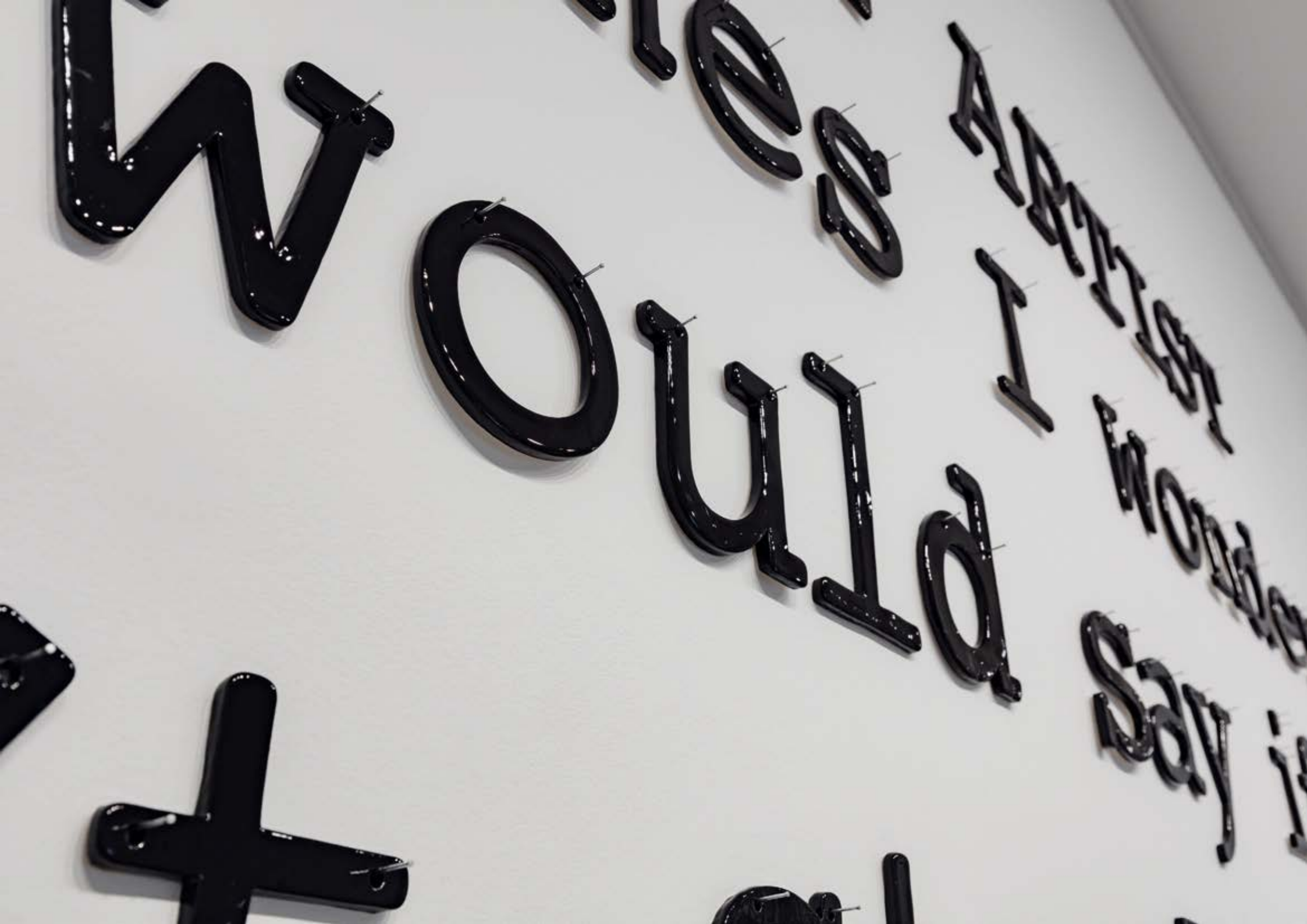
Samuel Leighton-Dore

Looking Back There Were Signs (Script) 2024

glazed ceramic

dimensions variable, 220 pieces

\$16,000.00



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Samuel Leighton-Dore

Self-portrait 2024

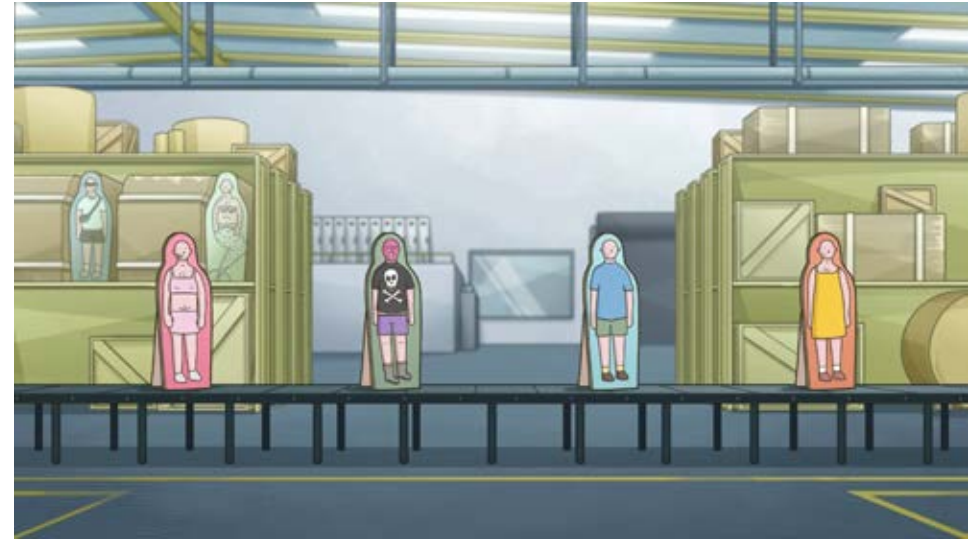
glazed ceramic

dimensions variable, 41 pieces

Gift of the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd. with funds provided by Anthea Polson Art, 2024

Tweed Regional Gallery collection





View clip: <https://vimeo.com/sadmanstudio/the-me-factory>

Samuel Leighton-Dore

The Me Factory 2024

single-channel HD video, sound, looped

12 minutes, 19 seconds duration

edition of 5 + 2AP

\$6,000.00





Samuel Leighton-Dore
Audience (Artist's View) 2024
synthetic polymer on board
150 x 85cm, framed

\$3,000.00



Samuel Leighton-Dore
Spotlight (Artist as Pearl) 2024
synthetic polymer on board
150 x 85cm, framed

\$3,000.00





Samuel Leighton-Dore
The Texts (Daybill) 2024
 ink and dye on paper
 34 x 76cm, framed
 unique state print, edition of 3 + 2AP

\$1,200.00



Samuel Leighton-Dore
Do-Re-Me (Daybill) 2024
 ink and dye on paper
 34 x 76cm, framed
 unique state print, edition of 3 + 2AP

\$1,200.00



Samuel Leighton-Dore
Sensory Overload! (Daybill) 2024
 ink and dye on paper
 34 x 76cm, framed
 unique state print, edition of 3 + 2AP

\$1,200.00



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**FEELING
OVERWHELMED BY**

“The Texts”

DING DING DING





Samuel Leighton-Dore is a multidisciplinary artist and screenwriter based on the Gold Coast. Working predominantly across ceramics, illustration and animation, he's interested in marrying traditional mediums with on-screen storytelling, bringing a sense of heart and humour to complex themes of identity, sexuality and psychology. He has released two books, *How To Be A Big Strong Man* (2019) and *Wow It's All A Lot* (2023), with past works acquired by the Gold Coast City Collection and featured on the cover of *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*.

Website: www.sadmanstudio.com

Instagram: @samleightondore

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8 March 2024 - 26 May 2024

The works in this exhibition are available for purchase.
For all enquiries, please visit or contact our Gallery Shop
(02) 6670 2179 | galleryshop@tweed.nsw.gov.au

 **TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE**

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gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

Gallery Open Wednesday to Sunday

A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative. An outcome of the PLATFORM program. This project is assisted by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.



Australian Government

