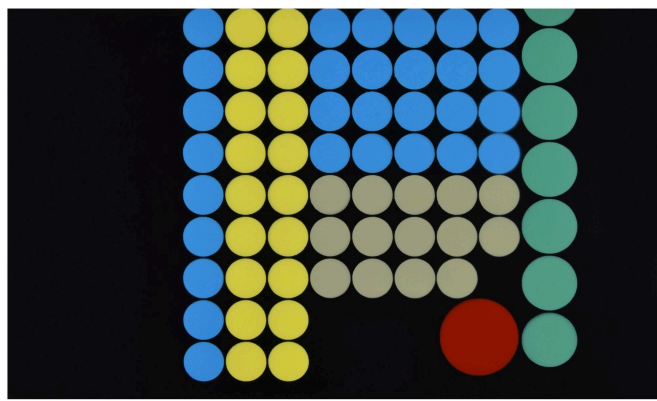
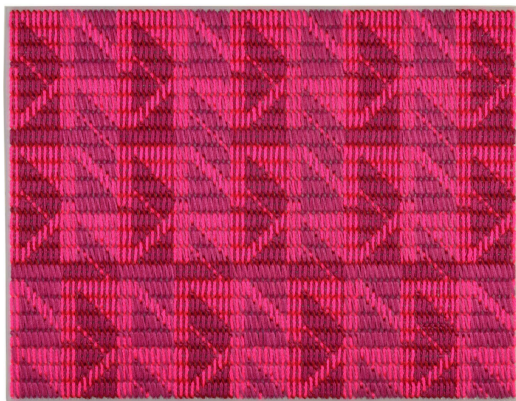


TarraWarra Museum of Art announces three new exhibitions including the first joint presentation of new work by contemporary Australian artists Peter Atkins and Dana Harris in conversation with their exceptional collection of furniture and lighting by the renowned modernist sculptor and designer Clement Meadmore.



Images captions (L-R): Dana Harris, *fancywork 10* from the series *fancywork 2020–23*. Courtesy of the artist; Peter Atkins, *Dr No (after Maurice Binder) 2020–23 (detail)*. Courtesy of the artist, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne and GAGProjects, Adelaide

SUPERsystems: Peter Atkins and Dana Harris
The Industrial Design of Clement Meadmore: The Harris/Atkins Collection
Systems and Structures: A Focus on the TarraWarra Museum of Art Collection

23 March – 14 July 2024
TarraWarra Museum of Art, Wurundjeri Country

Curated by Anthony Fitzpatrick

TarraWarra Museum of Art today announced three new exhibitions open to the public concurrently from **23 March to 14 July 2024**. Featuring new work by Melbourne-based contemporary artists **Peter Atkins** and **Dana Harris**, the exhibition ***SUPERsystems*** is presented in conversation with ***The Industrial Design of Clement Meadmore: The Harris/Atkins Collection***, a comprehensive survey of innovative modernist designs by the acclaimed sculptor and designer Clement Meadmore. Also on display is ***Systems and Structures***, featuring a selection of works by leading Australian artists drawn from the Museum's collection.

TarraWarra Museum of Art Curator Anthony Fitzpatrick said: *These three new exhibitions provide an exciting opportunity to consider new and recent works by leading contemporary artists in conversation with paintings, sculptures and designs by significant figures of Australian modernism. TarraWarra Museum of Art is fortunate to have worked closely with Dana Harris and Peter Atkins, not only to premiere their most recent bodies of abstract work, but also to share their outstanding collection of modernist designs and sculptures by Clement Meadmore. Meadmore's distinctive visual language was often informed by the modernist principles of the Bauhaus and the De Stijl movement—a source of inspiration shared by Harris and Atkins. The third exhibition of predominantly abstract painting and sculpture by Australian artists from the Museum's own collection, deepens this sustained exploration of the formal and conceptual systems and principles that guide creative practices and artmaking.*

SUPERsystems: Peter Atkins and Dana Harris

Melbourne-based contemporary artists **Peter Atkins** and **Dana Harris** will present major new works for their first joint exhibition **SUPERsystems**. While these new works each express a highly distinctive visual language and materiality, they are closely aligned in their shared conceptual and formal concerns. Indeed, both Atkins and Harris employ geometry, repetition and seriality as a means to reimagine the everyday world.

For many years **Peter Atkins's** practice has involved a process that he refers to as 'readymade abstraction'. Distilling and reinventing familiar forms and patterns from the everyday environment—such as movie posters, product packaging, road signs and record covers—Atkins blurs the boundaries between 'high art' and popular culture. For **SUPERsystems**, Atkins has deconstructed American designer Maurice Binder's opening title sequence for the first James Bond film *Dr. No* (1962). Presented across 92 individual paintings in four horizontal rows, each frame of the original animation is revealed as a unique, abstract composition, like a tangible, stop-motion version of the original.

Dana Harris employs a variety of techniques and media in her ongoing investigation of the relationships within natural and urban landscapes. For **SUPERsystems**, Harris presents a new project titled *fancywork*, which emerged from her experience of walking the deserted streets of the Melbourne CBD during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Inspired by the subtle shifts and spatial relationships in the built environment, the artist has created a series of 22 intricately hand-embroidered panels which use repetition and complex patterns to express the new rhythms and connections she observed while exploring the city at a standstill. Dana Harris, *fancywork* has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

The Industrial Design of Clement Meadmore: The Harris/Atkins Collection

Widely regarded as one of Australia's most important sculptors of the twentieth century, **Clement Meadmore** is also acknowledged as a significant and pioneering figure within the history of Australian modernist design.

Featuring an extensive group of individual pieces from the 1950s and early 1960s, **The Industrial Design of Clement Meadmore** highlights Meadmore's highly distinctive approach to industrial design and his remarkable ability to manipulate the most basic, readily available materials—steel rod, cotton cord, glass, sheet metal, canvas and thin plywood—into functional, innovative and durable objects.

Meticulously assembled by the artists Peter Atkins and Dana Harris over the past twenty-five years, this exemplary collection of Meadmore's iconic chairs, tables and lighting is the most important and comprehensive collection of his industrial design in public or private hands. Presented for the first time in its entirety, the Harris/Atkins Collection provides a unique opportunity to survey the breadth and depth of Meadmore's singular design language.

Systems and Structures: A Focus on the TarraWarra Museum of Art Collection

Drawing predominantly from TarraWarra Museum of Art's significant collection of abstract painting and sculpture, **Systems and Structures** features works by a range of Australian artists who employ patterns, geometry, modules and repetition as key elements in their creative process.

Revealing the wide range of systems that artists have explored and implemented in the development and expansion of their distinctive visual languages, the exhibition includes works by **Robert Hunter, Clement Meadmore, Hilarie Mais, Rosalie Gascoigne, Howard Arkley, Lesley Dumbrell, Mark Galea, Robert Jacks, Callum Morton, John Nixon and Robert Owen.**

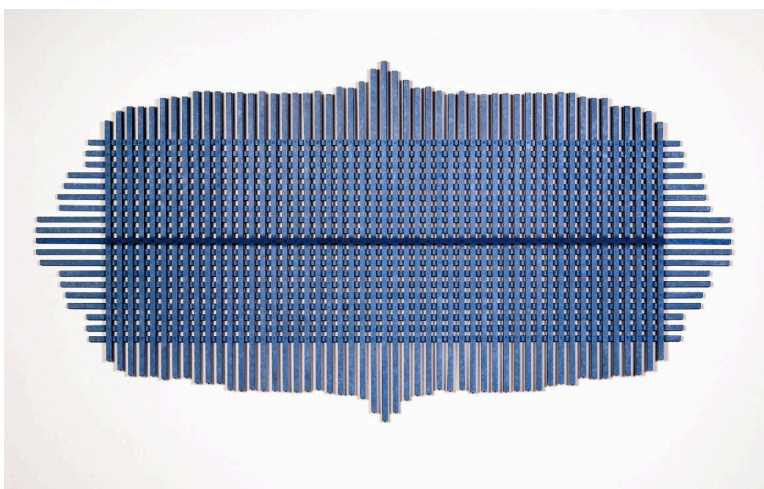
The **2024 TarraWarra Festival** from **Saturday 4 to Sunday 5 May** will this year see Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra perform in the central gallery, in response to the ***Systems and Structures*** exhibition that will surround the audience and Orchestra.

Another major programming highlight is **An Afternoon with Peter Atkins and Dana Harris on Sunday 21 April 2024**, a unique opportunity to gain direct insights into each artists' practices as well as the work and legacy of Clement Meadmore.

ENDS



Clement Meadmore, *Pendant Light for the T House* 1956, *Three-legged Dining Table* 1955, *Three-legged Plywood Chair* 1955, Harris/Atkins Collection



Hilarie Mais, *Bay* 2001, TarraWarra Museum of Art collection. Gift of Eva Besen AO and Marc Besen AO. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program 2012 © Hilarie Mais

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IMAGES available [HERE](#)

ABOUT PETER ATKINS

Peter Atkins's practice centres around the appropriation and re-interpretation of readymade abstract forms that he documents within the urban environment. This collected material becomes the direct reference source for his paintings and prints, providing tangible evidence to the viewer of his relationship with and experience of the landscape. Atkins is particularly interested in the cultural associations of forms that have the capacity to trigger memory, nostalgia or a shared history of past experiences within the viewer.

Since graduating from the National Art School in Sydney, Atkins has held 48 solo exhibitions in Australia and internationally. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and international residencies including the Cité International des Arts in Paris, The British School in Rome and Green Park in New Delhi. He has also been awarded Australia Council Studio residencies in Barcelona (1998) and Los Angeles (2008). His work is represented in numerous public collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, Spain; and the Chartwell Collection, Waikato Museum of Art & History, Aotearoa New Zealand.

ABOUT DANA HARRIS

Dana Harris's practice largely revolves around her self-described 'obsession with mapping'. Working across small-scale drawings and weavings as well as large-scale site-specific installations, she employs a variety of techniques and media in her ongoing investigation of the relationships within natural and urban landscapes.

Since completing her studies at the National Art School, Sydney and Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, Harris has undertaken residencies at the Youkobo Artspace in Tokyo, Bundanon in New South Wales and the Australian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne. She was awarded the Yering Station Sculpture Award in 2009. Her works have been commissioned for exhibitions at Heide Museum of Modern Art, 2018, and the Ian Potter Museum of Art, 2015. In 2017, she presented the solo exhibition *memento* at CRAFT, Melbourne. A major work by Harris is currently touring nationally in the 5th Tamworth Textile Triennial, 2023–26, and her large-scale public commission titled *mainframe d-979* will be unveiled in Sydney in 2024.

ABOUT TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART:

TarraWarra Museum of Art actively engages with art, place and ideas within global, national and First Nations contexts. Established in 2003, the Museum presents a changing exhibition program of twentieth and twenty-first century art, creating dynamic and memorable experiences for all audiences and encouraging curiosity and creativity within the wider community. The Museum, located in Healesville, has a collection of over 700 works of twentieth and twenty-first century Australian art.

TarraWarra Museum of Art, Wurundjeri Country, 313 Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Healesville VIC 3777 T +61 (0)3 5957 3100 W twma.com.au **Opening Hours:** Tuesday – Sunday, 11am to 5pm.

SUPERsystems: Peter Atkins and Dana Harris is presented in conversation with *The Industrial Design of Clement Meadmore: The Harris/Atkins Collection* and *Systems and Structures: A Focus on the TarraWarra Museum of Art Collection*. Curated by Anthony Fitzpatrick.

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