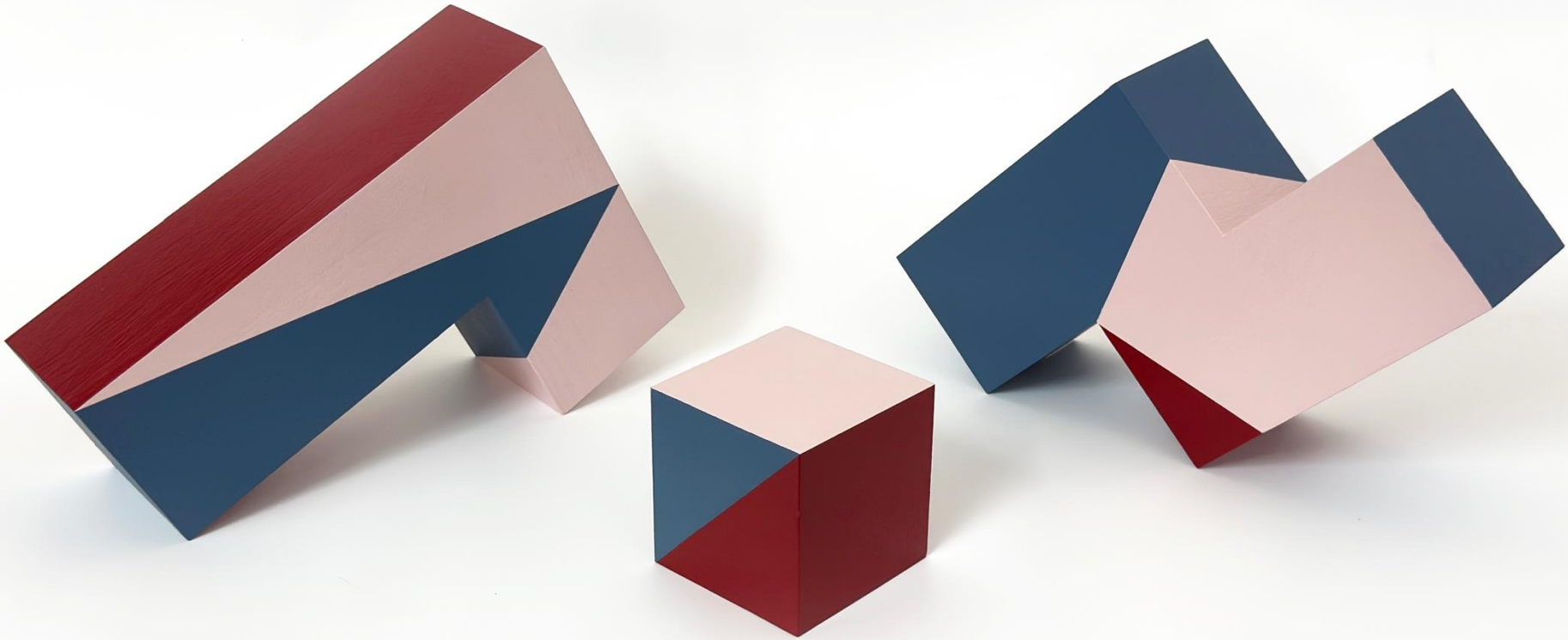
onespace

Petalia Humphreys

Before The Object

23 October – 21 November 2026



Before The Object

23 October – 21 November 2026

Exhibition Dates:	21 October – 21 November 2026
Opening Event:	Thursday 22 October, Artist Talk 5:30 – 6:15pm | Opening: 6:30 – 8pm
Gallery Walk Through:	Saturday 7 November, 2 – 4pm
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday to Friday, 10am – 5pm, Saturday 12pm – 5pm

Before the Object is a collection of playful 2D and 3D architectonic paintings that trace the transition of an object from latent being to active becoming. As Illusory puzzles the artworks hold space expectantly in a dance between object and ambulatory viewer.

Before the Object references the Neo-Concrete concept of the Active Object and marks the moment a viewer encounters the artwork. From passive looking to active seeing, how the works "appear" shift to active phenomenological experience. There is an invitation of potential - of action and activation. A slippage between form and flat planes of colour occurs as both perceptual and as real affordances. Static works burst with latent possibility. 2D shapes and 3D forms visually expand and collapse and kinetic objects sit in readiness for movement.

This body of work evolved from an artist residency at Bundanon, in response to both the architectural nuances of the Onespace gallery space and the embodied experience of moving through the historic and contemporary buildings on the Bundanon property.

Humphreys' interest lies in the vicissitudes between site-responsive reductive abstraction and non-objective abstraction, and in Active Objects that that engage and delight the viewer.



Petalia Humphreys, *ECBT deconstructed series #5 in three parts*, 2026.
Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Petalia Humphreys

Before The Object

23 October – 21 November 2026



Petalia Humphreys. Photo: Danielle O'Brien. Courtesy of the artist.

Petalia Humphreys lives and works on Gubbi Gubbi Country on the Sunshine Coast.

From small-scale hand-crafted paintings through to large site-responsive art installations and video works Petalia celebrates the legacy of material and a genealogy of artmaking, creating playful and illusory works that remap the familiar (and familial). Her works are concerned with spatial sentience, exploring transitional moments that exist between the physical and conceptual.

Petalia has exhibited at the Institute of Modern Art, Metro Arts, Outer Space, Five Walls, HOTA, Deakin University Art Gallery and has been a finalist in multiple national art prizes. She has been commissioned for public art projects on the Sunshine Coast and exhibited widely in regional galleries throughout Queensland.

In 2026 Petalia has been selected for residencies at Bundanon, FutureNOW Sunshine Coast and SITE Noosa.

Petalia is founder and director of Studio 26, a project that curates' opportunities for mentoring, critical conversation and exhibitions.

Before and Beyond:
Petalia Humphreys and Relational Abstraction

Since the beginning of her art practice some 30 years ago, Petalia Humphreys has made abstracted objects, most recently using wood and housepaint – materials that might be at home on a building site, albeit potentially without the rosy pink hues used by Humphreys. She constructs these objects in different ways, with mitred angles, forming architectonic cubes, rectangles, hinged three-dimensional objects, and stools. Her creative process begins with a physical site or space, which she photographs and reiterates digitally before recreating its distilled essence as sculpture. The viewer may never know the original site or the extent of these translations but, by the time Humphreys's sculptures in plywood appear in a gallery context, they have evolved into objects designed to stimulate engagement. They extend perceptions and experiences of space and place. In this way, the work enters a permeable space that is co-created – before the object – with its audiences.

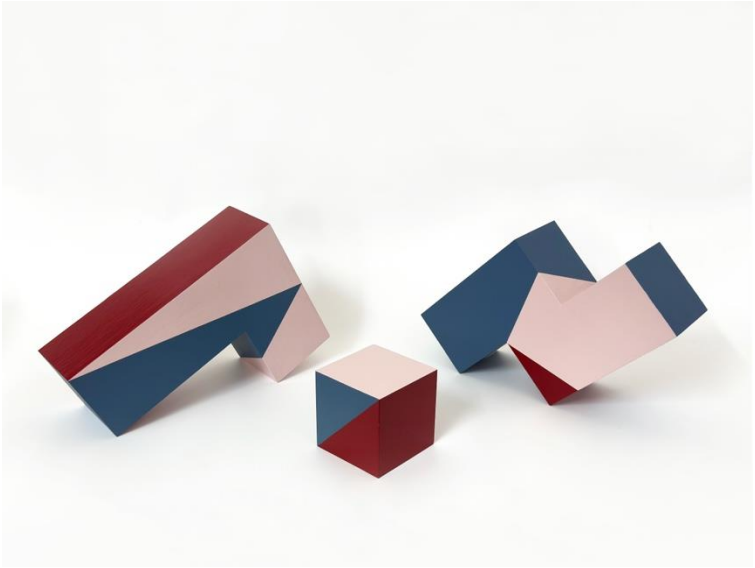
Humphreys describes her objects as illusory puzzles, designed to 'hold space expectantly in a dance between object and ambulatory viewer'. They require the viewer to move in order to see the shifting coloured faces of her objects. Planes become volumes, compositions appear and dissolve, and distinctions between objects, image, component materials, and the surrounding architecture may appear unstable. As Humphreys says, they are made 'to delight and engage the viewer, to find joy in that experience.'

This show marks the first time that Humphreys has expanded her interest in this active viewer to inviting them to be a participant. Inspired by a wall in Onespace Gallery that shifts 10 degrees partway along its length, the artist has hinged artworks to the wall, allowing the viewer to engage with their kinetic potential. This extends the experience into a form of phenomenological, optical and physical play.

ECBT, folded, in 2 parts echoes and emphasizes this kink in the wall, with a square perforation that exposes the wall behind. Its extension off the wall is evident with a rosy glow that reflects from the back of the work to cast colour into the room. It is a triple treat, with two pinks and a cream used in subtly narrowing shapes that accelerate across the picture plane to intrude spatially. *BHBT deconstructed series #2 in three parts* is a group of interlinked rectangular cuboid forms, arranged randomly to lure the viewer with a visual puzzle which may be rebuilt in endless permutations, physically and optically.

In the making and reception of these works, space and optics interact, with an acknowledgement that their meaning resides beyond the object. They are entangled, initially in the artist's process and spatial explorations 'before the object', and then completed, not only with the viewer's movement, but also through our own experience of space. In Humphreys's objects, meaning, reality, perception, and understanding oscillate; an encounter in which the object, viewer and space may each constitute the other. Abstraction is used to capture the relational.

Louise Martin-Chew



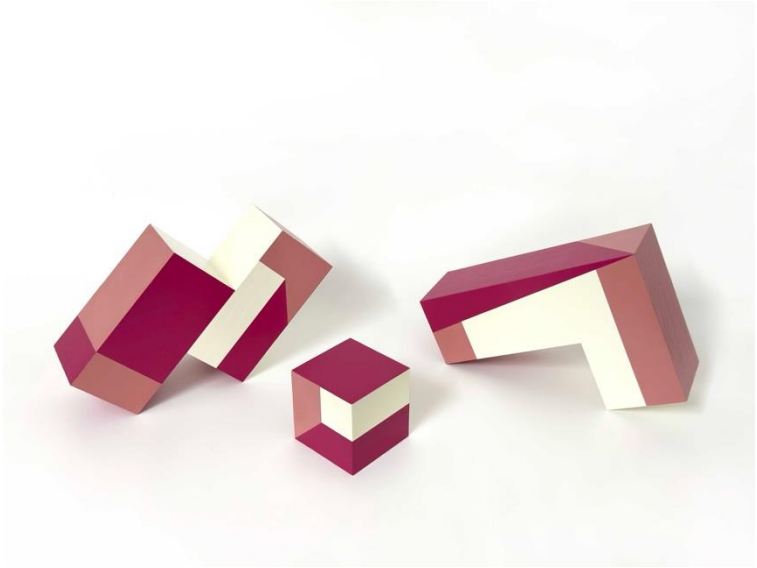
Petalia Humphreys

BHBT deconstructed series #2 in three parts, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Smoulder, Dusty Beige, Midnight Sky) on Clearcoat pine. 3 components, individual dimensions: 27 x 18 x 9cm, 27 x 18 x 9cm, 9 x 9x 9cm

$1,800

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

ECBT deconstructed series #5 in three parts, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Golden White, Pink Suzette, Colour Me Pink) on pine. 3 components, individual dimensions: 27 x 18 x 9cm; 27 x 18 x 9cm; 9 x 9 x 9cm

$1,800

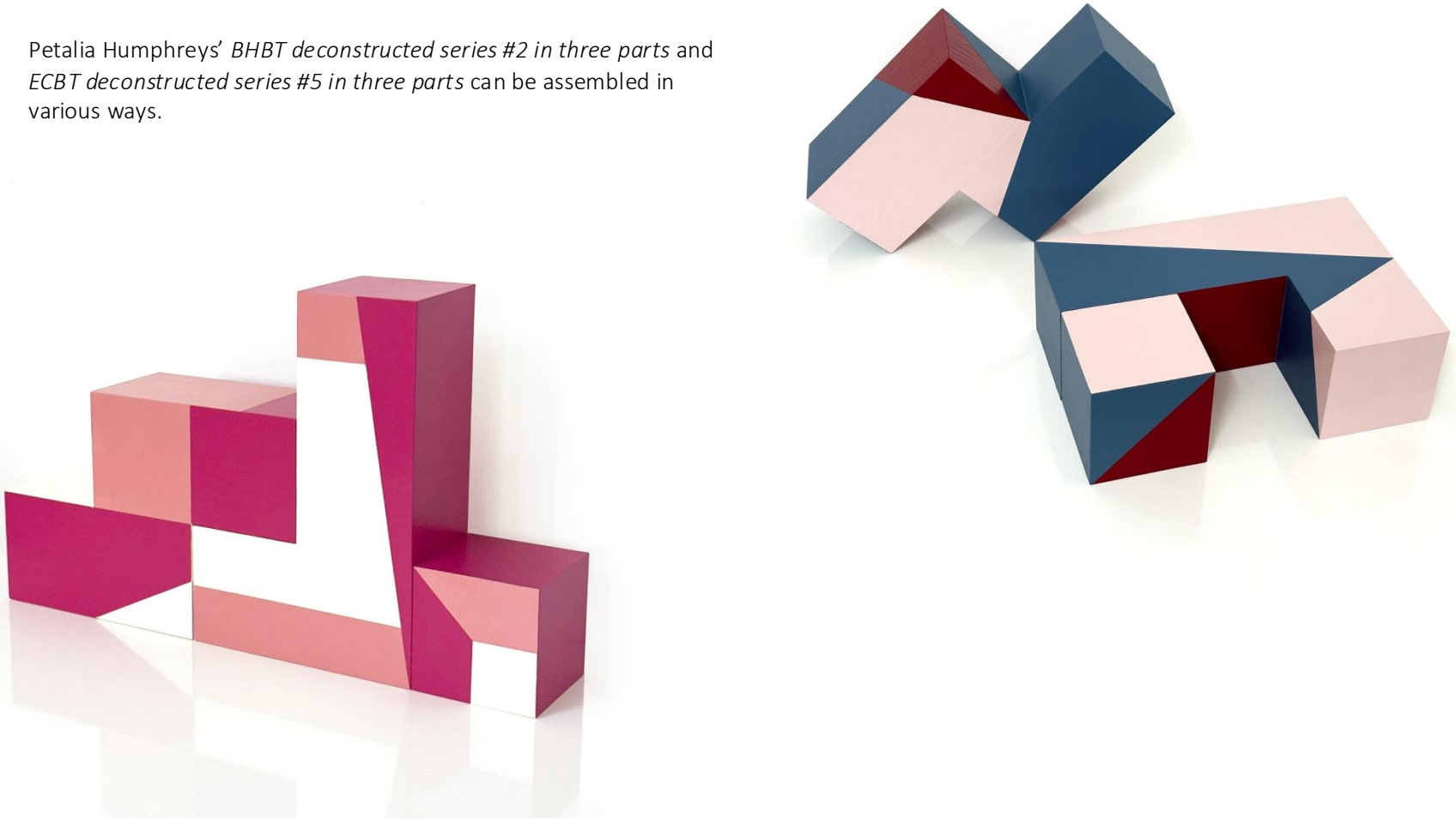
Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Petalia Humphreys

Before The Object

23 October – 21 November 2026

Petalia Humphreys' *BHBT deconstructed series #2 in three parts* and *ECBT deconstructed series #5 in three parts* can be assembled in various ways.



Left to Right: Petalia Humphreys, *ECBT deconstructed series #5 in three parts*, 2026. Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.
Petalia Humphreys, *BHBT deconstructed series #2 in three parts*, 2026, 2026. Image: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

ECBT, folded, in 2 parts, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Golden White, Pink Suzette, Colour Me Pink) on plywood, brass hinges, 69 x 77.5 x 3.6cm and 24.4 x 17.3 x 3.6cm

$2,500

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

TTBT, folded, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Smoulder, Dusty Beige, Midnight Sky) and Clearcoat on plywood, 69 x 80 x 10.5cm

$2,275

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.







Petalia Humphreys

1. BHBT #6B, 2026

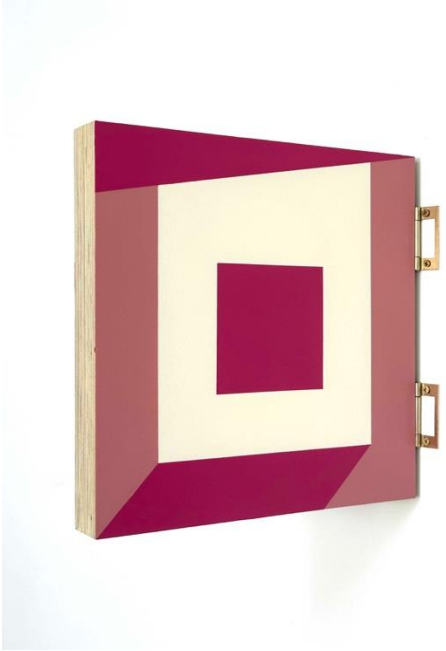
2. BHBT #6C, 2026

3. BHBT #6D, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Pink Suzette and Smoulder) and Clearcoat on marine plywood, 38 x 38 x 38cm each.

$2,500 each

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

ECBT #5E and #5F on two sides, hinged, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Golden White, Pink Suzette, Colour Me Pink) on plywood, brass hinges, 27 x 27 x 3.6cm

$1,100

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

BHBT #2B and #2C on two sides, hinged, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Smoulder, Dusty Beige, Midnight Sky) and Clearcoat on plywood, brass hinges, 27 x 27 x 3.6cm

$1,100

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

BHBT #6B framework, hinged, 2026

Acrylic enamel (Midnight Sky, Pink Suzette) and Clearcoat on plywood, brass hinges, 70 x 70 x 3.6cm

$2,275

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

BHBT #6D framework, hinged, 2026

Acrylic enamel (Midnight Sky, Pink Suzette) and Clearcoat on plywood, brass hinges. 70 x 70 x 3.6cm

$2,275

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

BHBT #6B on two sides, hinged, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Pink Suzette and Smoulder) on clearcoat plywood, brass hinges, 27 x 27 x 3.6cm

$1,100

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

BHBT #6C on two sides, hinged, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Golden White, Pink Suzette and Smoulder) on clearcoat plywood, brass hinges, 27 x 27 x 3.6cm

$1,100

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

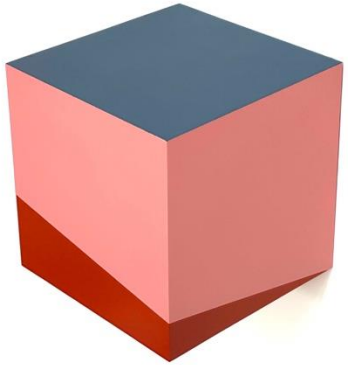
BHBT #6D, three colours on two sides, hinged, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Golden White, Pink Suzette and Smoulder) on clearcoat plywood, brass hinges

27 x 27 x 3.6cm

$1,100

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Petalia Humphreys

TBBT #1, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Pink Suzette, Midnight Sky, Worn Red) and Clearcoat on plywood, 19 x 19 x 19cm

$1,275

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



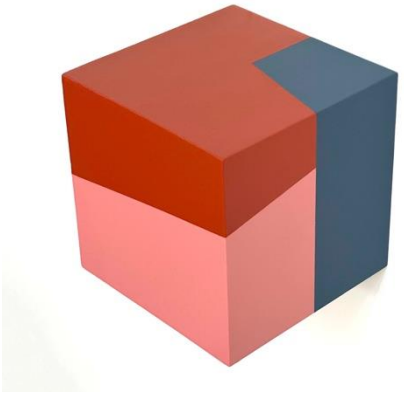
Petalia Humphreys

TBBT #2, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Pink Suzette, Midnight Sky, Worn Red) and Clearcoat on plywood, 15 x 15 x 15cm

$1,000

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



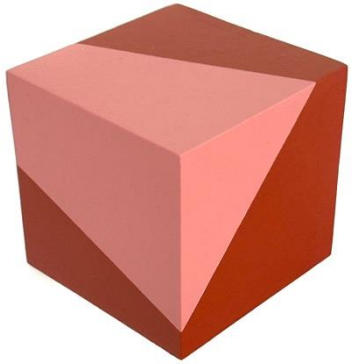
Petalia Humphreys

TBBT #3, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Pink Suzette, Midnight Sky, Worn Red) and Clearcoat on plywood, 15 x 15 x 15cm

$1,000

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



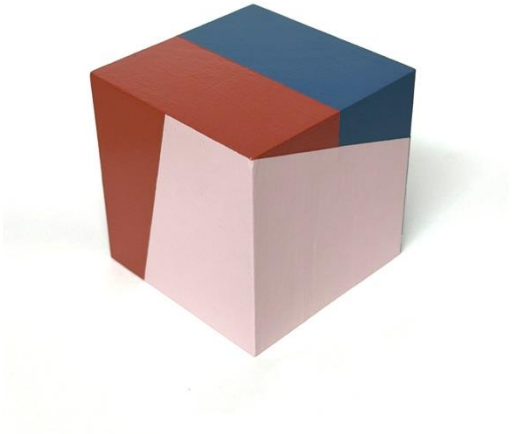
Petalia Humphreys

TBBT #4, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Pink Suzette, Midnight Sky, Worn Red) and Clearcoat on plywood, 10.4 x 10.8 x 10.8cm

$600

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



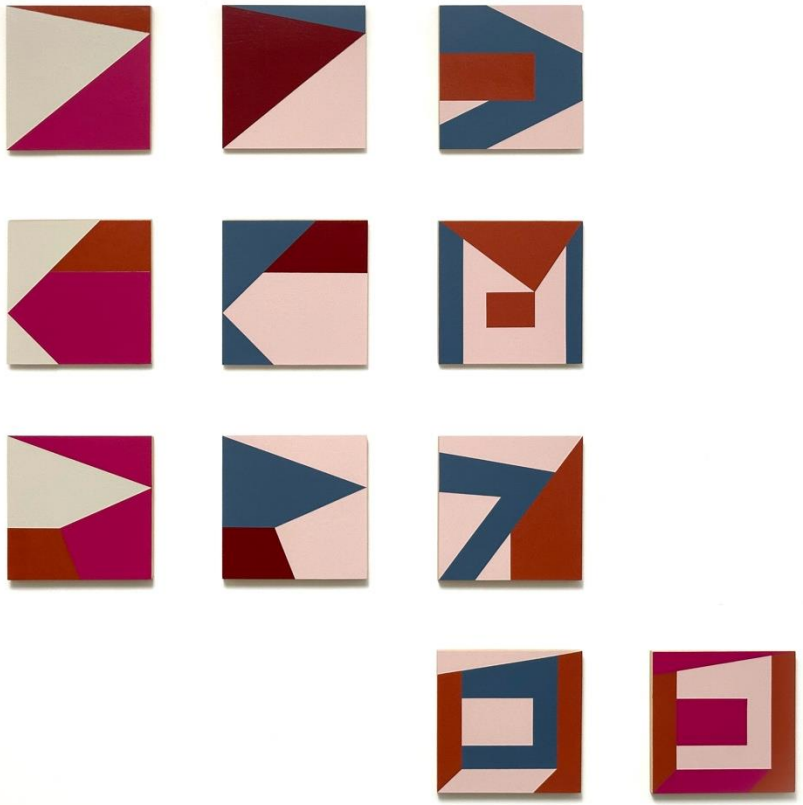
Petalia Humphreys

TBBT #5, 2026

Semigloss acrylic enamel (Worn Red, Dusty Beige, Midnight Sky) and Clearcoat on pine, 9 x 9 x 9cm

$500

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



SOWP #1A (BHBT)
SOWP #1B (BHBT)
SOWP #1C (BHBT)
Semigloss acrylic enamel (Pillow, Worn Red, Colour Me Pink) and Clearcoat on plywood and pine.
Individual Dimensions: 20.3 x 20.3 x 1.4cm

SOWP #2A (BHBT)
SOWP #2B (BHBT)
SOWP #2C (BHBT)
Semigloss acrylic enamel (Smoulder, Dusty Beige, Midnight Sky) and Clearcoat on plywood and pine
Individual Dimensions: 20.3 x 20.3 x 1.4cm

SOWP #4F (ECBT)
SOWP #4G (ECBT)
SOWP #4H (TBBT)
SOWP #4E (ECBT)
Semigloss acrylic enamel (Worn Red, Dusty Beige, Midnight Sky) and Clearcoat on plywood and pine
Individual Dimensions: 20.3 x 20.3 x 1.4cm

SOWP #3E (ECBT)
Semigloss acrylic enamel (Colour Me Pink, Dusty Beige, Worn Red) and Clearcoat on plywood and pine
20.3 x 20.3 x 1.4cm

Individual panels: $500 each

Onespace is a Brisbane-based gallery that presents and sells contemporary art, including work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

We curate an exhibition program exploring diverse themes and media, showcasing emerging, mid-career and established artists whose works inform, stimulate and challenge. Onespace welcomes you to engage with the artists and artworks we exhibit.

Onespace is uniquely located adjacent to Maiwar (Brisbane river) beneath the Spice Apartments near the Go Between Bridge in South Brisbane. We are proudly surrounded by the dynamic buzz of the Queensland cultural precinct that is significant to this area of Brisbane.

Director, John Stafford: john@onespace.com.au

Director, Jodie Cox: jodie@onespace.com.au

Gallery Manager, Demi Conrad: demi@onespace.com.au

Gallery Assistant, Poppy Saines: poppy@onespace.com.au

Project Manager & Artist Liaison, Tamika Grant-Iramu: tamika@onespace.com.au

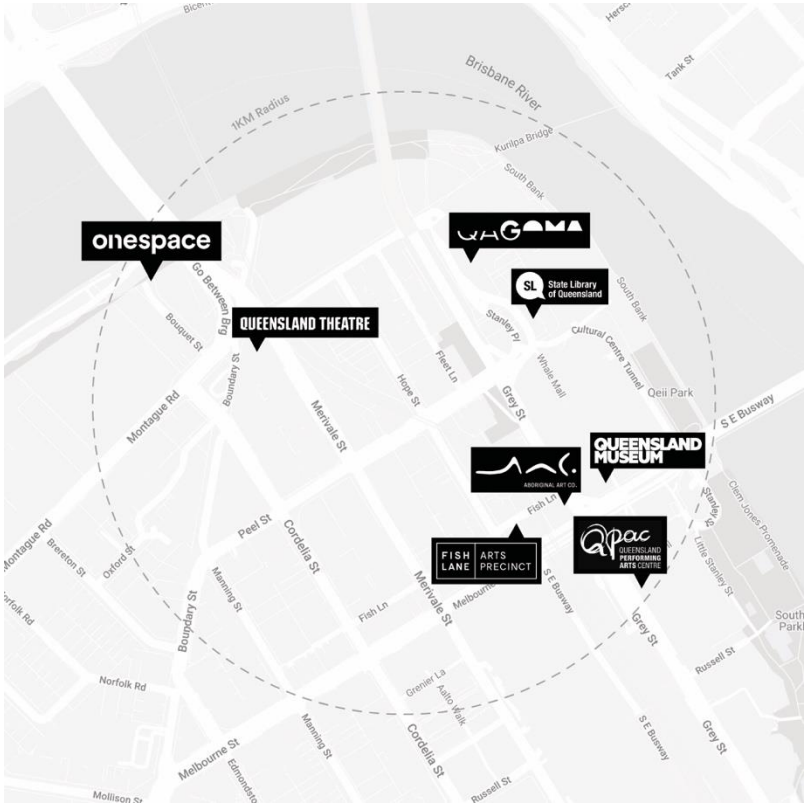
onespace.com.au

@onespace_au

Onespace Gallery Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 12pm – 5pm

25A Bouquet Street, South Brisbane Q 4101 Australia



Onespace acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.