

REVIEWS

April 21, 2015

This week in Sydney

RAVEN's pick of exhibitions to check out.



Kei Takemura, *For E.K.* (detail), print on cotton, Japanese silk thread, German synthetic cloth, 364 x 284 cm

Kei Takemura & Rujunko Pugh @ Dominik Mersch Gallery

Currently showing at Dominik Mersch Gallery are two intriguing exhibitions by internationally-roving Japanese artists. Berlin-based **Kei Takemura** combines hand embroidery with found imagery and objects. Thread on diaphanous fabric reinvigorates archival images, filling in the blanks left by time. In Takemura's sculptural works, broken ceramic and glass objects are shrouded, their chips and cracks stitched over roughly – a poetic healing process. **Rujunko Pugh** is a Sydney-based artist of Japanese and African-American descent, and her bold graphic style across screen prints, drawings with burnt leaves and vinyl wall decals makes for strong and communicative imagery. In Pugh's work, historical images of Japanese people in traditional dress, engaging in traditional activities, are altered by the inclusion of gas masks and modern protective gear. The past and present are brought together to powerful effect.

Kei Takemura: Hana no Iro and Rujunko Pugh: Hereafter, Wed to Sat 11am-6pm, until 2 May, Dominik Mersch Gallery, 1/75 McLachlan Avenue, Rushcutters Bay; (02) 9368 1999, dominikmerschgallery.com