

MAIN DRAG

By Easton Dunne

METRO ARTS, 18 MARCH - 15 APRIL, 2023

PRESENTED BY METRO ARTS & FIRSTDRAFT

Main Drag applies aesthetics of kitsch and camp queer visual culture to the stereotypical signs and signifiers of local and communal identity, often seen along the national highway running through Rockhampton, the town in Central Queensland where the artist, Easton Dunne, resides.

Dunne resurfaces images that the area uses to market itself to visitors, and frame its own identity for locals, with hot pink, fluffy faux fur that resembles cowhide. Dunne resists and reframes the hyper-masculine narrative of being the “beef capital of Australia” as offering the potential for an alternate queer utopia in this regional location.

About Easton Dunne

Easton Dunne is an artist, artsworker and arts educator based in Central Queensland on Darumbal Country. Their work explores connections between identity and place through an autobiographical lens.

They utilise drawing, sculpture, installation and time-based media to create autobiographical narratives offering their perspective on life as a queer, transgender and non-binary person who grew up in regional and rural Central Queensland and returned there to live as an adult after studying and working in South-East Queensland.

Informed by Rural Queer Studies, Dunne’s work aims to facilitate dialogue and exchange between regional and metropolitan communities around how socio-cultural and geographical factors influence diversity in queer identity work and practices.

Dunne completed a Bachelor of Fine Art at Queensland College of Art in 2012 and a Postgraduate Diploma of Education at Queensland University of Technology in 2014.

FIRSTDRAFT X METRO ARTS

Easton Dunne has been selected to receive support through the Firstdraft × Metro Arts Program, a two-year reciprocal partnership creating investment in the production and presentation of new work by artists from regional New South Wales and Queensland. After Dunne’s premiere at Metro Arts the work will be presented at Firstdraft (Sydney) in June 2023. This follows Lismore-based artist, Betty Russ, who held exhibitions at both Firstdraft and Metro across 2022-2023. The partnership will continue in 2024-2025, supporting regional artists from both New South Wales and Queensland whose work will be presented at both Metro Arts and Firstdraft