

**singapore
biennale
2025**

**pure
intention**



ARTIST FOLIO

(For Educators)

Emily Floyd

SECONDARY:

English

Social Studies

Visual Arts

THE ARTIST

- Emily Floyd is an artist and educator who lives and works in Naarm/Melbourne, Australia.
- Influenced by histories of activism and community participation, transformation and playful translation are central to her practice. Coding and recoding literature into vivid, interactive objects and public projects, her objects are educational building blocks that question how we create and accrue meaning.
- Floyd has exhibited widely, including at Haus der Kunst, Munich; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Seoul Museum of Art and the 56th Venice Biennale. Solo exhibitions include *Keeping it Complex*, *Keeping it Connected*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Ōtepoti (2023); *The Dawn*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2014); and *Here small gestures make complex structures*, Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney (2012).

THE ARTWORK



Installation view of Emily Floyd's *Field Library* (2025), as part of Singapore Biennale 2025: *pure intention*. Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum.

Field Library

2025

Aluminium, automotive paint and steel fixtures, texts

Singapore Biennale 2025 Commission

Courtesy of the artist and Ames Yavuz

- *Field Library* is a newly commissioned artwork for the Singapore Biennale 2025.
- The artwork is an installation that combines two important types of public spaces: a play space and a library of selected readings.
- Her artwork can be found in a field at Wessex Estate, next to Blenheim Court. Floyd's work takes the form of large colourful sculptures of various shapes, scattered like giant building blocks.

THE ARTWORK

- The work welcomes individuals to rest or share a seat with some of the sculptural blocks encouraging social interaction; while others seat only one person, creating a quiet node for reflection.
- As a space for public use, the sculptural blocks and the library they host encourage reading, conversations and programmes. It invites visitors to pause, browse and spend time with ideas — alone or alongside others, acting as a site for intimate encounters with different knowledges while serving as a space for social gatherings.
- Housed within an installation of giant building blocks, this outdoor library offers a window into the work of educators, artists and researchers who are rethinking education and care.
- The texts are printed as small booklets, each containing a short excerpt, with URL links to explore full length texts printed on the front cover. Links to readings can also be found on *Field Library*'s instagram page: @field_library. The selection of readings highlight perspectives of labour, mobility and education, including a special focus on the work of feminist geographers in the region, critical approaches to pedagogy and care and experimental approaches to knowledge transmission.

THE ARTWORK

- *Field Library* reflects Floyd's long-standing interest in learning collectively and locally generated ways of sharing knowledge. The artwork offers itself as a space for visitors to consider play as learning, learning as a form of social leisure while inviting reflection on labour of care and pedagogy.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Floyd's artwork is influenced by her experience growing up in a family of toymakers. She started by helping in her family's toy workshop, making wooden blocks, doll houses, cars, trains and even children's furniture. Though her work may look simple with vibrant colours and basic shapes, extensive research across a range of disciplines was woven into the artist's process of creating the artwork.
- Each of the sculptural blocks represent a letter. Try figuring out what they are. What words can you form with them?

ACTIVITIES AND QUESTIONS

PRE-VISIT:

- How would you define learning? What kind of spaces do you think learning takes place in?
- What comes to mind when you imagine a library? Why and how often do you visit libraries?
- What images or colours do you associate with when you come across the word “play”?

DURING YOUR VISIT:

- Walk around and experience the artwork. What do you notice? List your observations.
- When experiencing the work, do you find yourself touching, leaning or sitting on the sculptural block? How do you feel being amidst these giant sculptural blocks?
- How do the colours and material of the artwork influence your perception of it?
- Why do you think the artist chose these texts to share?
- What activities, either alone or with a group, would you do or organise at *Field Library*?

Thinking routines: Values, Identities, Actions

1. What values does this work invite us to think about?
 - Are these values the same as yours? Does the artwork support, challenge or raise questions about these values?
2. Who is this work speaking about? And who is this work trying to speak to?
 - Is anyone left out in the conversation? Do you see yourself participating in this conversation? Why?
3. What actions might this work encourage?
 - Is this action by yourself or by others? Why?

POST VISIT:

- What does it mean to have access to knowledge? How important is access and who has it?
 - What are some advantages and disadvantages of learning beyond what is taught in schools, outside of schools?
 - What role does the environment play in determining how we behave in a space?
 - Has the physical design of an environment changed the way in which you interact or behave within space? Share your experience.
 - What are some other artworks that also look at spatial design? What are the similarities and differences as compared to *Field Library*?
 - Examine the role of audience participation in Floyd's practice. How significant is public engagement or feedback in bringing out the intention of her works?
-

FIND OUT MORE:

ARTIST

- Emily Floyd, "Emily Floyd", *Artist Profile*. Last accessed 3 February, 2026, <https://artistprofile.com.au/emily-floyd/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Lucy Feagins, "Studio Visit: Emily Floyd," in *The Design Files*, Accessed 20 February 2026, <https://thedesigntfiles.net/2014/05/interview-emily-floyd>