INNER SOUTH

GLAD Rappers group yarn bombing The Johnston Collection’s Fairhall Exhibition-house

Emma Watson, Mordialloc Chelsea Leader
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SOME call it graffiti, others, a waste of time.
But for a group of women who hail from Parkdale, Mentone and other southeastern suburbs, yarn bombing is an exciting, albeit controversial art. The GLAD Rappers group was borne from a mutual passion for yarn bombing, and having yarn bombed trees and public parks, it has taken the creative activity to a not-for-profit East Melbourne museum.

Inside the ‘yellow’ room of The Johnston Collection’s Fairhall Exhibition-house is an incomplete renovation with yarn-bombed ladders, paint brushes and rollers. “We decided to do a little scenario that Mr Johnston had returned home from his house in the country in time for Christmas, and he thought the renovations would be complete, but they hadn’t been,” GLAD Rapper member Deb Glaubert said.

“So when you walk in, half the room was complete and half was still in renovations, so we have ladders and paintings and rollers and brushes, all yarn-bombed.”

The Johnston Collection is the legacy of antique dealer and collector William Johnston, who organised for his estate to be formed into a trust that managed his collection and Fairhall house after his death.

This year’s Christmas At The Johnston Collection tour features new works by Melbourne-based makers and artists who challenge traditional thinking and practices.

The GLAD Rappers were invited to take part in the ‘Return to the City’ themed tour and have spent the past year knitting and crocheting a colourful yarn-bombed collection.

“How do you yarn bomb a museum room? If people are coming to the museum to look at all the furniture and you yarn bomb it, they wouldn’t see it, would they?” member Annette Fitton said.

“So that was our problem to start with, that’s why we came up with this theme of redecorating.”

The group’s work will feature at the house until January 31.

To book an individual or group tour, phone 9416 2515, email info@johnstoncollection.org or visit johnstoncollection.org