



## A CROOKED LINEAGE

AUSTRALIAN SERA WATERS likes to examine dastardly deeds, disasters and misdemeanors using the most of innocuous of crafts: embroidery. Sera hints at hidden dramas based on observations she makes of the world around her. This piece, *The Evil Banana* is typical of her playful approach. Part of her 'Crooked Lineage' series, it is one of several works where Sera turns her focus upon crimes involving water. 'I made the Crooked Lineage series while breastfeeding my son, so had many moments in quiet contemplation or in front

of bizarre television shows soaking in random information. We have a show over here that explores linguistics and solves little mysteries and, if I remember rightly, someone wrote in to ask why it was bad luck to take bananas out to sea. They made a joke about evil bananas in this segment and the idea of something as inane as a banana being evil stayed with me.' The ship in this piece also refers to Australia's history as a colony. 'To the Indigenous inhabitants of Australia, a sailing ship on the horizon was surely an

ominous sign,' she says. 'Many things were brought to Australia by ship (bananas, too, incidently) many with long-term consequences...' In 2006, Waters was awarded a scholarship to study embroidery at the Royal School of Needlework, where she developed the approach of working on several small groups of embroideries that explored derivatives of the same theme. 'I, for one, am looking forward to seeing more of Sera Waters' burgeoning compendium of coincidences and crimes. JH