Introduction

The exhibition is a survey that incorporates five consecutive bodies of work that photographer Joachim Froese has produced over the past decade. The artist produces multi-panelled black and white and colour photographs on a number of subject matters. The series included in this exhibition are easily distinguishable from each other because of their unique imagery. The artist juxtaposes a number of individual handmade prints and painstakingly constructs images that are often linked to art history.

Species

In the multi-panelled works in this series from 2005 the artist has used toy figurines to enact biblical scenes. Present in these photographs as well is a strong use of light and perspective reminiscent of that used by the Italian renaissance artists.

Portrait of My Mother

Portrait of my mother depicts personal possessions, in particular the library collection belonging to the artist's mother. This monumental work was created during the last part of his mother's life. The artist refers to the still life and portraiture genres in the subject matter present here.

Written in the Past & Archive

The principle subject matter in the multi-panelled colour photographs in the final two series’ Written in the Past and Archive are personal possessions. The work explores the ideas of these personal items as carriers of memory.

Technique

In conceptualising his imagery, Froese has a specific mental picture of how he wants the photograph to look. He begins by constructing compositions using real objects. He then takes multiple photographs of the props, slightly altering their lighting and positioning. Contact prints are then produced which are variously arranged until the right composition is found. This process can take several weeks and involves developing countless negatives to form the final work. Since moving to digital processes in 2006 Froese's working method has remained largely unchanged. The difference now is that he uses computer software to view the contact proofs and adjust the work compositionally.

The concept of truth in photography is central to Froese’s practice. It specifically informs the techniques used to create his Rhopography and Species series. In these works Froese utilizes signifiers of truth from documentary photography. These include black and white prints, and printing full negatives to include their black borders, revealing that the negative hasn’t been cropped during printing.

Series

Rhopography 1999-2003

There is an obvious reference in these works to Dutch and Spanish still life painting. The artist has used motifs such as insects and fruit in varying stages of decay to communicate themes of mortality and the passing of time as well as the ephemeral nature of perfection. Froese has meticulously composed his subjects and used lighting to create a sense of the theatrical, similar to that which was used in the Dutch and Spanish still life genre. He is however bringing something new this genre using the photographic medium.
## ACTIVITIES

### Knowledge and Understanding

+ List the items you can see in Portrait of My Mother.
+ What can you understand about the artist’s mother from this portrait?

### Creating

Students can plan a photographic portrait of someone they know that is not a physical representation of them. They could consider what they would like to communicate about the subject’s personality. Students can then produce a series of digital photographs and present them in a multi panelled format, similar to the works of Joachim Froese.

### Presenting

Ask your students to consider the genre of portraiture as a means of personal expression today, such as in online social networks like Facebook. Divide students into teams and have them debate the idea that Facebook would not be as popular as it is without the photographs that accompany the members’ profiles.

### Responding

Students may write a paragraph on their choice of artwork from the exhibition and explain why they chose that particular artwork.

### Reflecting

Research the work of other artists who have made portraits without using direct physical representation.

### References

Further Reading

Online Resources
Joachim Froese website
Queensland Centre for Photography
Arts Queensland

### Tours

Free guided tours of Still Life: Joachim Froese Photographs 1999-2008 with the Curator (Public Programs) are available for all age groups and interests. Tours must be booked in advance. Phone 07 3138 5370 or email artmuseum@qut.edu.au to make your booking.

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### INFORMATION

Still Life: Joachim Froese Photographs 1999-2008
5 June - 16 August
FREE ENTRY

QUT Art Museum
2 George Street (next to City Botanic Gardens)
Brisbane Q 4000
07 3138 5370
artmuseum@qut.com

QUT Art Museum is proudly supported by

Curated by Simone Jones
Presented by QUT Art Museum

OPENING HOURS
Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Wednesday 10am - 8pm
Saturday and Sunday 12pm-4pm

Education Kit produced by Maree Purnell (Public Programs Intern, QUT Art Museum)
The curriculum links for Years 11-12 included in this resource have been developed from curriculum documents Assessment and Reporting Framework for The Arts, focusing on learning and assessment around the Essential Learnings and Standards for Visual Art and Media (© The State of Queensland, Queensland Studies Authority, 2007) Senior Syllabus: Visual Art (© The State of Queensland, Queensland Studies Authority, 2007). http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/syllabus/1183.html