

Rethinking the visual art experience: new sensory interpretations of the QUT Art Collection designed for audiences who are blind or have low vision in *Vis-ability*.

Join QUT Art Museum for a sensory experience of select works from the QUT Art Collection in [Vis-ability](#), opening Saturday 11 May.

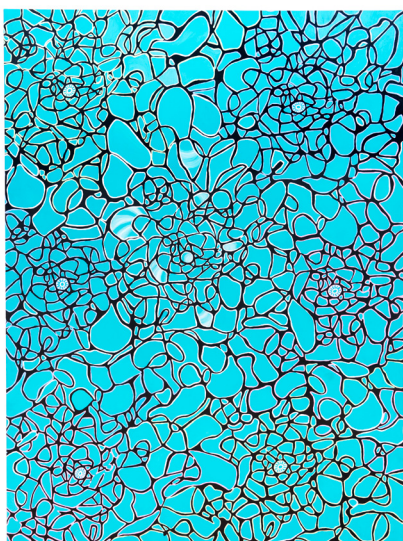
Bringing together a selection of recent acquisitions from the QUT Art Collection, *Vis-ability* has been conceived as a project to broaden understanding of the lived experiences of people who are blind and people with low vision. Drawing on research in QUT's Creative Industries Faculty, *Vis-ability* presents key recent acquisitions to propose alternative ways of engaging with the Art Collection and to consider how technologies can deepen our understanding of vision and challenge our sight-driven experience of art.

"Art is created for sighted people only" is a comment that guest curator Dr Janice Rieger, Senior Lecturer, QUT School of Design, has heard time and time again from people who are blind or have low vision over the course of her academic research into their experiences in art galleries. Fortunately, a number of institutions around the globe are starting to offer descriptive or 'touch' tours for audiences, but as Dr Rieger's extensive discussions with people who are blind or have low vision have led her to realise, tours need to be better adapted to suit what audiences want to experience.

Through an extensive and intuitive consultation and research process with audiences who are blind or have low vision and experts in the field, Dr Janice Rieger and her colleagues have worked closely with QUT Art Museum curators to reinterpret select works from the QUT Art Collection. The exciting and collaborative process has challenged their own assumptions as curators, forcing them to revisit their understanding of the works. Artworks have been translated through alternative mediums such as tactile and audio experiences, offering fresh sensory approaches to the experience of colour and patterns.



Karla DICKENS, *Bottom feeder I* 2018
acrylic and collage on board
QUT Art Collection, purchased 2018



Elisa Jane CARMICHAEL, *Can we see the burst of colours of wildflowers amongst the landscape?* 2018
synthetic polymer on canvas
QUT Art Collection, purchased 2018
Photo courtesy of Onespace Gallery, Brisbane

Dr Janice Rieger comments, "This exhibition responds to an identified need and demand as access to art is still very limited for people who are blind or have low vision. By putting people at the centre, this exhibition focuses on co-design practices to create cultures of inclusion alongside people with differing abilities."

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience audio descriptions and augmented reality, in conjunction with selected works on display. Audio descriptions of works by Denise Green, Karla Marchesi, and a collaborative work by Lyndell Brown, Charles Green and Jon Cattapan will be included in different areas of the gallery space. Additionally, augmented reality goggles will give sighted visitors the opportunity to see the museum-going experience first-hand from the perspective of people with limited vision.

Prior to the exhibition, co-design workshops will be held with visiting academics, QUT educators and students from the School of Design, and participants who are blind or have low vision to design a tactile model that will provide a 3D interpretation of a painting by Catherine Parker. These workshops will explore how knowledge is generated through tactility rather than vision and how a painting can be 'seen' differently by all audiences through the hands. The completed tactile work will be included in the exhibition, for audiences to discover through touch.

(CONTINUES)

For immediate release
5 April 2019

The exhibition brings together works acquired by QUT in the last five years, including paintings, sculpture, ceramics, etchings, watercolours and photography, many of which have never before been on display.

"We're always thinking about new ways to interpret the QUT Art Collection, which is such a rich cultural resource for the QUT community as well as the wider community. We're excited to present some of our recent acquisitions within the context of this research project," says Katherine Dionysius, Assistant Curator, QUT Art Museum.

Visitors will have the chance to learn about how and why particular artworks are acquired, increasing transparency around QUT's collecting practices. *Vis-ability* aims to broaden audiences' perceptions of 'visual' art, while also increasing the visibility of the QUT Art Collection.

Vis-ability runs until 4 August 2019 at QUT Art Museum. Admission is free.

Artists include

Lyndell Brown, Charles Green and Jon Cattapan, Elisa Jane Carmichael, Dean Cross, Karla Dickens, Emily Ngarnal Evans, Julie Fragar, Elsie Gabori, Denise Green, Dale Harding, Louise Hearman, Dai Li, Karla Marchesi, Raquel Ormella, Catherine Parker Tom Risley & more.

Curators

Dr Janice Rieger, Senior Lecturer, QUT School of Design; Vanessa Van Ooyen, Senior Curator, QUT Art Museum; Katherine Dionysius, Assistant Curator, QUT Art Museum.

For media interviews with Dr Janice Rieger, or QUT Art Museum curators Katherine Dionysius and Vanessa Van Ooyen, or for high-res images, please contact Sian Conway Lamb, Senior Marketing Officer, 07 3138 3380 or sian.conwaylamb@qut.edu.au.



Louise HEARMAN, *Untitled #1391* 2016
digital print on rag paper
QUT Art Collection. Donated 2018

***Vis-ability* opening night details**

Friday 10 May
6pm-8pm (light canapes and refreshments provided)

Descriptive Tours

Free descriptive tours will be available for people who are blind or have low vision throughout the exhibition program.

Exhibition

11 May – 4 August

QUT Art Museum
2 George Street, Brisbane
www.artmuseum.qut.edu.au
artmuseum@qut.edu.au | 03 3138 5370
Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat-Sun 12pm-4pm | FREE

We're BAD | This exhibition is part of [BRISBANE ART DESIGN \(BAD\) 2019](#), an initiative of Museum of Brisbane

