

For immediate release
19 September 2019

Celebrate in the strangeness of Brisbane artist Anne Wallace's first major survey

On the surface, Anne Wallace's figurative paintings might seem conventional, however they are anything but ordinary. Showing at QUT Art Museum this summer from 9 November, *Anne Wallace: Strange Ways* brings together three decades of the artist's practice, exploring her creative influences including books, music and film.

Much of Wallace's work reflects her international outlook; a number of paintings pay homage to her time spent living in London and Paris, while others reference locations in the United States. At the same time, she is quintessentially a 'Queensland artist'; growing up in Brisbane in the 1970s and '80s has had an undeniable impact on her. In her work, one sees subtle references to the city—subtropical foliage, architectural features, recognisable buildings and street names.

There are also overt references, such as 'The Go-Betweens' series of paintings made in the early 2000s, which pay homage to the renowned Brisbane band. It is thus fitting that QUT Art Museum is mounting this exhibition—the most comprehensive one of her practice to date—in the city that she called home for more than 40 years.

In addition to The Go-Betweens, there are nods to John Lennon, The Beatles, Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, 1950s film, and 1980s London to name a few—and yes, the exhibition title is drawn from the poetic ramblings of The Smiths' fourth album.



Anne WALLACE, *Talking Cure* 2010, oil on canvas.
Collection of Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Brisbane.



Anne WALLACE, *Poptones* 2015, oil on linen.
Collection of the artist.

With a Lynchian twist, Wallace's paintings are at times difficult to look at. She combines the familiar with the unfamiliar, capturing a tension between the real and the imagined to create slightly awkward moments. Like any good 'story', there is sexual and social confusion, vulnerability and violence, alienation and loneliness, feelings of the abject, or fantasies of power and revenge. Wallace's paintings have an uncanny ability to tap into a shared psyche, drawing upon the language of pop culture.

This major exhibition surveys Wallace's idiosyncratic practice and the unique contribution she has made to Australian painting for almost thirty years. *Strange Ways* encourages audiences to look below the surface, beyond the seemingly mundane, to reveal the worlds beneath, the worlds within, and the worlds beyond.

Unlike some other institutions, QUT Art Museum's program has a special focus on solo artist exhibitions, exploring the artist's journey in depth. A QUT alumnus, Anne Wallace has provided an extraordinarily coherent and focused contribution to Australian painting. Considering Wallace's extensive connections with QUT and long history with Brisbane, this exhibition, which brings together more than 80 artworks from collections across Australia, created across three decades, is somewhat of a homecoming for the artist.

Vanessa Van Ooyen comments, "When Anne Wallace emerged on the Australian postmodern art scene of the 1990s, she was one of those few 'strange' artists exploring figurative painting. Wallace embraced the tradition, since the medium and its formalist preoccupation allow her a way to subtly subvert the image that is being depicted."

"Wallace's works exude a strangeness derived from her unusual use of perspectives, the superimposing of images, and the borrowing of disparate sources."

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The exhibition features rarely seen works that have been generously loaned from private collections alongside works from institutional collections, such as the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art's *Damage* (1996) and the National Gallery of Australia's *She Is* (2001). QUT is committed to developing focussed solo artist exhibitions and *Strange Ways* offers audiences a profound insight into Wallace's practice.

For anyone pining for a trip down memory lane and a reminder of what good painting is, this exhibition is a must-see!

Strange Ways is accompanied by a new hardcover publication, the largest produced on Wallace's work to date featuring new essays by Gillian Brown (Curator, Samstag), Francis Plagne (musician and writer), and Vanessa Van Ooyen (exhibition curator and Gallery Director, QUT Art Museum).

For media interviews with artist Anne Wallace, or QUT Art Museum's Gallery Director Vanessa Van Ooyen or Assistant Curator Katherine Dionysius, or for high-res images, please contact:

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EXHIBITION EVENTS & TOUR

Opening night: Anne Wallace: Strange Ways

6pm-8pm, Friday 8 November.

To be opened by Matthew Tobin, Managing Director, UAP (Urban Art Projects). Light canapes and refreshments provided. Social photographers welcome.

Panel Discussion with Anne Wallace, Francis Plagne and Vanessa Van Ooyen

2pm-3pm, Saturday 9 November

Film screenings

Regular screening times during opening hours. Check the website for details closer to the exhibition.

Exhibition

9 November 2019 – 23 February 2020

Exhibition travelling to

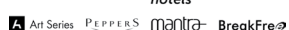
[Art Gallery of Ballarat](#), 28 March – 14 June 2020

[Samstag Museum of Art](#), Adelaide 3 July – 11 September 2020



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

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Anne WALLACE, *The Go-Betweens* 2001, oil on canvas. QUT Art Collection. Purchased 2019.



Anne WALLACE, *Eternity* 2002, oil on canvas. Private collection, Brisbane.