

1/2015

VISUAL ARTS GRADUATE SEASON

ANU SCHOOL OF ART



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ANU College of
Arts & Social Sciences



Australian
National
University

FOREWORD

This catalogue brings together the work of students who have completed their studies in the Graduate coursework or Graduate research programs at ANU School of Art since July 2014.

The work they have presented in exhibitions at the School of Art Gallery is characteristically diverse, involving a spread of disciplines and thematic concerns, but shares the commitment to excellence in art practice and art theory that is fundamental to our School.

We are delighted with these students' achievements and commend them to their new and expanded audiences. We wish them well in their future endeavours in the visual arts.

Dr Denise Ferris
Head, ANU School of Art

2/2014

Opening

6pm Wednesday 12 July

Exhibition dates

3 - 12 July

Tim Thomas

Doctor of Philosophy
Photography & Media Arts

3/2014

Opening

6pm Wednesday 10 December

Exhibition dates

11 - 18 December

Eliana Barrios

Master of Digital Arts
Photography & Media Arts

Jacob England

Master of Visual Arts
Sculpture

Jeff Lees

Graduate Diploma in Visual Arts
Ceramics

Louis McCallum

Master of Visual Arts
Sculpture

Ian Marshall

Master of Visual Arts (Research)
Photography & Media Arts

Mike Moore

Graduate Diploma in Visual Arts
Ceramics

Felice Sciaraffia

Master of Digital Arts
Photography & Media Arts

Mariana Vadell Weiss

Master of Visual Arts
Painting

1/2015

Opening

6pm Wednesday 11 February

Exhibition dates

12 - 21 February

Wendy Tsai

Master of Philosophy
Painting

1/2015

Opening

6pm Friday 6 March

Exhibition dates

26 February - 7 March

Lynne Flemons

Master of Philosophy
Printmedia and Drawing

Steven Holland

Doctor of Philosophy
Sculpture

1/2015

Opening

6pm Wednesday 18 March

Exhibition dates

12 - 21 March

Safrizal Shahir

Doctor of Philosophy
Printmedia and Drawing

Matt Higgins

Master of Philosophy
Photography & Media Arts

Eliana Barrios

Jacob England

Lynne Flemons

Matt Higgins

Steven Holland

Jeff Lees

Louis McCallum

Ian Marshall

Mike Moore

Felice Sciaraffia

Safrizal Shahir

Tim Thomas

Wendy Tsai

Mariana Vadell Weiss

Eliana Barrios

Master of Digital Arts

Photography and Media Arts

Eliana Barrios studied design in her home country Ecuador, working as a graphic designer. Her strong interest in learning more about production and postproduction in film led her to a Master in Digital Arts, fulfilling her aim to specialise in VFXs.

It is amazing how technology can help you to create whatever is on your mind, and bring that back to life. In this film I got the chance to explore my imagination and the ability to enjoy the process while making it.

The Unexpected 2, 2014
Short Film
12 x 6.73 cm



Jacob England

Master of Visual Arts
Sculpture

Jacob England is a Canberra-based artist and designer who completed his undergraduate studies in architecture in 2010. He has since then completed a Master's degree at ANU School of Art. Sculpturally his work employs found materials and performance, which is documented through photography, to express his relationship with his surroundings.

This body of work is the culmination of my interaction with the site of Black Mountain. Through my own presence and ritualistic action I have navigated this unfamiliar terrain while contemplating the question "Can I transfer my spirit into the landscape?"

Lay, 2014
found rocks
200 x 200 x 20 cm
Image courtesy the artist



Lynne Flemons

Master of Philosophy
Printmedia and Drawing

Lynne Flemons grew up in the southern tablelands of NSW in the 1960s. As a child she often accompanied her father whose work as an agronomist took him into much of the rural landscape of the state. Her research work is grounded in these early experiences and her memories of the land. Lynne has been exhibiting and participating in artist residencies for over 25 years and is represented in corporate and private collections in Australia and overseas.

Phenomenology and cross-cultural mapping are two key concepts helpful in understanding the different ways the Australian landscape has been interpreted in recent decades and I have drawn upon them throughout my work. The practical component of my research took place at Lake George/Weeweera where I walked extensively on the dry lake bed during the different seasons. This enabled me to experience first-hand the many phenomena associated with the Weeweera environment; experiences that are reflected in my work.

walking at weereewa, 2012
paper and marine ply cutout installation, ink, watercolour
55 x 70 x 5 cm
Photography: Brenton McGeachie



Matt Higgins

Master of Philosophy

Photography & Media Arts

Matt Higgins is a Canberra-based artist who completed his undergraduate studies at the Canberra School of Art in 2002, graduating with first class honours. Since then, he has moved away from documentary photography in order to explore the realms of cameraless photography, which has taken him to Europe, China and North America.

My practice-led research has been into the chemigram, a cameraless photographic technique in which light, photographic chemistry and paper alone are responsible for the reactions on the photographic emulsion. On the one hand, the chemigram is a rebel, breaking all the rules of photography as it is commonly understood. On the other, it sees a return to photography's most fundamental principle: a fascination with creating images with light. This enchanting but unpredictable process makes every chemigram utterly unique.

Untitled 254-5, 2014
unique silver gelatine chemigram
50.8 x 60.96 cm
Image courtesy of the artist



Steven Holland

Doctor of Philosophy
Sculpture

Steven Holland is a Canberra-based artist whose practice explores interrelationships between humans and the natural world with a particular focus on animals. Grounded in the discipline of sculpture, his work embraces a multiple media approach including drawing, installation, assemblage and performance. He was born in Western Australia and studied at Curtin University, Perth, the ANU School of Art and the Royal College of Art, London. His work is held in international, national and state gallery collections. In 2009 he completed a commission to design the Animals in war memorial at the Australian War Memorial. He has lectured in the ANU School of Art Foundation Studies for many years and lives on a sheep farming property near Michelago.

This exhibition is the result of my search to find connections between snakes from the Canberra district, and the material of bronze. My quest was to see if I could find the life of snakes hidden within an ancient foundry process. It resulted in a series of sculptures that aim to create a greater awareness and tolerance of elapid snakes, and celebrate them as beautifully adapted reptiles that live amongst us.

all things known, all things sensed, 2013
bronze, oil paint and auto lacquer
5 x 30 x 75 cm
Photography: Brenton McGeachiet



Jeff Lees

Graduate Diploma in Visual Arts
Ceramics

Jeff began in working in stained glass and leadlight in 1994 and in 1999 attained his Statement in Stained Glass: this led to studying ceramics at Western Sydney Institute, Nepean for his C11 & C1V in Visual Arts. He then graduated with a Diploma in Ceramics in 2008.

From 2009-2011 Jeff and Mike Moore jointly co-ordinated “Positive Pottery”, with assistance from Blacktown City Council, NSW Health, City of Sydney and Pine Street Creative Arts Centre. Jeff has exhibited his work in various group shows.

My present and future work have their roots in my hands-on engineering/military background and I have a desire to see my work not in an a gallery or indoor setting; boxed in by walls and roof, but as an outdoor installation. The use of laser decals gives the work a unique feel and acts as a permanent record documenting the changing nature of the natural environment in Western Sydney since European settlement, focusing on the Blacktown area.

Bungaribee and the spirit of the ghost gums, 2014
Ceramics underglazed and laser decals
52 x 12.5 x 12.5 cm



Louis McCallum

Master of Visual Arts
Ceramics

Louis McCallum is a Sydney-based potter who began his study in ceramic art seven years ago through the ANU Distance Diploma. Since transferring into the Graduate Program in 2011 he has focussed on bringing the landscapes of South-Eastern Australia into his work. He lives part of each year on the coast just south of Bermagui and draws heavily on that area for inspiration. Lou has an open studio in Marrickville and is interested in finding ways to increase the people's use of locally-made pottery in everyday life by connecting makers with movements like Farmers' Markets and Slow Food.

I am a potter who works mostly in dark, rough clays using glazes that remind me of the colours of the Australian landscape around me. I am particularly interested in the way that form, colour and texture on large ceramic works sometimes have the power to stop people in their tracks, invite them into quiet contemplation and connect them with memories and feelings about place.

Hidden valley, 2014
Terracotta and stoneware clay, dry glazes
70 x 60 x 30 cm
Photography: Stuart Hay



Ian Marshall

Master of Visual Arts (Research)
Photography & Media Arts

Ian Marshall is interested in how people construct meaning around the events of life. This has been explored during three careers as a construction electrician working on large projects, a minister of religion involved with local and national caring organisations, and as a photographer. His work behind the camera is combined with support for the contribution of photographic organisations. His work has been published in a number of books, newspapers and online publications and is valued in private and public collections.

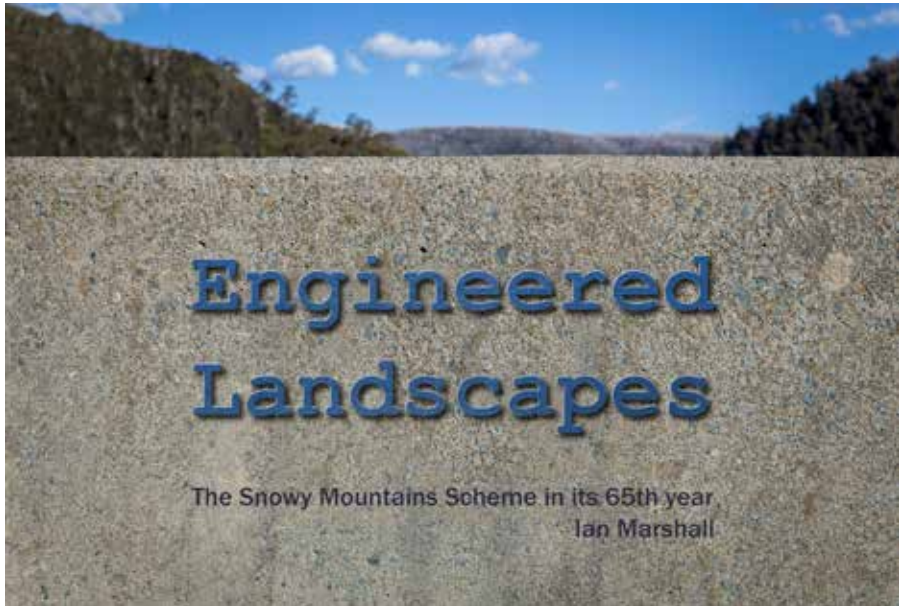
Engineered Landscapes is a contemporary photographic exploration of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme. Gathered into a photobook with a short accompanying text, the work asks, 'How do we see the Scheme after 65 years?' It was a huge project which took a generation to build. Will Australia ever be able to muster the political will to embark upon a nationally significant project again?

Engineered Landscapes: The Snowy Mountains Scheme in its 65th year, 2014

Commercially produced photobook

Hardcover 80 pages

Image courtesy of the artist



Mike Moore

Graduate Diploma in Visual Arts
Ceramics

I started painting in the mid 1990's and then studied ceramics at WSI, Nepean with C11,C1V and graduating with a Diploma in Ceramics in 2008. My passion though is photography and I try to push the boundaries of my photographs and my aim is to utilise this along with my painting skills in my ceramics.

From 2009-2011 I jointly co-ordinated the highly successful "Positive Pottery" with Jeff Lees; this was made possible with the assistance of Blacktown City Council, City of Sydney, Pine Street Creative Arts Centre and NSW Health.

I am inspired by nature and it is the vastness and colours of the Red Centre near Alice Springs that is the basis for my current work. I am exploring the use of colour in conjunction with laser decal to produce art that can be displayed in an outdoor environment (fence art). Using underglaze under the laser decal gives the image a more painterly appearance, rather than being just another photograph.

Kata Tjuta (Olgas), 2014
Ceramics underglazed and laser decals
60 x 90 x 2.5 cm
Image courtesy of the artist



Felice Sciaraffia

Master of Digital Arts

Photography & Media Arts

I studied Graphic Design at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, in my home country. For five years, I have been a digital inker for the international comic Condorito. I have taken part in the creation of small companies including GHT (now in the hands of David Sciaraffia, the lead founder) and Valor Real (a company owned by Pedro Gallardo) which I managed for two years; it has proudly grown during my administration and continues to do so today. After studying Business Administration I came to Australia to hone my design skills once more, undertaking the Master of Digital Arts at ANU. I'm currently working as a freelance designer, with clients like the ANU's Postgraduate and Research Students' Association.

Juno's Nine Lives: 9 short tales. The general objective of this project is to tell a series of stories in a connecting, entertaining and fast-paced way. I have no intention to hide the experimental nature of this work, switching between different techniques throughout the 9 lives of Juno, a black cat.



Juno's Nine Lives, 2014
Digital Video
1920 x 720 px
Image courtesy the artist

Safrizal Shahir

Doctor of Philosophy

Printmedia and Drawing

Safrizal Shahir (aka Safri) was born in Malaysia. He completed his Bachelor of Applied Arts in Fine Arts at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) in 2001 and his Masters in Art History at the University of Adelaide in 2008. Safri's art practice draws on a range of media, including drawing, print-media, photo-media and installation. Since 1996, he has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including *Working Title* (PETRONAS Gallery, 2008), *PIPE* (Penang State Gallery, 2011) and has held three solo exhibitions. He was a finalist in the Malaysian Young Contemporary Art Award in 2002 and 2004.

My studio-led research focuses on an Islamic gravestone that existed between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries in Malay world, known as Batu Aceh. Beside being fascinated by its unique form and qualities, I find Batu Aceh has echoes of ideas about identity, memory and erasure. My artwork has become a ground for reflection and response to these ideas.

Layers of Context 3 (detail), 2014
Transfer image on paper
76 x 56.5 cm
Image courtesy of the artist



Tim Thomas

Doctor of Philosophy

Photography and Media Arts

Tim Thomas teaches Media Production, in particular Cinematography and Editing in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra. From 1986 to 1998 he worked extensively within the Film and Television Industry, working his way through the camera department hierarchy, and when he wasn't doing that he sold pots and pans. In 2000 he started his second childhood studying visual art at the ANU National Institute of the Arts. As an academic his research interests include the nature of stories and the part played by a work art as it brings stories into time.

I extend the photographic paradigm into a virtual world where, using Blender software, I mash still life, landscape and sculpture within multidimensional spaces. This tests photography's ability to access virtual space and in so doing I discover new notions of photographic stillness and separate photography from the material process and redefine it as a practice and an idiom.

jug and vessel, 2014
inkjet print
61 x 76 cm
Image courtesy of the artist



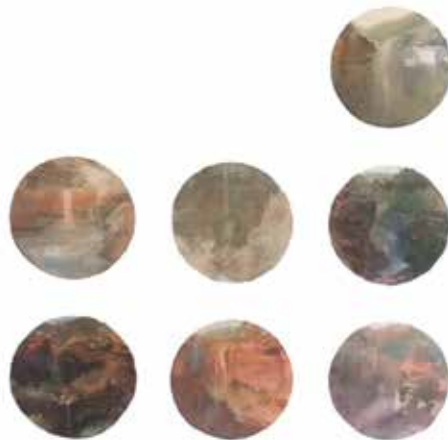
Wendy Tsai

Master of Philosophy
Painting

Wendy Tsai has been painting and exhibiting for over 20 years in a variety of media, but predominantly watercolour. Her work incorporates an internal view of the external world, which often becomes abstracted in the translation. Wendy works as an arts psychotherapist and this process informs her practice. Living and working in the Blue Mountains in NSW has been her source of inspiration for this current body of work. Wendy has been the recipient of a number of local and interstate awards for her painting.

'Falls 7' represents several views of Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains, NSW, based on photographs of Harry Phillips, an early 20th century photographer. I have been exploring how a painting can bring past and present together in the context of wilderness space. The medium of watercolour has enabled me to work with lost parts of the image, mimicking the effects of time on the photographs. The circular forms provide glimpses of the landscape that could also suggest the language of Braille, playing with ideas about seeing and not-seeing.

Falls 7, 2012
Watercolour
60 x 80 cm
Photography: Graeme Wienand



Mariana Vadell Weiss

Master of Visual Arts
Painting

Born in 1988 in Santiago, Chile, Mariana Vadell Weiss is a young artist who completed her undergraduate studies at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. During her career she has constantly revisited the representations of nature in contemporary and traditional art, especially those images that represent animals. The exploration of the animal representation in her work is marked by a continuous search for different materials and techniques to shape her creations. Her exploration of ceramic sculpture, printing, drawing and painting explore the complicated relationship between the animal world and the human being, resulting in detailed compositions. After completing her undergraduate studies in Chile she was awarded the Becas Chile Scholarship allowing her to pursue the Masters coursework program at ANU. Her studies have focussed on the exploration of the first European representations of native Australian wildlife, and the complex relationship between the occidental colonisation process and the natural environment.

Paintings such as Starlings (2014), Foxes (2014) and Rabbits (2014) reflect the relationship between human beings and the natural environment, through the depiction of foreign species introduced into the Australian continent. The manipulation of nature, as perceived and modified by the contemporary man is expressed in the figure of accumulation and grouping, a documented ecological catastrophe caused by rabbits that affected Australia during the late 1800s, now represented by new invasive creatures. On the other hand, a little ceramic sculpture such as King Bunny (2014) takes some of the satirical representations of the unsuccessful rabbit eradication program from the time, and transform it into a tiny imaginary world that could be part of a children's story, an emotive representation of a creature that could be either a plague or a beloved fairy tale character.

Foxes, 2014
Watercolour and gouache on watercolour paper
38 x 28 cm
Image courtesy of the artist



Postgraduate studies at the ANU School of Art in Visual Arts and Digital Arts.

The School of Art offers a range of Coursework and Research degrees at postgraduate level in all of its discipline areas.

Coursework degrees include

- Graduate Certificate of Arts
- Master of Visual or Digital Arts. In the Digital Arts program a Special Effects specialisation is possible.
- Master of Visual or Digital Arts (Research)

Coursework study is designed so students with different levels of undergraduate and professional experience can progress through increasing levels of achievement. The programs are suitable for applicants wishing to upgrade their qualifications or seeking to engage in intensive studio/media arts practice in a stimulating art school environment. In the programs, students produce substantial creative art works and deepen and extend their skills while also exploring their own personal themes and interests. The programs also prepare students for careers in visual or media arts and for higher degree research.

Research degrees offered are a 2 year Master of Philosophy and a 3-4 year PhD. A range of options for study within these can be considered - from a combination of practice-led studio research, exegesis and coursework theory courses to a conventional text based thesis. Other options may also be negotiated.

For further information please see: <http://soa.anu.edu.au>

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<http://soa.anu.edu.au/>
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all things known, all things sensed, 2013
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