MMCS120
Curating Artistic Creativity
S1 Day 2013

Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
John Potts
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Y3A 165J
Monday 3-4

Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit is a broad introduction to the contemporary arts in Australia, covering a wide range of forms and disciplines. The unit looks at contemporary ideas and directions in the arts, the life and practice of the professional artist, the economics of the arts and arts policy and funding. The unit takes its point of view from the conviction that the arts are humankind's greatest cultural repository, and that they contribute to education, spirituality, identity, and cultural continuity. The unit specifically investigates the role of arts in forging an Australian national identity. We pay particular attention to the role of curating artistic creativity, in contemporary arts, music, and arts festivals.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music
- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
- Identification of key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture
- Understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance
- Ability to analyse the economics of the art and culture industry
Understanding of the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Continually assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on 13 Rooms</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>29 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weeks 4-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>24 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>11 June</td>
</tr>
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Class Participation

Due: Continually assessed
Weighting: 10%

Class participation, including discussion of weekly readings and lecture materials. Participation includes written assignment to be submitted in class of Week 4, March 22, consisting of a one-page summary of two of the set readings for that week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music
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- Ability to analyse the economics of the art and culture industry
- Understanding of the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts

Report on 13 Rooms

Due: 29 April
Weighting: 10%

Provide a short written report (750 words) on the 13 Rooms exhibition, including its public program (lectures, seminars, workshops). What were the aims, curatorial strategies, and approaches of the various works in 13 Rooms? How successful was 13 Rooms as an exhibition?

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Presentation
Due: **Weeks 4-13**
Weighting: **20%**

Analyse the work of one contemporary Australian artist. What are the concerns and ideas expressed by this work? What techniques and methods does the artist use to convey these ideas?

15 minutes presentation (12 minutes followed by 3 minutes discussion). This is a verbal presentation, designed to develop skills of delivery and presentation. Students may refer to notes and use props (Powerpoint, DVD etc), but the presentation is not to be read. Students will be assessed on the content of the presentation, its effectiveness as communication, and responses to questions from the tutorial group.

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Review
Due: **24 May**
Weighting: **20%**

Review of curated show, 1000-1200 words. Review a current or recent show of curated works. This show may be an arts festival, music festival, art exhibition, performance event, or other mixed media show. Discuss curatorial theme and strategy, and the means by which the show is organised. What are its merits or shortcomings?

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Essay
Due: **11 June**
Weighting: **40%**

Australian art has been concerned with a number of key themes such as landscape, history, gender and identity, including national identity. More recent themes concern globalisation, the
environment, and technology. Choose one theme expressed in contemporary Australian arts. With reference to the work of at least two contemporary Australian artists or musicians, discuss the means by which this theme is explored. This essay should include references.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Delivery and Resources

**Classes**

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: [http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au](http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au). This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations.

Lecture: Friday 2 pm Y3A 212.

Tutorials commence in Week 2.

**Required and recommended texts and/or materials**

A book of readings is available in the Co-Op bookshop.

**Unit webpage and technology used and required**

Online units can be accessed at: [http://ilearn.mq.edu.au](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au).

PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.
There is a Facebook page for this unit, containing regular updates and information on contemporary Australian art:

Mmcs120

**Assignment submission**

**Hard Copy Submissions**

Written work must be submitted through the Arts Student Centre (via the appropriate assignment box) on Level 1, W6A (for internal students) or via COE (for external students). Internal students must print and attach a completed coversheet to all submitted work. A personalised assignment coversheet is generated from the student section of the Faculty of Arts website at:


Please provide your student details and click the *Get my assignment coversheet* button to generate your personalised assignment cover sheet. No other coversheets will be provided by the Faculty.

**Return of marked work**

During semester, marked work will be returned to students via tutorials, seminars or lectures.

**Electronic Submissions**

Information about how to submit work online can be accessed through the iLearn unit.

**Examination**

There is no examination in this unit.
Extensions and special consideration

Please note that late assignments will not be accepted without a medical certificate or other written evidence of serious misadventure. Students will lose 5% of their marks from their assignment for each day it is late, unless they have organised an extension of time with their lecturer beforehand. Students should apply for special consideration if there are circumstances that they feel may affect overall performance in the course.

Unit Schedule

Week 1  Introduction to the Unit
1 March

Required Readings:
Glossary of Terms in Contemporary Art


Week 2  What Is Contemporary Art?
8 March

Victoria Lynn, ‘Current Fragments’ in Current
Julie Ewington, ‘Symbols, Metaphors, Sorrow and Joy: Australian Artists in the Global Frame’ in 21st Century
Rex Butler, ‘The World is Not Enough’ in Merewether & Potts (ed) After the Event (2010)

Week 3  Aboriginal Art. Guest Lecture: Jonathan Jones
15 March

Wally Caruana, excerpts from Aboriginal Art (London: Thames & Hudson 2003)
Ian McLean, ‘Aboriginal Art and Globalisation’ in 21st Century

Jonathan Jones is an artist and curator.
Unit guide MMCS120 Curating Artistic Creativity

Week 4  Photography, Video, Performance

22 March


Beryl Graham and Sarah Cook, ‘Time Based Arts - Video and Performance’ in Rethinking Curating: Art After New Media (2010)


Week 5

Public Holiday: Easter

29 March

Week 6  Art and Performance in Thirteen Rooms. Guest Lecture: John Kaldor

5 April

Jessica Morgan, ‘Come Inside’, Art & Australia 50/3 2013

John Kaldor is Director of Kaldor Art Projects.

Week 7, 12 April

Curating Thirteen Rooms. Public Lecture, Seminar by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Klaus Biesenbach

Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay. Lecture time and details to be announced.


MID-SEMESTER BREAK

Week 8

Curating Contemporary Art. Guest lecture: Rhonda Davis

3 May

Teresa Gleadowe, ‘Curating in a Changing Climate’ in Gavin Wade (ed.) Curating in the
Unit guide MMCS120 Curating Artistic Creativity


Rhonda Davis is Curator of the Macquarie University Art Gallery.

Week 9
Curating the Collection: Rhonda Davis
10 May
Lecture at Art Storage, 299 Lane Cove Rd.


Beryl Graham and Sarah Cook, 'Introduction to Rethinking Curating' in Rethinking Curating: Art After New Media (2010)

Week 10 Promoting and Curating Music. Guest Lecture: Stephen Pavlovic
17 May
Mark Jennings, 'Realms of Re-enchantment: Socio-cultural Investigations of Festival Music Space' in Perfect Beat Vol. 11.1 2010

Stephen Pavlovic is a music promoter and curator and is the founder of Modular Recordings.

Week 11 Programming the Contemporary Arts Festival. Guest lecture: Fiona Winning
24 May
Beryl Graham and Sarah Cook, 'Other Modes of Curating: Festivals' in Rethinking Curating: Art After New Media (2010)

Fiona Winning is Head of Programming, The Sydney Festival.

Week 12 Curating Independent Programs. Guest Lecture: Julie-Anne Long
31 May

Julie-Anne Long is a choreographer, dancer, and lecturer in dance, MMCCS.
Week 13  Curating Media Arts and Sound Art

7 June

Darren Tofts, ‘What is Media Art?’ from Interzone: Media Arts in Australia (Melbourne: Craftsman House 2005)

Caleb Kelly, ‘Can Someone Please Turn the Work Up? The Exhibition of Sound in Contemporary Australian Art’

in Art Monthly Australia No. 225, 2009

REFERENCES

The following books are held in the Reserve section of the library:

Current: Contemporary Art From Australia and New Zealand (ed) Art & Australia (Sydney: Dott Publishing 2008)


After the Event: New Perspectives on Art History (eds Charles Merewether and John Potts) Manchester: Manchester University Press 2010

The following books are held in the library.

Allen, Christopher, Art in Australia (London: Thames & Hudson 1997)

Bandt, Ros, Sound Sculpture: Intersections in Sound and Sculpture in Australian Artworks (Sydney: Craftsman House 2001)


Coleman, Elizabeth Burns, Aboriginal Art, Identity and Appropriation (Aldershot: Ashgate 2005)


Curnow, Wystan, Imants Tillers and the Book of Power (Sydney: Craftsman House 1998)

Ewington, Julie, Fiona Hall (Sydney: Piper Press 2005)


Scheer, Edward: *Scenario* (Sydney: UNSW Press 2011)


Smith, Terry, *Transformations in Australian Art* (Two volumes) (Sydney: Craftsman House 2002)


**RECOMMENDED JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES**

Art & Australia

Artlink

Australian Art Monthly

Australian Art Review

Broadsheet

Journal of Australian Studies

Real Time

Runway: [www.runway.org.au](http://www.runway.org.au)

Scan Journal of Media Arts Culture: [http://scan.net.au](http://scan.net.au)
SYDNEY VENUES
Australian Centre for Photography: 257 Oxford St Paddington. www.acp.org.au

OTHER WEBSITES
Art Month Sydney (March): www.artmonthsydney.com
Australia Council for the Arts: www.australiacouncil.gov.au
NSW Ministry for the Arts: www.arts.nsw.gov.au

Policies and Procedures
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:
Academic Honesty Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html
Special Consideration Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html
In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

UniWISE provides:
• Online learning resources and academic skills workshops http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
- Identification of key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture
- Understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance
- Understanding of the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts

### Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Report on 13 Rooms
- Presentation
- Review
Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music
- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
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Assessment tasks

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- Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
- Identification of key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture
- Understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance
- Ability to analyse the economics of the art and culture industry
- Understanding of the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts
Assessment tasks

- Report on 13 Rooms
- Presentation
- Review
- Essay

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music
- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
- Understanding of the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts

Assessment tasks

- Report on 13 Rooms
- Presentation
- Review
- Essay

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music
- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
- Identification of key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture
- Understanding of the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music
- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
- Identification of key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture
- Understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance
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Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Report on 13 Rooms
- Presentation
- Review
- Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
• Understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance
• Ability to analyse the economics of the art and culture industry
• Understanding of the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts

Assessment task

• Essay

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Identification of key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture
• Ability to analyse the economics of the art and culture industry

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music
• Ability to form judgements in critically analysing contemporary arts
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Assessment tasks

• Class Participation
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• Essay
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<td>15/02/2013</td>
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