



# MMCS120

## Curating Artistic Creativity

S1 Day 2019

*Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, Lecturer and Tutor

Andrew Alter

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Contact via email

10 Hadenfeld, Rm 169

Any time by appointment

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is a broad introduction to contemporary arts practice in Australia, covering a wide range of forms and disciplines. The unit looks at contemporary ideas in the arts, the role of the curator, the life and practice of the professional artist, 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://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Demonstrate understanding for economic practices and conventions in the art and

culture industry.

Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## General Assessment Information

### Assessment Standards and the MQ Assessment Policy

Assessment standards in this unit align with the University's grade descriptors, available at: <http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>

### Feedback

Feedback on assessments and student learning will be provided in a range of ways. Students will receive formal individual feedback on their assessments in the form of general, rubric and in-text comments attached to assignments marked in Grademark/Turnitin. They may receive further individual feedback from the unit staff in email communication and personal consultations.

### Late Submission Penalty

“Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.”

### Requesting a Remark

See the following MMCCS Session Re-mark Application Form: <http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167914>

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Artist's Statement</a>	20%	No	27 March
<a href="#">Review</a>	30%	No	1 May
<a href="#">Curatorial Proposal</a>	50%	No	4 June

### Artist's Statement

Due: **27 March**

Weighting: **20%**

This assignment must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date shown using the Turnitin submission system available through the iLearn website for the unit.

Artists' Statements are a key part of presenting and displaying an artwork or performance. A number of examples of artists' statements will be given out in class as models of conventional practice. In addition, examples of several artists' works/performances will be presented and discussed in tutorials.

For this task you are required to undertake independent research on an artist/performer and write a 500 word Artist's Statement for them. The Statement should be written as if it were to be used in a festival program. Although artists normally write their own statements, this is an exercise in designing and editing such statements as curatorial practice.

### Assessment Criteria

- Does the written statement clearly and succinctly identify the artist's oeuvre of work?
- Is the language used both coherent and interesting?
- Does the statement reveal an understanding for conventional forms of artists' statements?

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.

### Review

Due: **1 May**

Weighting: **30%**

This assignment must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date shown using the Turnitin submission system available through the iLearn website for the unit.

1000 - 1200 words

Review a current (or recent) show of curated works. Presume your review is to be published in a mainstream print media outlet. You may review an arts festival, a music festival, an art exhibition, a performance event, or some other mixed media show. Alternatively you may wish to use the field trip we organize to the Gallery of NSW (or elsewhere) as the basis of your review.

Provide an overall description of the show/event, then discuss the curatorial themes evident in the show's presentation (including associated published material like program guides and catalogues). In addition, discuss strategies used to display/present and promote the event, noting particularly any innovative forms of design and/or organisation. Furthermore, make some reference to how the artistic endeavour is part of a broader tradition of practice within the art

world. Pay particular attention to how your review might attract an audience to the event.

Provide a list of references associated with your comments about broader traditions of practice. This reference list should follow conventional academic citation style even though such a list would not normally be included within a review of this nature.

## **Assessment Criteria**

- Does the descriptive statement give a clear impression of the works and/or performances being considered?
- Are curatorial themes discussed with clear reference to the works displayed/performed?
- Are logical and innovative references made to a broader tradition of arts practice?
- Is the language clear and does the review make the reader interested in attending the event?

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## **Curatorial Proposal**

Due: **4 June**

Weighting: **50%**

The majority of this assignment must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date shown, using the Turnitin submission system available through the iLearn website for the unit. Support Materials (as outlined below) may need to be handed in as hard copy.

A limited list of potential themes for a multi-practice contemporary arts event are given below. Either choose one of these themes, or make up your own theme, and develop a proposal for a contemporary Australian arts event based on that theme. Your proposal should identify at least three artists, groups or ensembles who will participate in the event. The thematic design should provide scope for others to contribute.

## **Potential Themes**

- Year of the Dog
- Colonization
- Marginalization
- Subverting the Normal

- Cross-Cultural Cosmologies
- In Miniature
- Bigger than Life
- Pulse of the Nation

Your proposal will have four segments to it: Description; Curatorial Essay; Support Materials, and; Budget

## **Description**

Provide details on the event with a title, location, dates and times. These are hypothetical but should be realistic.

## **Curatorial Essay**

Write a 1500 word essay about the thematic framework for the proposed event. The overarching theme should be discussed as well as potential sub-themes. The three artists you have chosen should be described and the way their work potentially contributes to the overarching themes of the event should be detailed. Discuss how the event contributes to a broader tradition of arts practice and creativity. In particular, consider aspects of creativity theory that have been explored in this unit and discuss ways in which your proposed event resonates with (or illustrates) these theories in some way. The essay should be in standard academic style with a reference list.

## **Support Materials**

Provide images of the event. For example, this could be a map indicating how the exhibition will be presented or a poster with some graphic design elements. Your own content may be used in the support material design as well as content by the artists involved in the event. Note: This component may need to be submitted in hard copy format separate to the Description, the Curatorial Essay and the Budget.

## **Budget**

Provide a budget of the proposed event. This should include income, expenses, in-kind support and artists' fees. Templates for the four sections will be provided via iLearn.

## **Assessment Criteria**

Is the treatment of the thematic elements of the event innovative and integrative?

Does the design of the event demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in arts and music?

Does the design of the project enhance creativity and creative practice across art forms?

Is the language used clear, and is the Curatorial Essay in standard academic style?

Does the budget demonstrate a realistic understanding for arts funding practices and conventions?

Do the Support Materials demonstrate a creative approach to curatorial practice?

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Demonstrate understanding for economic practices and conventions in the art and culture industry.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## Delivery and Resources

### Prescribed Text

There is one prescribed textbook for the unit:

Balzer, David. 2014. *Curationism: How Curating Took Over the Art World and Everything Else*. Toronto: Coach House Books.

Students should purchase this book from the Book Coop before the first week of classes. Specific chapters from the text have been set for reading during specific weeks of the semester as listed in the iLearn site.

### Leganto Reading List

There are also some other prescribed weekly readings and/or website/podcast viewing/listening set for the unit, and these may be accessed through the Library's "Leganto" system. Students should find the link for the Leganto System on the home page of the iLearn site and register through this link to gain access to these additional prescribed readings.

### Lectures

Lectures for the unit are held on Wednesdays at 11 am in Room 212, 10 Hadenfeld Avenue. Lectures will be recorded using the Echo system. A number of lectures will be provided by guests with special knowledge in different topics.

### Tutorials

There are 2 tutorial options: Wednesday at 12 noon or Wednesday at 1 pm. **Yes! There are tutorials in Week 1.** Some tutorial sessions will involve special activities and these will be outlined in class and through the iLearn notification system. All students should check their University "@students.mq.edu.au" email regularly, or arrange to have messages forwarded to their regular email account.

Reading Lists for the unit are provided through the Library's Leganto system. Links for readings and other resources are provided in the unit's iLearn site.

## Unit Schedule

### Weekly Topic and Assessment Schedule

#### **Week 1 (27/2): "Curating and Curationism: The Arts in Perspective"**

*Tutorial: Special Session on Gamelan*

#### **Week 2 (6/3): "Theorizing Creativity"**

*Tutorial: Creativity Exercises - Experimentation and Thinking*

#### **Week 3 (13/3): "History of Curatorship in Australia and Exhibitions at MQ Gallery: Curatorial Practice and its Dissemination"**

Guest Lecture: Rhonda Davis

*Tutorial: Workshop at MQ Gallery with Rhonda Davis*

#### **Week 4 (20/3): "What is Contemporary Art? Considering the Avant-Garde, Modernism and Post-Modernism"**

*Tutorial: Discussion of Readings and Workshop on Artists' Statements*

#### **Week 5 (27/3): "Sydney Festival Circus City" - guest lecture with Dr. Jon Burt**

*Tutorial: Potential Field Trip and Preparation for Assignment 2 - TBC*

#### **Week 6 (3/4): "Film Festivals" - guest lecture with Dr. Stefan Solomon**

*Tutorial: Discussion of Readings*

#### **Week 7 (10/4): "Film Programming" - guest lecture with Dr. Stefan Solomon**

*Tutorial: Discussion of Readings*

### Mid-Term Break

#### **Week 8 (1/5): "Festivals and Budgets"**

*Tutorial: Preparation for Assignment 3*

#### **Week 9 (8/5): "Thematic Framing"**

*Tutorial: Discussion of Readings, or Fieldtrip Project --- TBC*

#### **Week 10 (15/5): "Public Art" - Guest Lecture with Dr. Frances Alter**

*Tutorial: Discussion of Readings, or Fieldtrip Project --- TBC*

#### **Week 11 (22/5): "Soundscapes, Installation Art and New Media"**

*Tutorial: Discussion of Readings*



## Week 12 (29/5): "Environmental Art"

*Tutorial: Found Art Practice Activity*

## Week 13 (5/6): "Framing, Positioning, Power and Authority, Intimacy"

*Tutorial: Berger's Ways of Seeing*

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

### Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### 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

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## Assessment tasks

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## 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

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Demonstrate understanding for economic practices and conventions in the art and culture industry.

## Assessment tasks

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## 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

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.

## Assessment tasks

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## Discipline Specific Knowledge and 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

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Demonstrate understanding for economic practices and conventions in the art and culture industry.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## Assessment tasks

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## 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

- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.

- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## **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 outcome**

- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## **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**

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## Assessment tasks

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## 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

- Demonstrate knowledge of curatorial practices in visual and performing arts.
- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## Assessment tasks

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## 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

- Identify key themes in contemporary Australian art and culture.
- Demonstrate understanding of theoretical issues informing contemporary arts and performance.
- Identify the social and cultural significance of curating contemporary arts.

## Assessment tasks

- Artist's Statement
- Review
- Curatorial Proposal

## Changes from Previous Offering

The readings for the unit have been updated and expanded including a new Prescribed Text Book. In addition, the topic schedule has been changed from previous offerings in order to incorporate guest lectures by specialists in particular forms of arts practice and to create a balance between topics that explore Curatorial Practice and Creativity Theory.