

Featuring Artists

Melissah Grace Chalker

Danica Knezevic

Camilla Cassidy

Lisa Tolcher

in absentia

Curators

Fredrika Mackenzie

Antony Skinner

Courtney Wagner

In absentia, an exhibition

presented by – Curatorial Lab, MAC students

Opening Night: Wednesday 18 October 6-8pm

Exhibition: 18-28 October 11am-4pm



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Where:

Auditorium Foyer
Sydney College of the Arts
The University of Sydney
Kirkbride Way, off Park Drive,
Lilyfield, NSW (enter opp Cecily Street)

“In absentia” explores the mark-making notions of memory, examining tensions between absence and presence.

Whether it is the remembrance of things past or the liminal spaces between these memories, the presence and absence of these constructs is evident within the structures and theoretical scaffolding of the works exhibited.

Through their practices, artists Lisa Tolcher, Melissah Chalker, Camilla Cassidy and Danica Knezevic challenge interpretations of history, deconstruct theories of reflection, and explore the ways in which we archive and imprint memories.

With nuances to the theoretical frameworks of Foucault and Ricoeur, this curatorial collective examines the impact of different historical narratives through a minimal and monochromatic representation. Notions of memory, history and forgetting are questioned, while navigating spaces that are alternately occupied or absent within the void.

This exhibition provides a platform for current Sydney College of Art (SCA) students to exhibit (PhD, Masters, Honours) who will be displaced as a product of the closure of their campus and studios. Please join us to celebrate this collaboration between SCA and the University of Sydney Master in Art Curating students.

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which the exhibition stands, the Wangal people of the Eora Nation. We would like to pay our respects to their ancestors past, present and future.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land.



Curatorial collective:

Fredrika Mackenzie
Antony Skinner
Courtney Wagner

Artists:

Lisa

Tolcher

The Artists:

Camilla Cassidy

Biography:

Camilla Cassidy is currently a PhD candidate at SCA. She has exhibited locally and internationally at places such as the AGNSW, IMA Brisbane; her work is held in collections both here and abroad. She was represented by Doerthe Ramin in Berlin where she lived for a number of years

Artist Statement:

Cassidy's contemporary painting practice attempts to represent a sense of the past – of memory – expressed through both personal and high-modernist cultural modalities. This is achieved through the logic of appropriation. She 'reanimates' mid-century abstraction as a twenty-first century strategy that works against forgetting. For example in these particular works Cassidy re-presents work in the manner of Francis Bacon and titles them with postpunk band names from the 1980s (sourced from personal memories). This lends the work a further personal/ idiosyncratic dimension. This type of appropriationist strategy has been wittily dubbed: 'Zombie Formalism' by New York critics.



Killing Joke (triptych), 2017 (installation view)

Melissah Grace Chalker

Biography:

Melissah Chalker was born in Sydney, Australia and graduated from the National Art School in 2010 with BA Hons in Fine Arts. She has shown at First Draft, The Hole, NYC, Sydney Non-Objective Gallery in both solo and group shows, Melbourne University, This is Not Art (TINA), Articulate Projects, SCA DedSpace and Lilac City.

Artist Statement:

Chalker's practice is situated within the well-known and established field of minimalism and geometric abstraction, both of which are characteristics of Non-objective art. The combined technical aspects of art making; paint; and canvas, composition and colour, texture and shape contribute to a non-linear aesthetic practice that presents ideas both within the field of Non-objective art and potentially to the fields with which Non-objective art is related. However, in this case the work is based on painting becoming a conduit to make contact beyond the closed frame of its historical formal invention; and reconfigures it in a contemporary context. It examines the accidental meeting of theatricality and anti-theatre in art history and theory and through a knowledge of painting - exposing what what obscurities lie beneath its surface. The paintings illustrate a resistance to principles and ideas of the early 20th century through a 21st century strangeness and irony.



Untitled,
2017

Danica Knezevic

Biography:

Danica I. J. Knezevic is a performance artist working across photography, video, and live performance. Knezevic is a PhD candidate at Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney. Knezevic is currently a contemporary art, sessional lecturer at Australian Catholic University at Strathfield and University of Technology, Sydney.

Artist Statement:

I carry these bound memories that consist of pages, filled with experiences that are passed on to me and have experienced myself. I have heard the stories and felt the moments as if they were my own: like songs that I know every lyric too. There are some pages that are filled with silence and some are my own. The binding is part of the female experience: living for the family as a granddaughter, a daughter and a carer. I pile my binding recollections, one by one: each album adding more weight that I need to balance. They are the weight of my self: my inherited herstory, my responsibilities and my own history. I push them up to create space for new memories that I long for, but the balancing act makes me sway. I keep pushing and piling, in hope that I make a space that will create new moments to be bound by.



Lisa Tolcher

Biography:

Lisa Tolcher is a Sydney-based emerging artist and curator. Her artistic practise investigates physical presence through the use of forms in sculptural environments. She was awarded the Janice Reid emerging artist award at the Western Sydney University Sculpture award and prize in 2016, and has received residencies through the Hill End Residency program and Gallery Lane Cove residency program. Her work has been exhibited in New York, Sydney and Melbourne and is a BFA(Hons) graduate from the National Art School, Darlinghurst.

Artist Statement:

Presence, Absence V extends the artist's research of timelessness. Space and gravity are employed to create transient moments, concluding in the memories of viewers. It is the artist's aim to reshape bodily experience by employing minimal elements and repetition. This emblematic engagement creates stability within a psychological and social context. The work offers viewers ambiguity and the alluring quality of physical presence. The voids reflect parts, but not the entire environment. Window reflections and movement can be detected momentarily. The disappearance of non-reflective objects and our own faces creates allusiveness and unbalance. A near-theological interaction, the relationship between the non-physical and physical removes pandemonium during that moment in time.



Installation view -
Presence, Absence V,
2017



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SYDNEY

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