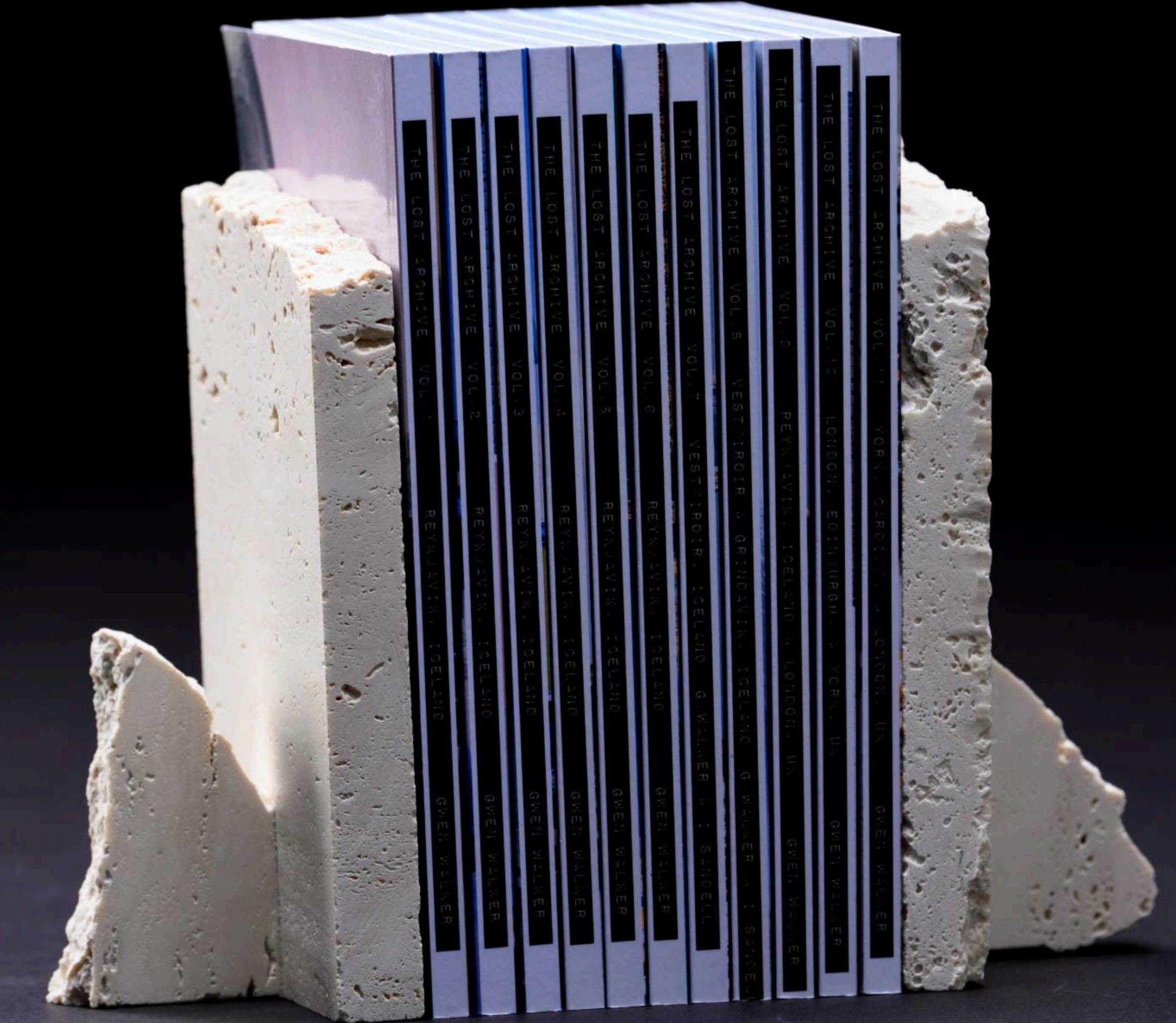




University of
Southern
Queensland

UniSQ Art Gallery

Year in Review 2024



DR GWEN WALKER

THE LOST ARCHIVE (VOL 1-11)

2023-24, OFFEST PRINTING ON PAPER

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Southern Queensland acknowledges the First Nations of southern Queensland and their ongoing connection to Country, lands, and waterways. Further, we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first educators and researchers of Australia. We pay deep respect to Elders past and present.



Message from the Vice-Chancellor

As we pause to reflect and celebrate the achievements of the UniSQ Art Gallery in 2024, it is with immense pride that I present this Year in Review. Encapsulating not only the artistic pursuits that have been delivered but also the profound impact of our commitment to integrated learning and community engagement.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed strategic integration of community-based learning within our curriculum, with numerous courses designed to foster meaningful connections between our students and the wider community. The UniSQ Art Gallery not only highlights the significant participation of our students in community engagement activities but demonstrates their dedication to applying their knowledge in real-world contexts and assists in cultivating a sense of social responsibility.

Our local partnerships have been fundamental in creating mutually beneficial initiatives that address specific community needs. These collaborations not only enhance our educational offerings but also empower our students to co-create knowledge alongside community members, tackling pressing challenges through innovative research and artistic expression.

The UniSQ Art Gallery continues to serve as a platform for these initiatives, showcasing exhibitions that resonate with our community's diverse narratives and experiences. From the poignant stories shared in "Voices of Veterans" to the immersive exploration of nature in "Furari Flores," our gallery has become a catalyst for dialogue and reflection, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around us.

As we celebrate the successes of 2024, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our students, staff, and community partners. Together, we are not only shaping the future of art and education but also nurturing a culture of collaboration and creativity that will continue to thrive in the years to come.

Professor Karen Nelson
Vice-Chancellor
University of Southern Queensland

Message from the Curator (Arts and Exhibitions)

As the year progresses, I am proud to present our reflection of the year that was, the 2024 UniSQ Art Gallery Year in Review. A tapestry woven from the vibrant threads of creativity, community, and connection. This year, we have journeyed deeper into the heart of artistic expression, guided by the voices of our audience and the pulse of our community. As the Curator (Arts and Exhibitions), I am honoured to reflect on the remarkable highlights of the past year, celebrating the growth and achievements made possible by you, our audience and supporters.

Throughout 2024, the UniSQ Art Gallery has continued to grow into the nucleus for art enthusiasts, students, and the wider community to converge and explore. The UniSQ Art Gallery's commitment to showcasing thought-provoking exhibitions has remained steadfast, and I am profoundly grateful to the team whose passion and creativity have brought our vision to life.

This year, we welcomed over 4,200 visitors—an impressive testament to the growing appreciation for the arts and the vital role our gallery plays in fostering cultural engagement. It is inspiring to witness how our gallery has become a catalyst for dialogue and reflection, igniting conversations that resonate far beyond our walls.

Our art collection has grown, enriched by strategic acquisitions and generous donations that have introduced exceptional works from both emerging and established artists. This growth not only enhances the cultural fabric of our gallery but also provides a platform for artists to share their voices and contribute to the broader artistic discourse.

Through our collection, we invite you to engage with diverse perspectives and narratives that challenge and inspire. As we reflect on the past year, my team and I extend our deepest gratitude to the artists, visitors, and supporters for their passionate advocacy. We are excited to continue our journey, pushing boundaries and exploring new horizons in the coming year.

I invite you to immerse yourself in the pages of this Year in Review, which encapsulates the essence of our achievements, exhibitions, visitor engagement, and the growth of our art collection. May it serve as a testament to the vibrant and ever-evolving world of art that we are privileged to serve.

Brodie Taylor
Curator (Arts and Exhibitions)
University of Southern Queensland



UniSQ Art Gallery

The UniSQ Art Gallery experienced a significant 20% increase in visitors this past year, welcoming over 4200 guests. This growth highlights the community's strong support and interest in the gallery's diverse artistic and cultural offerings. Your continued support has been crucial in establishing the gallery as a key cultural destination in the region. Thank you for being part of this journey, and we look forward to welcoming even more visitors as we expand our programs and exhibitions.

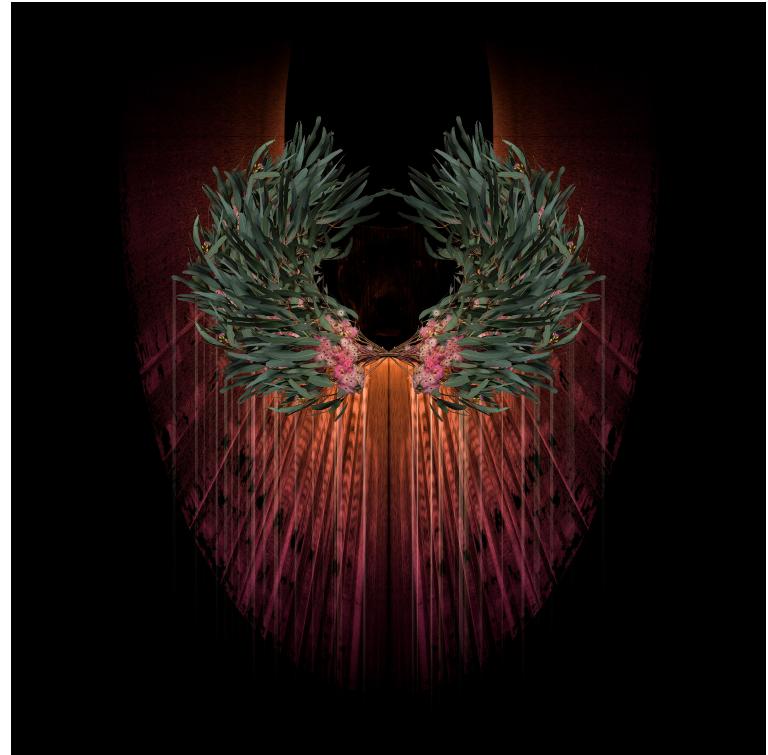
4200+ unique gallery visits

+20% increase

DAVID USHER
BENEATH THE CANOPY
2024, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS



Our Exhibitions – 2024



Furari Flores (Stealing Flowers)

Artist: Cara-Ann Simpson
18 January – 16 February 2024

Furari Flores was a multisensory exhibition celebrating the wonder of plants. Incorporating sight, smell, hearing, and tactility, this project creates an immersive, sensory experience. Furari Flores grew out of Cara-Ann Simpson's experience with extreme illness and a life-changing diagnosis. The Latin title translates to 'stealing flowers,' which is a literal and metaphorical interpretation of the project and her story.



Voices of Veterans

Artist: Michael Armstrong
26 February – 29 March 2024

Voices of Veterans was a veteran-led art project that humanises mental health and shares personal stories of strength, bravery and hope to help others. As a series of photographic artworks, Voices of Veterans features Australian veterans living with PTSD, immersed in molasses. It was created by artist, veteran, UniSQ Alumni Award recipient and PTSD survivor, Mike Armstrong. The powerful artworks are personal expressions of each veteran's experience living with the disorder.



UniSQ Biennial Art Award

Curator: Brodie Taylor
8 April – 17 May 2024

The UniSQ Biennial Art Award was an exciting new addition to Australia's art world. The newly established national award, aimed to celebrate and champion contemporary Australian art. Through exhibitions and events, the award generated conversation and appreciation for art, enriching the cultural fabric of local communities. At the heart of this project is the promotion of mental well-being and social cohesion.



Lost on Purpose (mostly)

Artist: Dr Gwen Walker
27 May - 28 June 2024

For Gwen Walker, Artistic Wandering was not just a research subject for her PhD but a deeply personal embodiment of self-discovery. For her PhD, Gwen coined the term 'artistic wandering' which she defined as "The self-participatory act of wandering as an artwork where the physical art objects and artifacts produced during become secondary to the artist's phenomenological experience of wandering."

Our Exhibitions – 2024



Awful Beauty

Artist: Dr Loi Magill
27 May – 28 June 2024

Awful Beauty: Mapping Toxic Locations In The Age Of The Anthropocene: A visual response to environmentally impacted geographical locations exhibition is the result of artist Loi Magill's Doctor of Creative Arts project. This series aims to create abstract geographical maps as works of art that demonstrate how selected environments within Australia have been impacted by the effects of the Anthropocene – a term used to describe the time during which humans have had a substantial impact on our planet.



In Focus: portraits from the UniSQ Art Collection

Curator: Brodie Taylor
29 July – 23 August 2024

The "In Focus: Portraits from the UniSQ Art Collection" exhibition offered a compelling exploration into the captivating world of portraiture. Visitors were invited to immerse themselves in a diverse selection of portraits sourced from the University's esteemed permanent collection. This exhibition served as a platform to highlight hidden gems and unveil portraits that have never been publicly displayed before, promising a unique and unforgettable experience for art enthusiasts and the wider community.



Park Perspectives: A vision of Laurel Bank Park

Curator: Brodie Taylor
3 September – 25 October 2024

Continuing UniSQ's artistic spotlight on the gardens and landscapes of Toowoomba, the University was proud to pay tribute to the iconic Laurel Bank Park. With 4.5 hectares of beautifully manicured parklands, close to Toowoomba's city centre, Laurel Bank Park has become a must see for all who visit the Garden City. The park is beautiful year-round, with its spring displays and cherry blossom avenues being particularly breathtaking.



Graduart 2024

Curators: Dr Rhiannan Johnson and Brodie Taylor
5 November – 6 December 2024

This much anticipated, annual exhibition showcases the cumulative ideas and creative works generated by the graduating cohort of 2024. Whether at an undergraduate or postgraduate level, each of our graduating students has undergone a period of immense discovery, and growth in a time of constant change and societal flux.

Inaugural UniSQ Biennial Art Award: A Triumph in Australian Art

The inaugural UniSQ Biennial Art Award brought together artists from across Australia, celebrating and championing contemporary Australian art.

This newly established national award highlights the richness of Australian art, honours our talented artists, and showcases UniSQ's esteemed Visual Arts programs.

645 submissions

316 artists

5479 votes for Peoples Choice Award

Our support for the arts traces its origins back to 1974 when the former Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education was established. Since then, the commitment to fostering creativity and artistic excellence has flourished.

The Biennial Art Award attracted an impressive 645 entries from more than 300 artists nationwide. The 36 finalists displayed extraordinary works across a diverse range of artistic disciplines, making this inaugural event a resounding success.

Entries were received from established artists with decades of experience, many of whom are recognized nationally and internationally, as well as from our very own University of Southern Queensland visual arts students, who brought a strong conceptual underpinning to their work.

The Overall Winner Award was Gabrielle Jones from the Sunshine Coast for her painting *Disordered Dream*, 2024, Acrylic on Polyester Cotton (below), inspired by the Baroque period's "drama, movement, and storytelling." Her artwork uses patterns and forms iconic to the Baroque period and speaks to "the call and answer between then and now, and the emotion and struggle of the painting process."



Inaugural UniSQ Biennial Art Award: Winners



Runner-Up Award
Donna Marcus, *Coolangatta and Tweed Heads*, 2023, ceramic, stainless steel, grout, adhesive



Emerging Artist Award
Susie Choi, *Dinkum*, 2024, Porcelain, glaze, lustre, nylon thread



Packers Award
Sam Scoufos, *Self Portrait in Water*, 2024, Giclee Print



Local Excellence Award
Marisa Ballinger, *Ngurrampaa*, 2024, Ink on Jute & Hemp



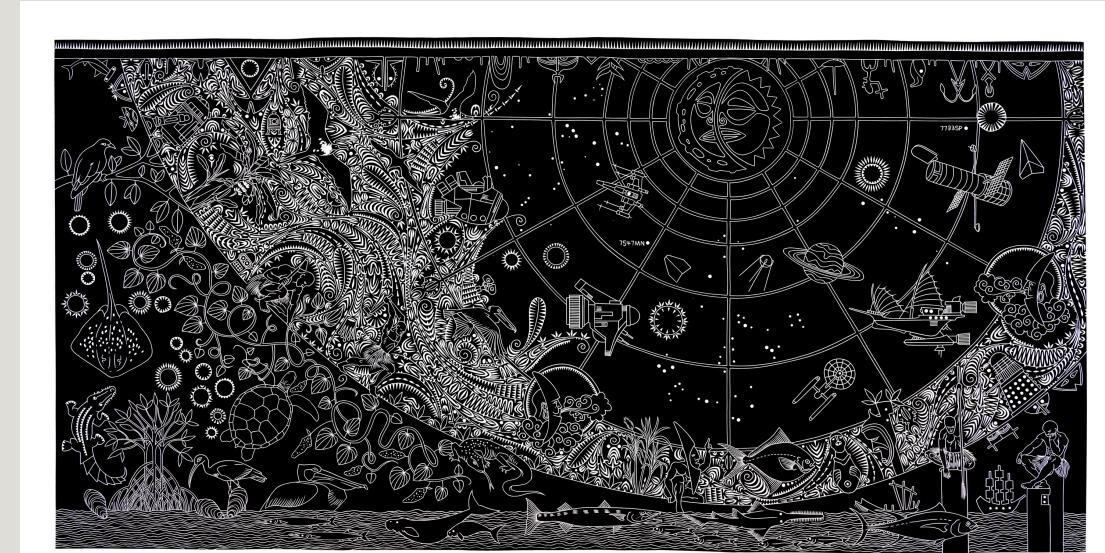
Encouragement Award
Andy McKie, *Different Manhole Covers in Japan*, 2023, Concertina Artist Book-Printmaking



Encouragement Award
Jane Orme, *Meaningful Connections*, 2023, Porcelain and copper glaze



Encouragement Award
Sofie Dieu, *Ara Made of Star Dust*, 2023, digital short film



Peoples Choice Award
Brian Robinson, *Zugubal: The winds and the tides set the pace*, 2022, vinyl cut printed on paper

Enriching our University and engaging our community

8 public exhibitions

7 public events

Across 2024, we have seen incredible growth with our community engagement. A variety of schools, businesses and institutes have collaborated with the UniSQ Art Gallery to provide a welcoming venue for cultural development and education of many distinguished guests.

TOP
CARA-ANN SIMPSON
ARTIST TALK

BOTTOM
MARISSA BALLINGER
ALWAYS THE TREES, PARK PERSPECTIVES EXHIBITION OPENING
2024, PAPER TWINE

We would like to extend our appreciation for those who have collaborated with us including;

- Queensland Art Teachers Association
- Trade & Investment Queensland (TIQ)
- Jilin University, China
- Queensland Department of Education



Student internships and training

Our curriculum aligned internship placements allow our students to gain essential skills and hone their industry expertise.

In 2024, five UniSQ student interns were trained in curatorial practice, gallery administration, collection management and public programming. The UniSQ Art Gallery allows students to work as a part of our team and are encouraged to innovate and collaborate across a diverse network of staff, students, stakeholders and community members.



Catriona Fitzgerald

Bachelor of Visual Arts
UniSQ Art Gallery 2024 Intern

"It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to complete an internship under the supervision of Brodie Taylor at the UniSQ Gallery. The consolidation of theory and practical experience has significantly improved my understanding of how galleries and curators add value to any institution with an art collection. Brodie has an incredible understanding of the UniSQ art collection and curatorial duties. He was genuinely happy to share this knowledge and encouraged our participation and curiosity."



Gemma Frahm

Bachelor of Visual Arts
UniSQ Art Gallery 2024 Intern

"My internship at the UniSQ Gallery has been an interesting, and fun opportunity, where I was able to get hands-on and learn about the world of art curation. This experience has played a large role in my professional, and artistic development, and I know that I will carry my learned skills throughout my career."



Sinead Kennedy

Bachelor of Creative Arts
UniSQ Art Gallery 2024 Intern

"My internship at the UniSQ Gallery is a time full of special memories that I shall carry with me for a long time. In this 9-week period I was able to gain an understanding and appreciation for the work that goes on behind the scenes of a curators practice and learnt skills that shall benefit my studies and future career paths."



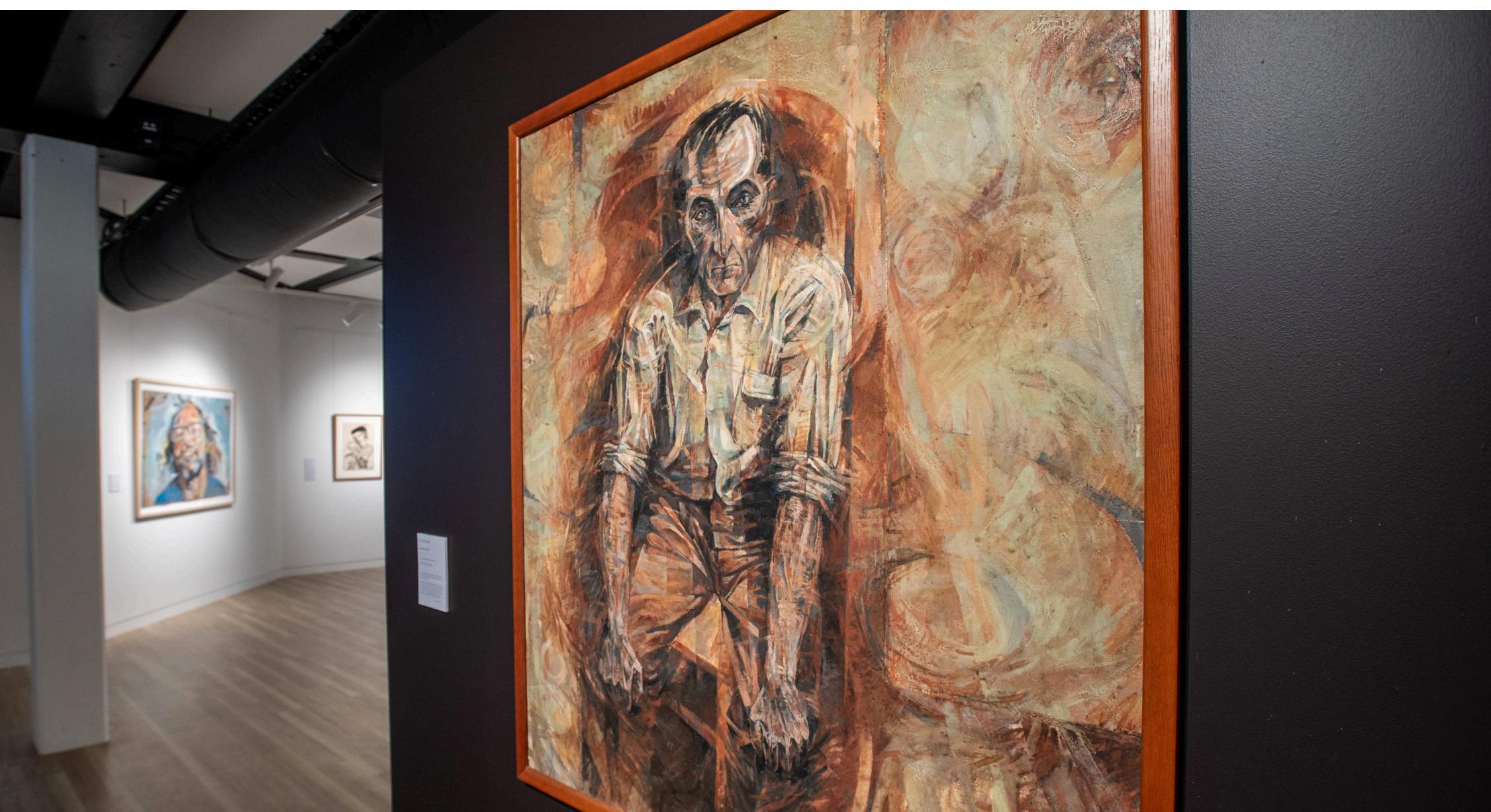
JENNIFER BAKER
ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM
2024, TEA BAGS, RUST, EMBROIDERY THREAD

University of Southern Queensland Art Collection

The University of Southern Queensland Art Collection has continued to grow, now boasting over 1000 diverse artworks. This collection showcases contemporary Australian art, historical pieces, and includes acquisitions, donations, and loaned artworks. Featuring various artistic mediums such as painting, sculpture, photography, and textiles, the collection reflects the evolving community and addresses topical issues.

It promotes cultural research and understanding, boosts cultural morale, and adorns the campuses in Toowoomba, Ipswich, Springfield and UniSQ Brisbane, enhancing accessibility and engagement.

In 2024, the *In Focus* Exhibition displayed and highlighted the collection for the first time. Serving as a platform to showcase the hidden gems and unveil portraits from the collection that have never been publicly displayed before.



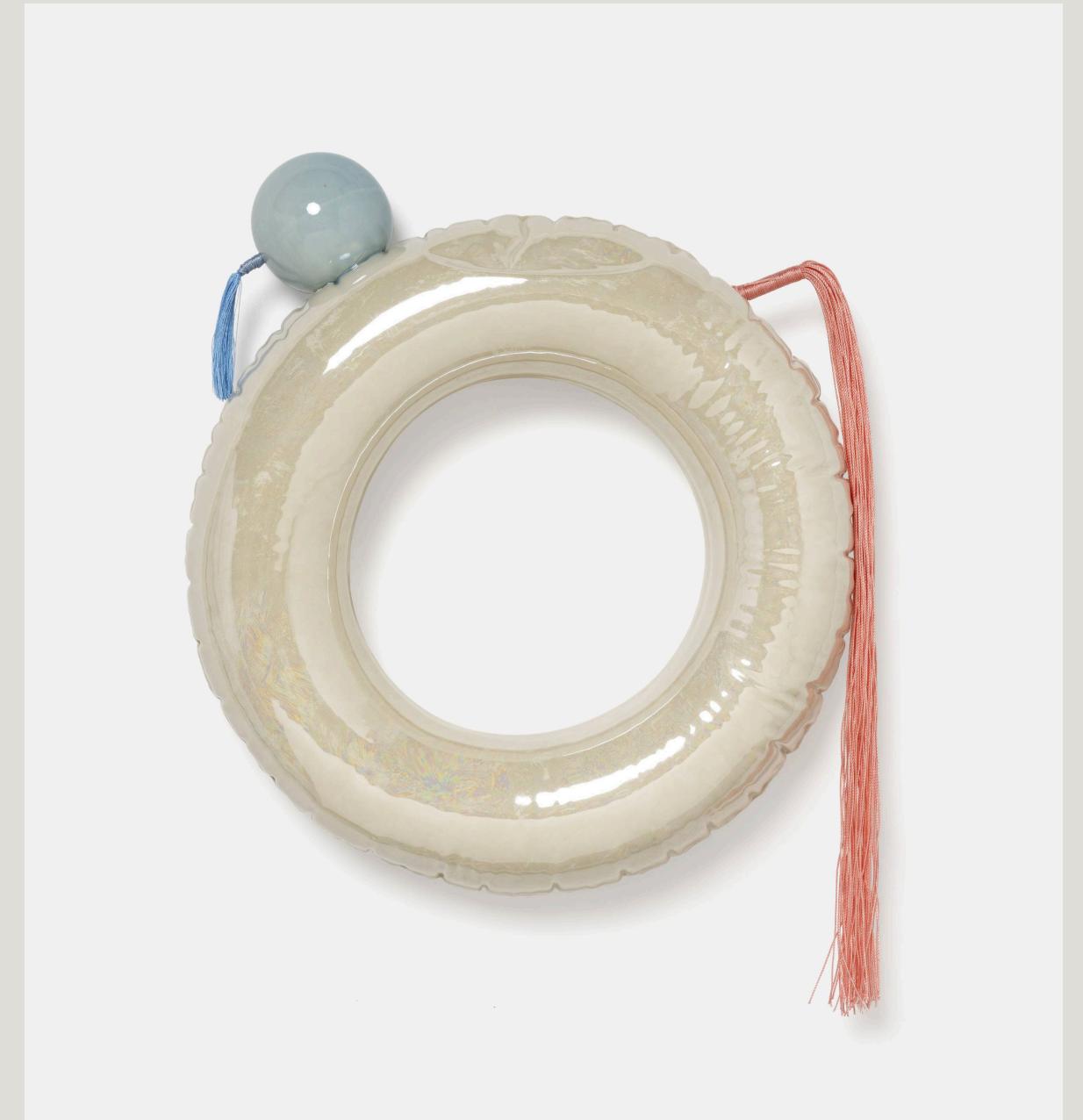
OPPOSITE
DAVID HINCHLIFFE
BRUCE DAWE AO
1972, OIL ON CANVAS MOUNTED ON HARDBOARD
UNISQ ART COLLECTION | 2011.2

New Acquisitions

The UniSQ Art Gallery is proud to welcome new acquisitions from Gabrielle Jones, Susie Choi and Daniel Butterworth.

Gabrielle Jones, *Disordered Dream*, 2024, Acrylic on Polyester Cotton | UniSQ Art Collection 2024.7 (Top left)

'Disorder Dream is influenced by the drama, movement and storytelling of Baroque art. This painting uses patterns and forms iconic to the period and speaks of the call and answer between then and now and the emotional and struggle of the painting process.'



Susie Choi, *Dinkum*, 2024, Porcelain, glaze, lustre, nylon thread | UniSQ Art Collection 2024.8 (Top right)

'Dinkum' playfully explores questions of authenticity and identity. An Australian summer mainstay, the pool ring, has been rendered hard and fragile and finished in colours inspired by traditional Korean 'hanbok' dress. The tassels that adorn the form are mocked up in nylon cord, a pale imitation of the traditional silk.'

Daniel Butterworth, *Portrait – Self*, 2024, House acrylic on cardboard | UniSQ Art Collection 2024.9 (Bottom)

'Butterworth explains that 'Portrait - Self' is pushing my painting skills to the point of breaking. House acrylic on cardboard my preferred medium, painting wet into wet, to the point where the colour is close and in some stages, turns to mud. Keeping confident marks with the challenge of the paint remaining fresh.'



Conclusion

2024 was an amazing year for the UniSQ Art Gallery, marked by the launch of our inaugural Biennial Art Award and exhibitions by our talented alumni and PhD students, highlighting the depth and breadth of creativity of our community. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and development of our programs in 2025 and thank you all for joining us on this journey.



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