

A large art installation on a curved wall. It features two figures wearing bright yellow headscarves. The figure on the left is a full-body shot of a person standing with hands on hips. The figure on the right is a close-up portrait of a woman looking slightly to the side.

UTS GALLERY & ART COLLECTION

Annual Report 2020

art.uts.edu.au



UTS Gallery and Art Collection aims to integrate creative practice into daily life on campus.

Our annual exhibition and collection programs are complemented by curated public events, learning programs and publications.

UTS Gallery and Art Collection is a space for reflection and exchange where audiences can encounter a diversity of art and ideas.

Image: Fit For Purpose, installation view, UTS Gallery, 2020. Photos: Zan Wimberley.
Cover: Cigdem Aydemir, Veils on Veils I, 2020, Single channel video, 5760 x 1080 pixels (or 3 x HD), no sound. UTS Art Collection, commissioned 2020. Photo credit: Zan Wimberley.

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UTS acknowledges the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation and the Boorooberongal People of the Dharug Nation upon whose ancestral lands our campuses now stand. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.

Year in review



UTS Gallery & Art Collection presents a rich and varied program of high-quality exhibitions, educational and engagement activities that contribute to the cultural life of the university and the wider community. Our programs demonstrate the value of the visual arts to everyday life, education, and technology, allowing our audiences to view, appreciate and interact with challenging and surprising concepts and innovations in the arts.

In 2020, UTS Gallery & Art Collection programs considered the environmental, the social, and the local. They supported Australian and international artists and designers working across contemporary art, fashion, architecture and design, with exhibitions, public programs, online events, new writing and major digital commissions.

Working in partnership was central to our success in collaborating across UTS and the broader community. In early March, we partnered with the Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion, the Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation, the Faculty of Science and Women in Engineering and IT, to celebrate International Women's Day. This program supported the launch of a new visual identity for the Equal Futures Athena

Images, left to right: Cigdem Aydemir, Veils on Veils I, 2020, production still. Photo: Marion Moore. Fit For Purpose, installation view, UTS Gallery, 2020. Photo: Zan Wimberley.

Reporting Period

January – December 2020

Contact Person

Stella McDonald
Curator, UTS Gallery and Art Collection



SWAN gender equity program at UTS. An exhibition of collages by artist Deborah Kelly, produced in workshops with UTS STEMM staff and students, was presented in the UTS Tower foyer.

Our programs then adapted to the global challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, with UTS Gallery closed from March – September, and a shift to online programming and work for the team.

The exhibition Fit For Purpose launched in February with partner events planned with Art Month Sydney, Golden Age Cinema and Sherman Centre for Culture and Ideas. Curated by Armando Chant, lecturer in the UTS School of Design, the exhibition brought together six international fashion designers and collectives with unique approaches to sustainable, ethical and collaborative design. With the onset of NSW restrictions, we quickly moved exhibition content online, prioritising accessible audio described resources.

In 2020, online programs became a meaningful way to support and connect with our audiences and community. A Moment in Time drew upon the power of art to connect us, shift our perspectives, and show us new worlds. Professional and teaching staff from across UTS were invited to reflect upon a work in the UTS Art Collection that resonates with them at this moment in time. Responses by Cherine Fahd, Eve Cheng, Larissa Berendt, Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs, UTS Librarian Michael Gonzalez, Dean of Law Lesley Hitchens, Verity Firth, Cameron Tonkinwise and Heidi Norman were shared on social media over nine weeks.

UTS Gallery and Studio A presented Dancing Together, a participatory online program that invited audience members to join a one-on-one dance-off with Studio A artists. As these artists shifted to work from home, away from their shared studio practice, they found ways to connect through conversation and dance online. Participants chose their favourite song and danced with a select



teachers to explain concepts from different perspectives.

In June, the UTS Broadway Screen, a 12-metre long digital screen dedicated to digital art by Australian artists, was launched. The premiere program included new commissions by leading Australian artists Daniel Crooks, Grant Stevens, Patrina Munuḡurr and Ishmael Marika of The Mulka Project. Recent acquisitions include a significant video work by Daniel Boyd, with further commissions and acquisitions by artists including Cigdem Aydemir and Angela Tiatia to premiere from 2020-2022. The UTS Broadway Screen digital commissions speak to the diversity of perspectives and experiences of the UTS community and respond to the site as a busy city pedestrian corridor and as an entryway to a centre of knowledge exchange. The UTS Art on Campus website gives audiences further insight into select works and includes artist interviews and information.

With the easing of restrictions in September, UTS Gallery re-opened with Cloud Studies, the first solo exhibition in Australia by Forensic Architecture. Forensic Architecture is a UK-based research agency comprised of architects, artists, filmmakers, journalists, scientists, lawyers and other specialists who undertake investigations into human rights abuses, state violence and environmental crimes worldwide.

The exhibition included related investigations and a publication, Responses to the Cloud, that explored the themes of Cloud Studies from a local context. As part of our commitment to accessibility, audio recordings of these texts read by their authors were published online, and audio-

group of Studio A artists (Emily Crockford, Meagan Pelham and Victoria Atkinson), led by studio A artist-in-residence Rosie Deacon twice weekly.

We also continued to serve our learning audiences through online resources for U@Uni Academy secondary students. 300 stage 4 and 5 secondary students used an online module positioning Joyce Hinterding's work Floric Antenna 1 – Orange Lichen Study as the central reference point in teaching aspects of the curriculum for Science, Technology, Mathematics and Visual Arts for stages 4 & 5 high school students. Compiled by STEAM educators with input from academic staff from Science and FEIT, the resource exemplified the creative work of artists in exploring, collaborating and working across disciplines and the opportunities this provides for



Images, left to right: Art Month Sydney: Gallery Warming: Making art and architecture in a climate crisis panel; talk, March 2020; International Women's Day event with UTS Equal Futures, March 2020.

described tours were available on request. This program continues our ongoing partnership with the UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion.

2020 also saw an organisational change for the UTS Gallery & Art Collection team as we farewellled Curator Tania Creighton. After twenty years of producing exhibitions, leading art policy and developing the UTS Art Collection, Tania Creighton leaves behind a considerable legacy at UTS. The Watters Gift was the final project Tania developed for UTS and is a testament to her dedication to art and artists. The Frank Watters gift included major artworks by artists Richard Larter, John Peart, Ruth Waller, Chris O'Doherty and Euan Macleod. The Frank Watters gift is the single largest artwork donation to the collection in our thirty-year history. UTS Gallery & Art Collection produced The Watters Gift catalogue in place of a gallery exhibition. A curated display of selected works in the UTS Tower foyer by Richard Larter and John Peart highlighted the significance of this gift and the legacy for UTS.

In November, we launched the inaugural UTS Artist in Residence program (UTS AiR), recognising the wealth of knowledge and innovation at the heart of UTS research. UTS AiR is a fully-funded opportunity for NSW-based artists/collectives to create new work with the support of UTS research and facilities across disciplines. UTS AiR is a valuable opportunity for knowledge sharing and cross-disciplinary collaboration of mutual benefit to the artist and university research and recognises the vital role of the arts in fostering the economic, social and cultural prosperity of our communities. The UTS Artist in Residence program is generously supported by the Anita and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis Foundation and the UTS Faculty of Engineering and IT. In 2021, two UTS Artists in Residence will work closely with UTS researchers to support the creation of new work.

I want to thank our internal and external partners for their support during a challenging year that brought on many

changes. I also give my thanks to the artists, curators and designers we worked with across the year and to the UTS Gallery & Art Collection team and our colleagues across UTS for their resilience, imagination and collaborative spirit.



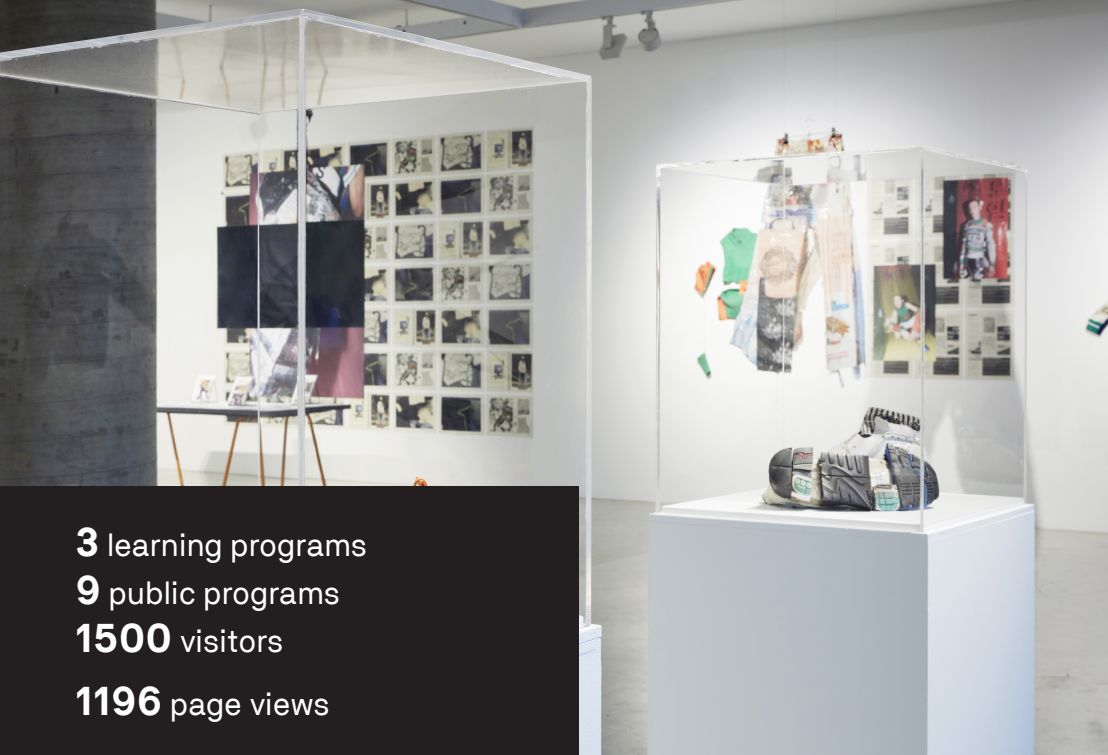
Images: UTS Artists in Residence 2021. Left: Amala Groom (Photo: Penelope Benton), right: Sidney McMahon (Photo: Jacquie Manning).

Programs

In a year marked by global upheaval, UTS Gallery & Art Collection joined cultural institutions around the world in finding new platforms and audiences

02 guest curators
14 public programs
23 learning programs
35 artists and designers
13,100 visitors

Image: Forensic Architecture, Cloud Studies, 2020,
installation view UTS Gallery. Photo: Jacquie Manning



3 learning programs
9 public programs
1500 visitors
1196 page views



Fit For Purpose

25 February – 17 April (closed early on 13 March)

Bethany Williams,
 CONGREGATIONdesign, Elisa van
 Joolen, Helen Kirkum, JOIN Collective
 Clothes, Matthew Needham

Curated by Armando Chant

Venues: UTS Gallery & Online

Fit for Purpose brought together six international designers and collectives whose work is driving change through explorative, sustainable, ethical and collaborative practices. Curated by artist, designer and lecturer in the UTS School of Design, Armando Chant, the exhibition included unique garments and shoes, process samples, patterns and sketchbooks together with video interviews with the designers.

The exhibition was accompanied by a commissioned essay by sustainable fashion expert Bandana Tewari.

Twelve events and public programs were scheduled, including partner events with Art Month Sydney, SCCI Fashion Hub and Golden Age Cinema & Bar. 6 events took place before the exhibition was closed prematurely on 13 March due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

Exhibition Partners

- Art Month Sydney
- SCCI Fashion Hub
- Golden Age Cinema & Bar

Public Programs

- Curator Talk
- Art Month Sydney: Gallery Warming: Making art and architecture in a climate crisis
- Audio described tour [CANCELLED]
- D&K Book Launch [CANCELLED]
- Art Month Art at Night: Chippendale & Redfern [CANCELLED]
- Join Collective Clothes Workshop [CANCELLED]
- Film screening: McQueen [CANCELLED]

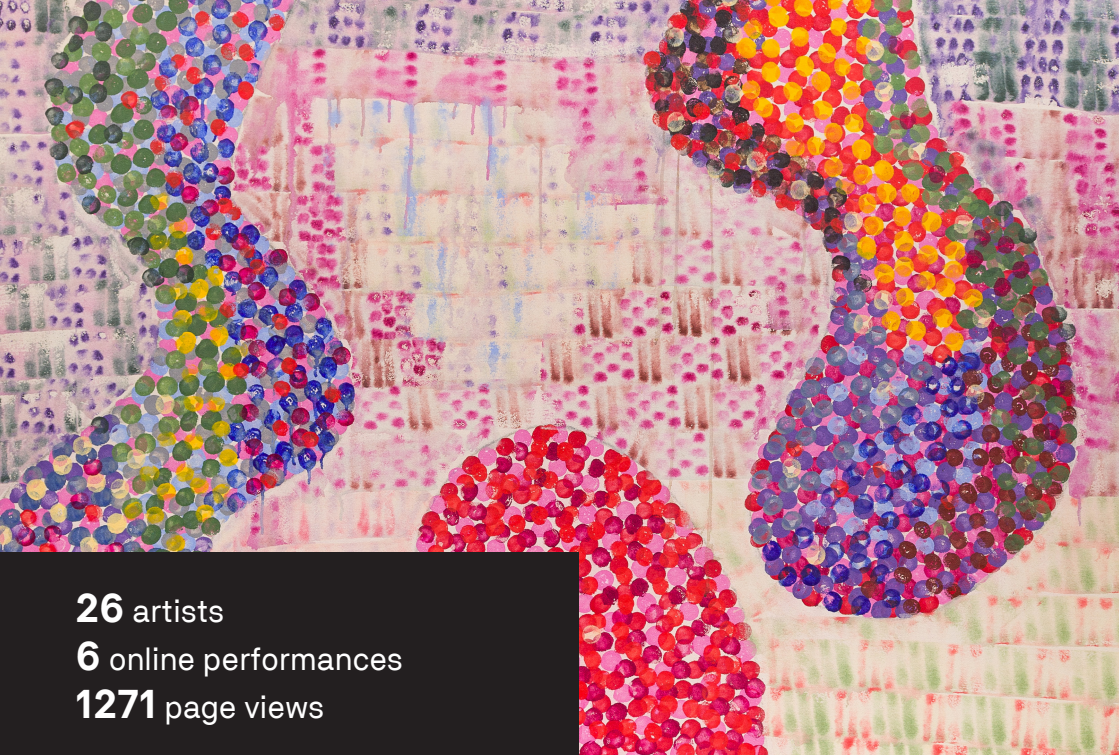
Learning Programs

- APQ Sound in Space Workshop
- UTS Design Society welcome event

Online Resources

- Audio interview with curator Armando Chant
- Audio described tour of exhibition
- Exhibition catalogue and extended labels

Images, left to right: Fit For Purpose, installation views, UTS Gallery, 2020. Photos: Zan Wimberley.



26 artists
6 online performances
1271 page views

The Watters Gift

May - August 2020

Micky Allen, Susan Andrews, George Barker, John Bartley, Roger Crawford, Neil Evans, Vivienne Ferguson, Joe Frost, Peter Godwin, Rew Hanks, David Hawkes, Catherine Hearse, Jumaadi, Hendrick Kolenberg, Richard Larter, Jasper Legge, Euan Macleod, Chris O'Doherty, John Peart, Jon Plapp, Evan Salmon, Ken Searle, Paul Selwood, Tony Tuckson, Ruth Waller, Max Watters

Curated by Tania Creighton

Venue: UTS Tower Foyer & Online

The Watters Gift, via a publication and collection display, celebrated a significant donation of artworks to the UTS Art Collection from the late Frank Watters OAM. The 67 works in the gift were the largest donation in the collection's thirty year history. The publication, with a forward by Vice Chancellor Attila Brungs, reflected on Frank Watters' contribution to Australian art and his legacy in the UTS Art Collection.

UTS Ensemble in Residence, the Australia Piano Quartet, a sonic response to artworks in The Watters Gift focusing on works celebrating the Australian landscape. Originally planned as a live performance series, Soundscapes connected ensemble members across locations in a series of Youtube performances.

In lieu of a planned exhibition in UTS Gallery, a small selection of works was displayed in the UTS Tower Foyer while the campus was closed to the public in the continuing Covid-19 lockdown.

THE WATTERS GIFT

In 2018, Watters Gallery, one of Australia's longest running and most respected commercial galleries, closed its doors. Established in 1964 by Frank Watters, along with co-directors Geoffrey and Alayda Lange, Watters Gallery supported the careers of some of Australia's most exciting artists.

The Watters Gift to UTS, which included 67 artworks by 27 Australian artists, is Frank Watters' personal collection, showcasing a lifetime of Australian artistic practice across the decades and is the largest single donation to the UTS Art Collection in its history.

For over 55 years Frank Watters gave the art world a model with a rare respect for time. One he expected to make mistakes. In fact, the courage to trust new voices of art, particularly amongst those who were not yet established, was a testament to his humanity - in the deepest sense of the word and a worth preserving.



View the digital catalogue or other works <https://uts.au/thewattersgift>

Events

- Soundscapes, by Australia Piano Quartet. 412 views on Youtube

Media Highlights

- Watters' gift captures five decades of Australian art, UTS News, Fiona McGill, 21 May 2020
- UTS Launches The Watters Gift, Art Collector, Donnalyn Xu, 21 May 2020
- Vale Frank Watters - a giant with a gentle smile, Arts Hub, Gina Fairley, 25 May 2020
- Art world mourns Frank Watters, one of a kind, Sydney Morning Herald, Steve Meacham, 25 May 2020
- Vale Frank Watters, Art Guide Australia, Tracey Clement, 28 May 2020
- Obituary: Art dealer's big heart stood out in a cut-throat world, Sydney Morning Herald, John McDonald, 3 June 2020

Images, left to right: Richard Larter, Untitled 8, 1979, acrylic on canvas, 178 x 156 cm, gift of Frank Watters through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2018. The Watters Gift, installation view, UTS Tower Foyer, 2020. Photo: Zan Wimberley.





Digital Events

May - August 2020

The sudden closure of public spaces during the first phase of the Covid-19 lockdown precipitated a change in our programming. We quickly pivoted to online events to keep connected to our audiences.

A Moment in Time

A Moment in Time drew on the power of art to connect us, to shift our perspectives, and to show us new worlds.

The project invited the UTS community to reflect upon a work in the UTS Art Collection that resonated with them at this moment in time. Nine prominent UTS staff contributed written reflections on the UTS Art Collection that were shared across social media and our website: Cherine Fahd, Eva Cheng, Michael Gonzalez, Heidi Norman, Cameron Tonkinwise, Verity Firth, Lesley Hitchens, Larissa Behrendt and Attila Brungs.

Dancing Together

Presented with Studio A, Dancing Together had the simple mission of making people feel good while they were staying home.

Artists Emily Crockford, Meagan Pelham and Victoria Atkinson, and Studio A artist in residence Rosie Deacon, led attendees through weekly dance sessions on Zoom from June – August 2020.



5 new digital artworks
243,088 viewers*

UTS Broadway Screen

Launched June 2020

Cigdem Aydemir, Daniel Boyd, Daniel Crooks, Patrina Munungurr and Ishmael Marika (The Mulka Project), Grant Stevens

Venue: UTS Central

Located in UTS Central (Building 2), the UTS Broadway Screen is UTS's newest site for digital art by some of Australia's leading contemporary artists. Working at the nexus of art, technology and society these artists consider our relationship to the environment, technology and the wider social world.

Established in 2020, The UTS Broadway Screen features digital art from the UTS Art collection alongside an ongoing program of commissioned digital artworks by some of Australia's leading contemporary artists.

*Based on door counter at Jones St entrance to UTS Central, June - November 2020.



Public Programs

- UTS Broadway Screen Artist Talks with Grant Stevens and Cigdem Aydemir, 29 October

Media Highlights

- Public art in giant Broadway premiere, UTS News, June 2020.
- Cigdem Aydemir: Beyond the Veil, Art Collector Magazine, September 2020.
- Gig Guide: Veils on Veils, Sunday Telegraph, October 2020.

Images, left to right: Patrina Munungurr and Ishmael Marika (The Mulka Project), Rarranhdharr (The Late Dry Season), 2019, Video, 48:9, 21 minutes, 8 seconds, UTS Art Collection, Commissioned 2019. Grant Stevens, Below the mountains and beyond the desert, a river runs through a valley of forests and grasslands, towards an ocean, 2019, video, 48:9, Infinite duration, UTS Art Collection, Commissioned 2019. Photo credit: Docqment Photography.



9 writing commissions
850 visitors



Cloud Studies

22 September - 13 November 2020

Forensic Architecture

Curated by Stella Rosa McDonald & Eleanor Zeichner

Venue: UTS Gallery

Cloud Studies was the first solo exhibition in Australia by Forensic Architecture, a research agency comprised of architects, artists, filmmakers, journalists, scientists, lawyers and other specialists who undertake investigations into human rights abuses, state violence and environmental crimes around the world.

In Cloud Studies, Forensic Architecture contend with the interconnectedness of global atmospheres. The work brings together eight recent

investigations under a single theme; toxic clouds. In a year of bushfire, pandemic and protest, where toxic clouds colonise the air we breathe and shape the way we connect, Cloud Studies presented evidence of perseverance and resistance.

The exhibition was extended by related investigations and a publication, Responses to the Cloud, that explored the themes of Cloud Studies from a local context, with new writing by Joel Spring, Saba Bebawi, Jason De Santolo, Tom Melick, Nikki Lam, Thalia Anthony, Micaela Sahhar and curators Stella Rosa McDonald and Eleanor Zeichner.

Exhibition Partners

- UTS School of Architecture

Online Resources

- Responses to the Cloud, essays read aloud by their authors
- Audio described tour of exhibition

Images: Forensic Architecture, Cloud Studies, 2020, installation view UTS Gallery. Photo: Jacquie Manning.

UTS Art Collection

Our collection program aims to build a leading contemporary art collection that responds to innovations in technology and supports positive social change.

4 new commissions

53 percent of the UTS Art Collection on display through the year

10 artworks donated through the Cultural Gifts Program

Image: Grant Stevens, Below the mountains and beyond the desert, a river runs through a valley of forests and grasslands, towards an ocean, 2019, video, 48:9, Infinite duration, UTS Art Collection, Commissioned 2019.

We prioritise building the depth and quality of the UTS Art Collection, and the generosity of donors and lenders has an important part to play in this growth.

In 2020, 10 works were donated via the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, and four works were commissioned for the UTS Broadway Screen

Through our circulation program, UTS staff, students and the wider community enjoy daily contact with original artworks by Australian artists.

Images, left to right: Void, installation view, 2019, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery. Photo: Vanessa Low, courtesy Museums & Galleries NSW. Bird's-Eye View, installation view, UTS Tower Foyer, 2020.



Outward Loans

Four artworks by Andy Snelgar and James Tylor from the UTS Art Collection were on tour with Void, an exhibition curated by Emily McDaniel in association with UTS Gallery and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery. A national tour organised by Museums & Galleries NSW travelled to Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery, Geraldton Regional Art Gallery and Bendigo Art Gallery in 2020.

Exhibitions

Birds-Eye View

Bird's-Eye View gave new insight into the largest artwork in the UTS Art Collection; Bird Life Jungle Disco, a 175 square metre wall painting in the UTS Central Food Court commissioned in 2019. This exhibition in the UTS Tower Foyer of sketches and related works, both on loan from Studio A and recently acquired for the UTS Art Collection, show how each artist brought their unique sensibility to form a collaborative portrait of life at UTS.

Screen Time

Programmed by UTS Gallery and Art Collection, the UTS Chancellery screen featured videos from UTS Animation students, in collaboration with Australian publisher Spineless Wonders.

Accessions and loans

Commissions

2020.011
The Mulka Project
(Patrina Mununggurr
and Ishmael Marika)
Rarranhdharr
(Mapping for the Late
Dry Season) 2020
video 48:9 21
minutes, 8 seconds

UTS Art Collection,
commissioned 2019

2020.012
Grant Stevens
Below the mountains
and beyond the
desert a river runs
through a valley
of forests and
grasslands, towards
an ocean, 2020
procedurally
generated computer
graphics with sound,
48:9, infinite duration

UTS Art Collection,
commissioned 2020

2020.013
Daniel Crooks
Static No.25 (George
Street, March 1), 2020
digital video, 48:9,
1080p25, silent, 39
minutes, 23 seconds

UTS Art Collection,
commissioned 2020

2020.014
Cigdem Aydemir
Veils on Veils I, II, III,
2020
digital video. Three
single channel
videos, 5760 x 1080
pixels (or 3 x HD)
silent, 00:30, 00:33,
00:35 mins

UTS Art Collection,
commissioned 2020

Anonymous gift through the Australian Government Cultural Gifts Program

2020.001
Elisabeth Cummings
Kitchen Sink, 2012
coloured etching

2020.002
Elisabeth Cummings
The Blue Jug, 2012
coloured etching

2020.003
Elisabeth Cummings
There and Back, 2014
Etching

2020.003
Elisabeth Cummings
Blue Hong Kong, 2017
Coloured etching

2020.005
Elisabeth Cummings
Bone Country, 2006
Coloured etching

2020.006
Elisabeth Cummings
Country Nocturne,
2015
Etching

2020.007
Elisabeth Cummings
Coffee pot and pot
plant, 2013
Coloured etching

2020.008
Elisabeth Cummings
Windy Bush, 1995
Lithograph

2020.009
Elisabeth Cummings
Pilbara landscape,
2005
Coloured etching

2020.010
Elisabeth Cummings
Mungo Moonlight,
2016
Etching



Our people

UTS Gallery and Art Collection 2020 Staff

Curator, Manager, UTS Gallery
Stella McDonald

Public Art Curator (to April 2020)
Tania Creighton

Assistant Curator, UTS Gallery
Eleanor Zeichner

Assistant Curator, Collection
Janet Ollevou

Curatorial Assistant, Collection and Projects
Felicity Sheehan

**Marketing and Audience
Development Officer (to Feb 2020)**
JD Reforma



Image: The Watters Gift, installation view, UTS Tower
Foyer, 2020. Photo: Zan Wimberley.



Partners and supporters

External Partners

Art Month Sydney
SCCI Fashion Hub
Golden Age Cinema & Bar
Museums and Galleries NSW
Studio A
Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
Anita and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis Foundation

UTS Partners

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Faculty of Design, Architecture & Building
Faculty of Health
Faculty of Engineering & IT
Faculty of Law
Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research
UTS Library
UTS Protospace
UTS Project Management Office

Image: Patrina Munungurr and Ishmael Marika (The Mulka Project), Rarranhdharr (The Late Dry Season), (video still) 2019, Video, 48:9, 21 minutes, 8 seconds, UTS Art Collection, Commissioned 2019.