



Annual Report 2021

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UTS GALLERY &
ART COLLECTION





• **Images, cover and this page:** Hayley Millar Baker, *There we were all in one place*, installation view, UTS Gallery, 2021. Photo: Jacquie Manning. Robert Klippel, No. 710, *Windmill*, 1988, wood assemblage, 370 x 150 x 96 cm. UTS Art Collection, donation of Neil Balnaves, AO through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2021. Photo: Jacquie Manning.

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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



Reporting Period
January – December 2021

Contact Person
Stella McDonald
Curator, UTS Gallery and Art Collection

In 2021, UTS Gallery & Art Collection programs focused on artistic experimentation and collection development, continuing to build upon the legacy of art and creative research that has been integral to the UTS community for nearly 35 years.

Despite a challenging year, the Gallery and Art Collection team provided support for the production and presentation of contemporary art through exhibitions, the inaugural UTS Artist in Residence program, onsite and online public programs, publishing initiatives and curatorial research. Our programs were made possible through the support of UTS research and professional staff and our broad community of partners across the visual arts and beyond.

In 2021, UTS Gallery & Art Collection supported;

- 19 public and online programs
- 37 artists
- 2,742 visitors onsite in the gallery (a 79% decrease from 2020 and a 75% decrease from 2019 pre-pandemic levels)
- 6 partnerships
- onsite learning programs for 250 current UTS students and 75 high school and preschool students

UTS Gallery & Art Collection programs positively contribute to the profile of UTS as

a leading university of technology, known for its innovative learning and teaching approach and strong social justice values. Established in 1988, the UTS Art Collection continues to support the work of leading international and Australian artists and creates opportunities for meaningful engagement with diverse social, creative and research communities.

2021 saw the development of the Art Collection continue, with vital conservation work undertaken on Margel Hinder's modernist sculpture Growth Forms and the commissioning of digital art by Kent Morris through the UTS Broadway Screen program. Artist Diana Baker Smith undertook extensive research on Growth Forms and its history, the outcome of which will be exhibited in 2022.

The Collection's continued growth is due in no small part to the generosity of donors and this year was no exception. Works by artists Bindi Cole, Darren Siwes, Vernon Ah Kee, and Leah King Smith were donated by long-term supporter Patrick Corrigan and two works by

Image: UTS Childcare mask making workshop with Cherine Fahd for 'The Other Portrait'. Photo: Cherine Fahd.

Shaun Gladwell were donated by Yosi Tal, with both donations diversifying the Art Collection's holdings of 20th and 21st century Australian photography. The Art Collection's significance as a record of Australian Modernist art continued to grow with the generous donation of a significant sculpture by Robert Klippel by Neil Balnaves OAM, which now graces the entrance of the Faculty of Engineering and IT.

In 2021, the aims of the UTS Indigenous Residential College and the UTS Indigenous Residential College Collection were a continued focus for the development of the UTS Art Collection. It is expected that additional artworks will be acquired for this special purpose collection, focusing on the practices of Aboriginal artists from Australia's south east. We are thrilled to support the mission and vision of the College through this collection development initiative.

In 2021, UTS Gallery programs continued to situate the work of contemporary Australian artists, produce new knowledge and make space for experimentation. The gallery has a rich history of supporting Australian artists in

the early stages of their careers and advancing critical discourse in the visual arts. The establishment of the UTS Artist in Residence program, with the support of our faculty and philanthropic partners, ensures this legacy continues. Inaugural artists in residence Amala Groom and Sidney McMahon worked closely with faculty to research and produce new work, exemplifying the spirit and impact of cross-disciplinary collaboration.

As we approach the 35th year of the UTS Art Collection, it feels timely to reflect on the origins of our programs and continue, through our work with artists and communities, to lay the foundations for future growth and innovation.

Thank you to the artists, writers, curators, installers, designers, researchers, staff, students, partners and donors for your support in a challenging year. We hope that our programs informed and challenged you and gave you a sense of connection during a time of unprecedented change.



Images, left to right: Launch of Kent Morris's UTS Broadway Screen Commission, with Stella Rosa McDonald, Kent Morris and Daniel Browning. Photo: Jacquie Manning. Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap, *The Other Portrait*, 2021, installation view, UTS Gallery. Photo: Jacquie Manning.

Programs

UTS Gallery and Art Collection is a platform for global perspectives on technology and society. Our programs champion critical and creative thinking to support a lifetime of learning.

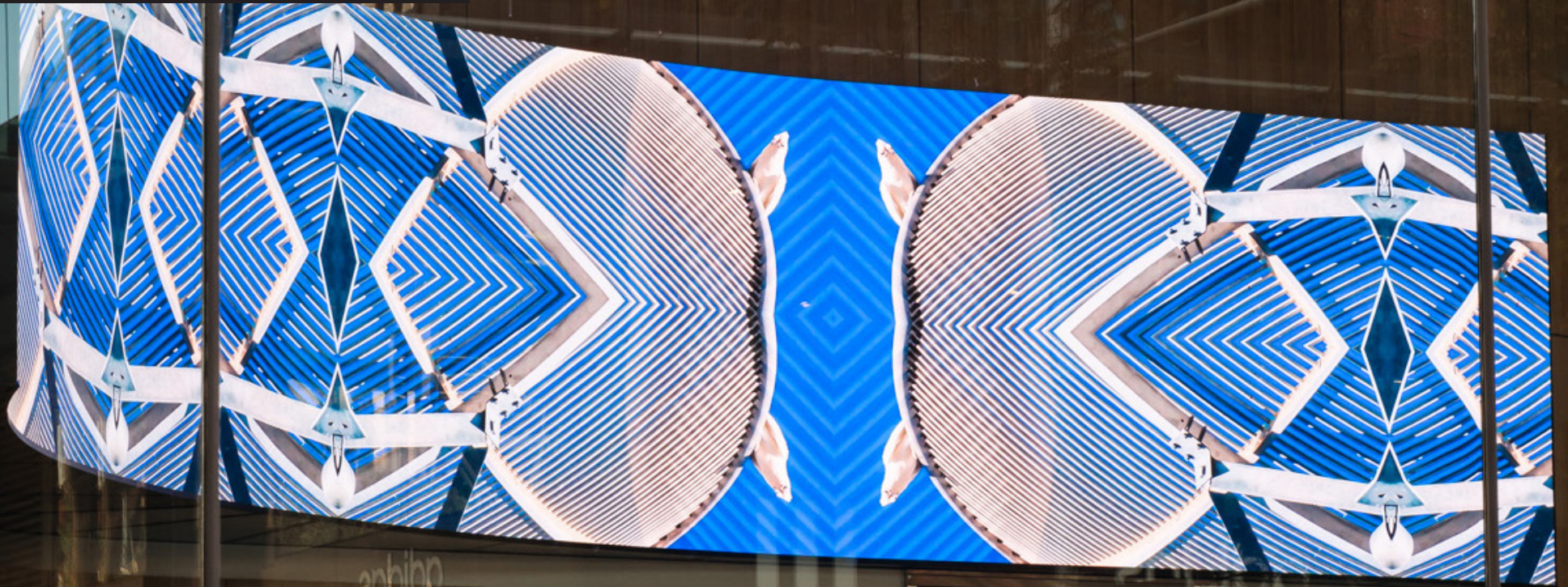


Image: Kent Morris, Barkindji Blue Sky - Ancestral Connections, 2021. UTS Art Collection, commissioned 2021. Photo: Jacquie Manning

In 2021, UTS Gallery & Art Collection worked with partners to delivery precinct activations in and around UTS.

Image, left to right: Kevin Diallo, *The Best Gigs Happen on Boats*, 2019, Art Month Sydney. Photo: Maclay Heriot. *Regional Bureaucracy*, installation view, UTS Tower, supplied.



Art Month Sydney

March 2021

Presented by UTS Gallery and **Central Park Mall**, early-career digital artists occupied the Central Park Mall Media Wall for Art Central during **Art Month Sydney 2021**.

This screen program, curated by UTS Gallery & Art Collection, profiled the diverse work of recent Graduates from the UTS Bachelor of Design (Honours) in Photography: **Maya Kilic, Blake Lawrence, Lotus Daddo, and Kevin Diallo**.

Regional Bureaucracy

24 March—23 April 2021

Regional Bureaucracy, led by **Guillermo Fernández-Abascal** and **Hamish McIntosh**, documented the impact of the Government Architect's Office on regional NSW in the second half of the 20th century. By consulting archives, retelling stories, visiting and documenting, *Regional Bureaucracy* elucidated the project of a public architecture for NSW. UTS Gallery supported this project in partnership with **UTS School of Architecture**.

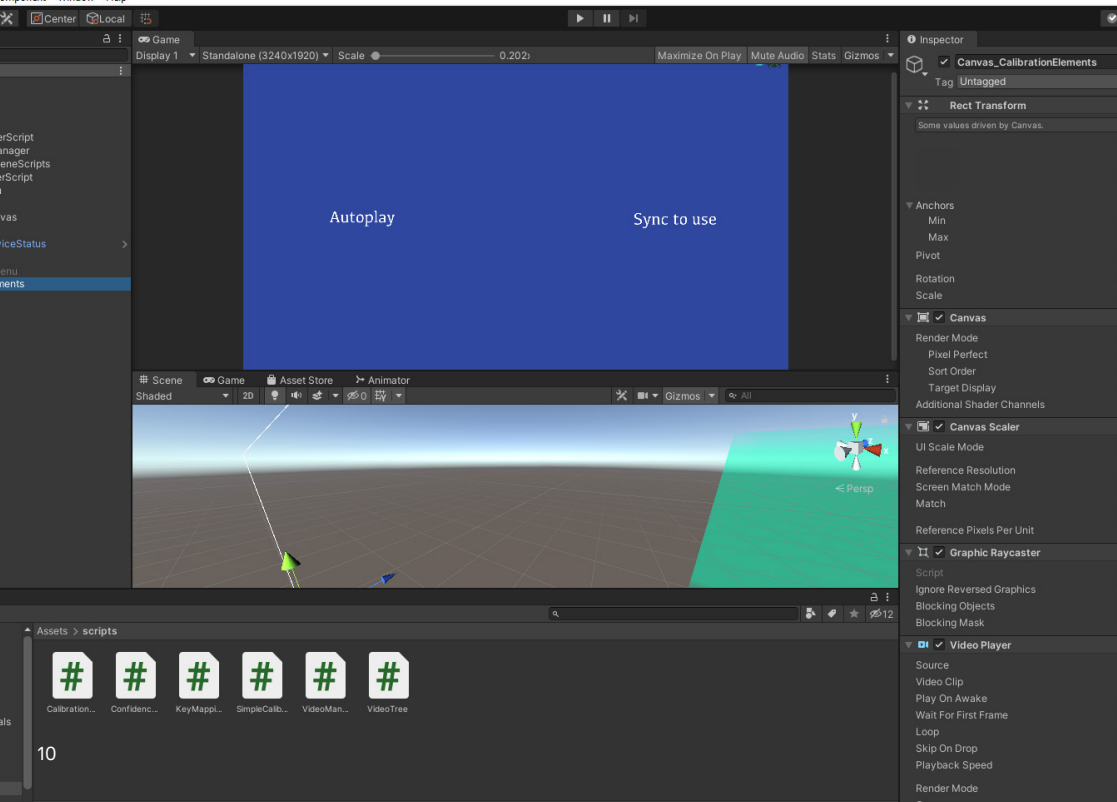
UTS Gallery & Art Collection initiated and produced the inaugural UTS Artist in Residence program.

Image, left to right: Sidney McMahon, Unity Programming for Maggot, 2022. Artist portraits, L: Amala Groom, photo: Penelope Benton. R: Sidney McMahon, photo: Jacquie Manning.



ience - PC, Mac & Linux Standalone - Unity 2019.4.31f1 Personal <DX11>

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The **UTS Artist in Residence** program 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.

In February 2021 we announced **Amala Groom** and **Sidney McMahon** as UTS Artists in Residence.

Amala Groom proposed to work with **Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt** [Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research] and **Dr Andrew Burrell** [Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building] on a historical inquiry into the origins and implications of western legal, political and social authority as a comparative analysis with Aboriginal systems of lore, governance and collectivity. Groom's residency was supported by a studio space provided in-kind by the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building. Her collaboration with Andrew Burrell will be presented at UTS Gallery in April 2022.

Sidney McMahon proposed research with **Dr YK Wang** [Faculty of Engineering and IT] to explore new possibilities of audience interactivity through the use of Brain Computer Interface (BCI) technology. McMahon's residency will support the collaborative development of a new interactive sculptural installation, to be presented by UTS Gallery in 2022.

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**.



Images, left to right: Hayley Millar Baker, *There we were all in one place*, installation view, UTS Gallery, 2021. Photo: Jacquie Manning.

There we were all in one place

13 April—4 June 2021

Curated by Stella Rosa McDonald

UTS Gallery

From 2016 to 2019 **Hayley Millar Baker** (Gunditjmara, AU) produced five photographic series. Made almost exclusively in black and white, the photographs use historical re-appropriation and citation, in tandem with digital editing and archival research, to consider human experiences of time, memory and place.

Millar Baker's layered photographic assemblages affirm Aboriginal experience and culture within the Australian Imaginary to form a complex image narrative of place, family, identity and survival. Her work is informed by

her Gunditjmara and cross-cultural heritage, grounded in research of the historical archive, and guided by a non-linear form of storytelling that sees past, present and future as an unbroken continuum.

Curated by Stella Rosa McDonald, ***There we were all in one place*** brought these five bodies of work together for the first time to consider the ways in which Millar Baker uses photography and storytelling to re-author history and assert the authority of memory and experience across generations.

Exhibition Catalogue

The exhibition was extended by a catalogue with full work reproductions and essays by exhibition curator Stella Rosa McDonald, curators Hetti Perkins and Talia Smith and a commissioned poem by poet and artist Vicki Couzens.

Public Programs

- Photography Guest Lecture series, co-hosted by UTS Photography. Guest speakers: Dean Cross, Phuong Ngo, Peta Clancy, Zoe Croggon.
- Learning Experience Workshops, hosted by Emily McDaniel, Hayley Millar Baker and Stella Rosa McDonald.

Learning Experience

The exhibition was accompanied by a Learning Experience designed by curator and educator Emily McDaniel in consultation with the artist.

Aimed at tertiary students across disciplines, the experience is designed to facilitate the development of personal connections to the work of Hayley Millar Baker and encourages participants to reflect on their own personal experiences, memories and understandings in relation to the themes and stories represented in the exhibition.

Media Highlights

- The Drawing Room, interview, ABC Radio National
- Shaking up the lens of family history, Neha Kale, Sydney Morning Herald
- NITV News, television interview, NITV
- Visual storytelling and the case for radical empathy, Anna Westbrook, ArtsHub
- Visions of a life unknown, Hetti Perkins (catalogue excerpt), The Weekend Australian
- Review, Johanna Bear, Art Asia Pacific



Images, left to right: The Other Portrait, curated by Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap, 2021, installation views. L: UTS Gallery, R: SCA Gallery. Photos: Jacquie Manning.

The Other Portrait

16 June—27 August 2021 (closed on 23 June due to NSW lockdown)

Curated by Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap

UTS Gallery & SCA Gallery

Cigdem Aydemir, Simon Cooper, Cherine Fahd, Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano, Sara Oscar, Patrick Pound, Julie Rrap, Ronnie van Hout, William Yang.

The Other Portrait brought together work by artists who have an established relationship to the concept and traditions of portraiture. Through existing and newly commissioned works, the exhibition provoked a new analysis of the self and the other and examines the ways artists draw on their bodies, families, communities, cultures and experiences to underscore the paradoxes of subjectivity. Located across two spaces – UTS Gallery and SCA Gallery – The Other Portrait proposed the self and the institution as sites in conversation.

After NSW entered lockdown on 24 June, we moved programs online.

Exhibition Catalogue

The Other Portrait catalogue included work reproductions, an introductory essay by Rachel Kent and a text by curators and artists Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap.

Public Programs

- The Other Portrait Panel Talk: Rachel Kent, Lee Wallace, Patrick Pound, Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap. UTS Gallery.
- Meet the artists webinar, Zoom
-

Learning Programs

- Creative mask making workshop for UTS Childcare
- Learning Resource on mask making for families learning from home

Media Highlights

- Carve, interview, 2SER.
- Feature, Sheridan Hart, Art Guide Australia.
- The wondrous Hilma af Klint, Tania Ferrier's angry underwear and the question of portraiture, The Art Show, ABC Radio National.



In 2021, UTS Gallery & Art Collection embarked on several high profile conservation projects, including the restoration and relocation of Margel Hinder's *Growth Forms* (1959).

Image: Diana Baker Smith, *She Speaks in Sculpture*, 2022, production still. Photo: Lucy Parakhina.

We presented high profile new commissions, acquisitions and donations to the UTS Art Collection.

Images, left to right: Kent Morris, with exhibition of his work, UTS Tower Foyer. Photo: Jacquie Manning. Robert Klippel, No. 710, Windmill, 1988, wood assemblage, 370 x 150 x 96 cm. UTS Art Collection, donation of Neil Balnaves, AO through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2021. Photo: Jacquie Manning.



Kent Morris

The fifth commission for the UTS Broadway Screen, Barkindji Blue Sky - Ancestral Connections, reveals the continuing presence and patterns of Aboriginal history, culture and knowledge in the contemporary Australian landscape, despite ongoing colonial interventions in the physical and political environments. This commission was celebrated with an artist talk moderated by Daniel Browning and an accompanying display of the artist's work in the UTS Tower Foyer.

Robert Klippel

A sculptural assemblage by Robert Klippel was installed in the foyer of Faculty of Engineering and IT. Robert Klippel is regarded as the leading sculptor of his time, renowned for creating intricate and abstract sculptures from an array of 'found' industrial materials.

This donation from Neil Balnaves AO, through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, offers a novel perspective on emerging possibilities in the fields of design, engineering, art and technology.

Accessions

ACCESSIONS

2021.001

Robert Klippel
No. 710, Windmill, 1988
wood assemblage
370.0 x 150.0 x 96.0 cm
UTS Art Collection,
donated by Neil Balnaves
AM through the Australian
Government's Cultural
Gifts Program, 2021

2021.002

Kent Morris
Barkindji Blue Sky -
Ancestral Connections,
2021
High-definition video
00:14:15 loop
UTS Art Collection,
commissioned 2021

2021.003.1-5

Vernon Ah Kee
Wegrewhere 1-5
2009
digital prints on Fujiflex
4 parts 76 x 136, one part
76 x 114 cm
UTS Art Collection,
donated by Patrick
Corrigan AM through the
Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program,
2021

2021.004

Bindi Cole
Koorimite Kid
2008
digital print on rag paper
150 x 110 cm
UTS Art Collection,
donated by Patrick
Corrigan AM through the
Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program,
2021

2021.005

Tracey Moffatt
Guapa (Good Looking)
Series #6, 1995
type C photograph
85 x 110 cm
UTS Art Collection,
donated by Patrick
Corrigan AM through the
Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program,
2021

2021.006

Darren Siwes
They're There, 2001
C type photograph
105 x 123 cm
UTS Art Collection,
donated by Patrick
Corrigan AM through the
Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program,
2021

2021.007

Leah King-Smith
Vein and veil, 2004
archival dyes on rag paper
UTS Art Collection, donated
by Patrick Corrigan AM
through the Australian
Government's Cultural
Gifts Program, 2021

2021.008.a-b

Shaun Gladwell
Double Voyage
2008
digital prints
two parts, framed
UTS Art Collection, donated
by Yosi Tal through the
Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program,
2021

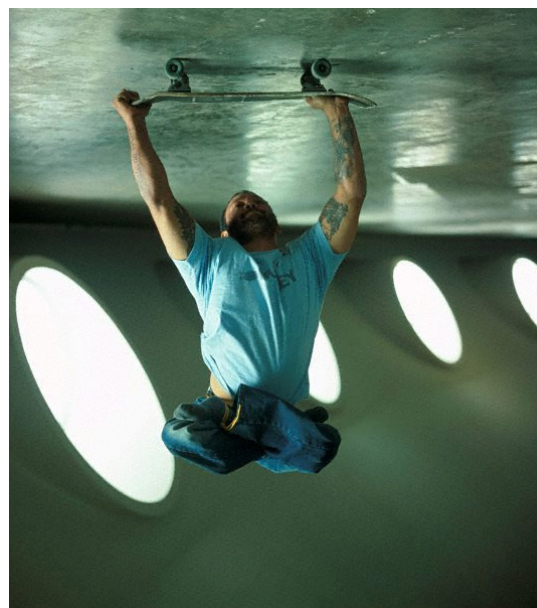


Image: Shaun Gladwell, Double Voyage, (detail) 2008, digital prints, two parts. UTS Art Collection, donated by Yosi Tal through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2021.

Our people

UTS Gallery and Art Collection 2021 Staff

Curator & Manager

Stella Rosa McDonald

Assistant Curator, UTS Gallery & Art Collection

Eleanor Zeichner

Assistant Curator, UTS Art Collection

Janet Ollevou

Curatorial Assistant, Collection and Projects

Felicity Sheehan



Image: UTS Childcare mask making workshop with Cherine Fahd for 'The Other Portrait'. Photo: Cherine Fahd.