



Year in Review 2023

UTS GALLERY & ART COLLECTION



Cover: Badger Bates, *Water is Life*, 2023. © Badger Bates, 2023. This page: HOSSEI, O, 2023, installation view UTS Gallery. Photos: 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 2023

Contact Person

Stella McDonald, Curator & Manager
UTS Gallery and Art Collection

Image: Justine Youssef, *Somewhat Eternal*, 2023,
installation view, UTS Gallery. Photo: Jacquie Manning

Program snapshot:

- **21** tours, workshops and artist-led events for UTS students and staff
- **26** public programs for general public, precinct community and arts industry
- **8950** visitors onsite in the gallery
- **72** artists, designers, writers and performers presented and supported by our program

2023 has been a transformative year for the UTS Gallery & Art Collection, marked by innovative programming, significant collaborations, and the expansion of our collection. This year, we reinforced our commitment to fostering interdisciplinary engagement, supporting creative practice, and amplifying the voices of Australian artists within the UTS community and beyond.

Our exhibition program began with the vibrant CLOAK: Queer Science, Fashion & Photography, a cross-disciplinary project spotlighting Queer identity in the sciences through fashion, photography, and video performance. Presented in partnership with the Sydney Social Sciences and Humanities Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC), the University of Sydney's School of Chemistry, and UTS's Intersectional Design Research Cluster, this exhibition reimagined lab coats as symbols of Queer pride. It highlighted the experiences of LGBTQI+ professionals in STEM fields, resulting in a collaboration that resonated with audiences during Sydney WorldPride.

The exhibition O by UTS Artist in Residence HOSSEI captivated audiences with its immersive exploration of healing through performance, sculpture, and installation. As the culmination of a year-long research residency supported by the UTS Faculty of Engineering and IT and the Faculty of Design, Architecture, and the Built Environment, O showcased HOSSEI's innovative approach to transforming everyday materials into fantastical costumes. This exhibition blurred the boundaries between art and ritual, offering a profound reflection on the potential of the body and spirit to transcend the mundane. The gallery became a vibrant hub during the exhibition, with students actively engaging with O and contributing to the sell-out success of HOSSEI's purpose-built shop, featuring exclusive handmade merchandise.

This year also marked the transition to our next UTS Artist in Residence, with the prestigious award being granted to Claudia Nicholson. Her residency promises to bring fresh research and practice perspectives to our program, culminating in the public presentation of new work at UTS Gallery in 2024.

Objects Testify, led by Wiradjuri artist Joel Sherwood Spring and supported by partnerships with the Australian Museum and Powerhouse, engaged critically with Australia's colonial legacies and their impact on First Nations communities. This exhibition combined contemporary art, public conversations,

and collection objects to challenge the extractive practices embedded in Australia's built environment. Supported by the City of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund, this project was presented as part of Sydney Design Week.

Our program concluded with *Somewhat Eternal* by Justine Youssef, a poignant reflection on displacement, ritual, and the endurance of belief. Co-commissioned by UTS Gallery, the Institute of Modern Art, and Adelaide Contemporary Experimental, this multi-sensory installation drew on Youssef's familial narratives to explore cycles of dispossession and refuge. Supported by Creative Australia's VACS Major Commissioning Fund, *Somewhat Eternal* will tour Queensland and South Australia, reaching new audiences through partnership.

UTS Gallery & Art Collection continued to grow with significant acquisitions, donations, and commission projects. Highlights include the acquisition of Tracey Moffatt's series *Up In The Sky*, made possible through a generous donation, enriching UTS's holdings

of Australian photography and providing opportunities for scholarly research and engagement. Another notable addition was a new commission by Barkindji elder Uncle Badger Bates titled *Water is Life*, commissioned with the support of the Faculty of Science to assist science students in appreciating and understanding Indigenous people's connection to land, animals, and water. Our thanks to the Uncle Badger Bates, Auntie Sarah Martin, Jonathan Jones, and Dean of Science James Wallman, for their crucial support of this commission.

The UTS Art Collection serves an important purpose in recording and preserving UTS cultural heritage. Working with the UTS Property team and Faculty of Law, our team developed a display to inaugurate the Sir Gerard Brennan Moot Court, comprising the late Chief Justice's judicial robes, and a significant painting by Miriam Ungunmerr-Bauman, *The Pearl Shells and The Rainbow Serpent: Symbols of Power*. Our thanks to the Dean of Law Anita Stuhmcke for supporting this significant project which led to the transfer

of Ungunmerr-Bauman's work to the UTS Art Collection.

Another milestone was delivering new interpretive materials for the UTS Official Portrait Collection display, along with a renewed display featuring updated lighting and display supports. The Official Portrait Collection is an important measure of the university's heritage and serves as a lasting tribute to those who have shaped UTS's legacy. The acquisition of artist Kate Gradwell's Archibald Prize finalist portrait of Professor Michael McDaniel, now on display in the UTS tower foyer, acknowledge Professor McDaniel's immense legacy of leadership at UTS.

This year also saw the successful completion of a crucial conservation initiative to improve the storage and preservation of the UTS Art Collection. Following the recommendations of the 2022 Preservation Needs report, we have instituted new storage furniture and conservation support to enhance our capacity to manage and display the collection.

Our thanks to the UTS Property Unit for their ongoing support in realizing these improvements.

This year's successes would not have been possible without the support of our partners, donors, and audiences. We extend our gratitude to our institutional and community partners who collaborated with us on these ambitious projects. We are also thankful to our donors, whose generosity ensures the continued growth and vibrancy of the UTS Art Collection. Lastly, we acknowledge our audiences—students, staff, and the broader public—whose engagement and enthusiasm drive our mission to create meaningful cultural experiences. Together, you have all played a pivotal role in making 2023 a remarkable year.

2023 has been a year of profound engagement, growth, and reflection. As we look forward to 2024, we remain committed to supporting creative practice, fostering interdisciplinary research, and promoting social and cultural dialogue through our programs.



Images, left to right: Justine Youssef in her installation, *Somewhat Eternal*, UTS Gallery, 2023. Joel Sherwood Spring and Lorna Munro speaking in the opening program of *Objects Testify*, UTS Gallery, 2023. Photos: 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: Make or Break, 2022. Photo: Jacquie Manning.

UTS Artist in Residence



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 May 2023 we appointed **Claudia Nicholson** as 2023-24 UTS Artists in Residence.

As UTS Artist in Residence, Claudia Nicholson will work closely with UTS researchers from June 2023 - June 2024 to support the creation of new work.

As part of her residency, Claudia will work with Associate Professor Cherine Fahd to develop new material photographic outcomes, and with Dr Marivic Wyndham to examine the politics of memorialisation in the Latin America region. The residency culminates in the public presentation of new work at UTS Gallery in 2024.

Image, left to right: Claudia Nicholson. Felipe Oliveres. Claudia Nicholson, Butterfly Sanctuary, 2024, archival pigment print.

Exhibitions



Images: CLOAK, installation view, UTS Jones St Foyer, 2023. Photos: Katje Ford.

CLOAK

16 February — 5 March 2023

Research Team: Alice Motion, Cherine Fahd, Lee Wallace, Todd Robinson, Victoria Rawlings

UTS Broadway Screen and Jones St Foyer

CLOAK brought together LGBTQI+ folk working in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine with emerging fashion designers to reinvent the lab coat as a symbol of queer pride.

In a field in which recent research reveals many professionals remain closeted, we asked a dozen LGBTQI+ scientists to share their stories with UTS fashion designers. The designers then transformed discarded lab coats into new garments capturing the scientists' queer histories.

This cross-disciplinary project spotlighted diversity in science through fashion, photography and video performance. A new video work directed by award-winning artist Cherine Fahd

captured the results of this sustainable co-design experiment.

Scientists: Alice Motion, Alison Todd, Dominic Hearne, Faelan Mourmourakis, Hervé Sauquet, Kerry Chin, Luca Testa, Michelle Power, Naomi Koh Belic, Solenne Gibson, Srea Islam, Victoria Fu

UTS Designers: Blake Lawrence, Daniel Hadad, Giovanna De Pontes, Lucy Brack, Lucy Burrell, Luke Friend, Samuel Hodge & Francis Everston, Thi Minh Nguyen, Victoria Psarros, Yuanjia Cai

Project Partners

The Sydney Social Sciences and Advanced Research Centre (SSSHARC),

The School of Chemistry, University of Sydney

The Intersectional Design Research Cluster

UTS Fashion & Textiles, School of Design, UTS

Presented as part of Sydney WorldPride: Pride Amplified.

Attendance

Opening night: 200 visitors



Images: HOSSEI, O, installation view, UTS Gallery, 2023. Photos: Jacquie Manning.

O

14 February — 26 May 2023

HOSSEI

UTS Gallery

An exhibition of live performance and installation exploring healing through the body and costume.

HOSSEI's performances, installations and sculptural works combine his experiences as an educator and carer, with an abiding interest in costume, spectacle, ritual and choral performance. HOSSEI repurposes industrial and household items, building and hardware supplies, deadstock textiles, and other readily available materials as wearable costumes and accessories.

Through live performance, sculpture and installation HOSSEI explores the extraordinary potential of everyday things to act as

vessels for joy and healing. Acting as both exaggerations and extensions of the body, HOSSEI's costumes are animated through euphoric live performances. As fantastical sculptures, his costumes live on through riotous installations that affirm the potential of the spirit and endow everyday things with a new materiality and purpose. The exhibition's title, O, is at once a mouth shape, a body held, and a portal to the otherworldly.

This exhibition was a culmination of 12 months of research as UTS Artist in Residence. HOSSEI worked with UTS Research Partner Professor Timo Rissanen to develop this project.

Project Partners

Faculty of Engineering and IT

Faculty of Design, Architecture and the Built Environment

City of Sydney

Public Programs

- Opening night performance
- O 2.0 performance
- 8 x tours for students and staff

Attendance

4000 visitors

Publication

O is accompanied by a publication with an essay by Associate Professor Timo Rissanen and an interview between the HOSSEI and Claire Finneran. Design by Daryl Prondoso.



Images: Joel Sherwood Spring, *Objects Testify*, installation view, UTS Gallery, 2023. Photos: Jacquie Manning.

Objects Testify

3 October — 24 November 2023

Joel Sherwood Spring

UTS Gallery

Objects Testify was a community-engaged program exploring the colonial legacies of Australia's built environment and its ongoing impact on First Nations communities, led by Wiradjuri anti-disciplinary artist Joel Sherwood Spring.

The exhibition included Joel Sherwood Spring's *DIGGERMODE* (2022), a video work that questions the social and environmental ethics of technology in constructing, storing and sharing images, whether in surveillance databases, museum archives or online.

Objects testify provokes an understanding of architecture as not just the built environment, but the digital and social technologies that propel the conditions of extraction from the mine to the materiality of social life.

Included in the exhibition were loaned objects from public and private collections which illustrate the technologies of extraction and the ideologies that propel extractive practices. A program of closed and public conversations between First Nations community, scholars, artists, architects, and designers articulates the wider discourses of *DIGGERMODE* and consider the possibility of new forms of testimony.

Project Partners

The City of Sydney
Sydney Design Week
Powerhouse

Publication

Objects testify was accompanied with a publication with a text by the artist and design by Daryl Prondoso.

Attendance

2600 visitors

Public Programs

- Welcome to Country & Artist Talk: with Aunty Rhonda Dixon Grovenor and Lorna Munro
- Platforms: with Astrid Lorange and Andrew Brooks
- Legal Fictions: with Therese Keogh
- Wiradjuri AI: with Jazz Money
- Pavilion of Sand: with Shellie Smith, Jasmine Craciun and Genevieve Murray
- Aggregate/Absence: with Nathan mudyi Sentance and Lauren Booker
- Twitch Syllabus

Media

- Sebastian Henry Jones, "*DIGGERMODE*", Art and Australia, 2023



Their scent is a form of speech.

Somewhat Eternal

3 October — 24 November 2023

Justine Youssef
UTS Gallery

Relationships to land and the endurance of ritual and belief are central to the work of Justine Youssef, whose auto-ethnographic films and installations reflect upon the impacts of displacement through forced migration, and consider our complicity in the reproduction of these conditions.

Supported by Creative Australia's VACS Major Commissioning Fund and co-commissioned by UTS Gallery, the Institute of Modern Art and Adelaide Contemporary Experimental, Justine Youssef's solo exhibition Somewhat Eternal (2023) takes form as a multi-sensory installation.

Drawing on familial narratives, Somewhat Eternal expands to consider how states of refuge can uphold cycles of dispossession.

Through the maintenance and documentation of inherited practices, Youssef prompts a search for hope. Within acts of preservation, fragmented and altered across geographies, lies a belief in futurity and the alternatives it can offer us.

Project Partners

The Institute of Modern Art
Adelaide Contemporary Experimental
The National Art School
Creative Australia
The Gordon Darling Foundation
The UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion

Attendance

2100 visitors

Images, left to right: Justine Youssef, Somewhat Eternal, installation view, UTS Gallery, 2023. Photos: Jacquie Manning.

Publication

Somewhat Eternal is accompanied by a major publication documenting this landmark exhibition supported by The Gordon Darling Foundation. The publication expands on Youssef's investigations into relationships to land, dispossession, and ritual.

Public Programs

- Workshop: Each time it breaks, my heart opens more

Media

- Yuna Lee, "Somewhat Eternal", Memo Review, 2023
- Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen "Justine Youssef evokes the scent of history", Art Guide Australia

Collection development



Image: UTS Moot Court, 2023. Photo: Andy Roberts.

Collection development

Commissions

Barkindji elder Uncle Badger Bates was commissioned to create an installation, *Water is Life*. This artwork, featuring Uncle Badger's linocut prints and accompanied by his stories of the Baaka, was been commissioned by the UTS Faculty of Science to assist science students in their appreciation and understanding of Indigenous people's connection to land, animals and water as part of the UTS Indigenous Graduate Attribute initiative.

Acquisitions

Working with the UTS Property team and Faculty of Law, our team developed a display to inaugurate the Sir Gerard Brennan Moot Court, comprising the late Chief Justice's judicial robes, and a painting by Miriam Ungunmerr-Bauman, newly transferred to the UTS Art Collection. A generous donation by an anonymous donor completed UTS's holdings of Tracey Moffatt's landmark photographic series, *Up In The Sky* (1997).

Conservation

We embarked on a major renovation of the Art Store in 2023 to improve rack storage, facilitate circulation of the Collection, and permanently rehouse our holdings of textiles and barks.

Display

As part of a redesign of the UTS Great Hall, our team developed and installed a display of official portraits of former Vice-Chancellors and Chancellors, with new didactic and interpretive materials to cultivate and promote the reputation of the university in official ceremony.

Partners

The Faculty of Law
The Faculty of Science
UTS Property Unit
UTS Chancellery
UTS Vice-Chancellor
The Australian Government

Image: Tracey Moffatt, *Up In The Sky*, 1997, offset print. Installation view, UTS. Photo: Jacquie Manning,



Accessions

ACCESSIONS

2023.001-003

Diana Baker Smith

Movement
Reconstructions no.s 1-3,
2022

Pigment print on cotton
rag paper

3 parts, each 54 x 81 cm

Gift of the artist, 2023

2023.004-025

Tracey Moffatt

Up in the Sky no.s 1-2, 4-7,
9-10, 12-25, 1997

Offset print

22 parts, each 88 x 103 cm

Gift of anonymous donor
through the Australian
Government's Cultural
Gifts Program, 2023

2023.026

Miriam Ungunmerr-
Bauman

The Pearl Shells and
the Rainbow Serpent:
Symbols of Power

Acrylic on canvas

Transfer from the Faculty
of Law, bequest of Sir
Gerard Brennan

2023.029

Badger Bates

Yungkuuli, Narran Lake
Swans, 2007

linocut print

58 x 87 cm

Purchased 2023, with the
assistance The Faculty of
Science

2023.030

Badger Bates

Kularku Maarni, Brolga
Dance, 2023

linocut print

58.5 x 92 cm

Purchased 2023, with the
assistance of The Faculty
of Science

2023.031

Kate Gradwell

Yindiyamarra: a portrait
of Professor Michael
McDaniel, 2019

Oil on board

125 x 125 cm

Purchased 2023

2023.032

Badger Bates

Water is Life 2023

linocut prints and
wallpaper enlarged from
linocut prints

dimensions variable

Commissioned 2023, with
the assistance of The
Faculty of Science



Image: Badger Bates, Life Coming Back to Moon
Lake, Wilcannia, 2011, lino print, 97 x 66cm.

Photo: Jacquie Manning.

Our people



UTS Gallery and Art Collection 2022 Staff

Curator & Manager

Stella Rosa McDonald

Assistant Curator, UTS Gallery & Art Collection

Eleanor Zeichner

Assistant Curator, UTS Gallery & Art Collection

Connie Anthes

Assistant Curator, UTS Art Collection

Janet Ollevou

Curatorial Assistant, Collection and Projects

Felicity Sheehan

Casual Installation Staff

Robert Pulie, Athena Thebus, Paul Williams

Image: Left to right: Eleanor Zeichner, HOSSEI, Stella Rosa McDonald, Connie Anthes, 2023. Photo: Jacquie Manning.