

VISUAL POETRY SEMINAR: INTERSECTIONS OF IMAGE + WORD



Friday 6 September 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Saturday 7 September 9.30am – 2.00pm

In association with the exhibition *Born to Concrete: Visual Poetry from the Collections of Heide Museum of Modern Art and The University of Queensland*, please join us for a program of lectures, talks and performances that explore the creative space of art, language and poetry. The seminar seeks to expand understanding of the possibilities created by combining word and image, on or off the page, and enhance understanding of the experimental ways artists and poets have made works in the spirit of earlier avant-garde movements such as Dada, Futurism and Fluxus. It is in the context of the avant-garde that the seminar acknowledges the innovative work of the late academic and writer, Nicholas Zurbrugg, in developing a theoretical and creative space in which to appreciate visual poetry as a cross-pollination of art and language.

The seminar complements the focus in the new Australian curriculum *The Arts* on developing and enriching student learning by providing professional development experiences that value ongoing professional renewal, reflective practice and support interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration. We welcome Visual Art and English teachers, and teachers of other high school disciplines to participate in the seminar.

A free online Learning Resource, developed by Heide Museum of Modern Art, together with a video supporting the exhibition *Born to Concrete: Visual Poetry from the Collections of Heide Museum of Modern Art and The University of Queensland*, is available from www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au/learning

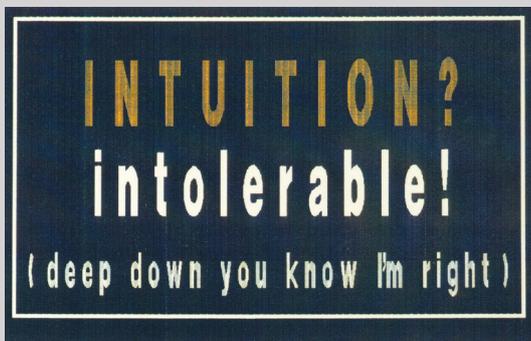
Seminar convenors: Dr Bronwyn Lea and Gillian Ridsdale

FREE. All Welcome.

Please note attendance at the seminar on Friday 6 September and on Saturday 7 September contributes towards the required 30 hours of Continuing Professional Development for teachers. Certificates of participation will be provided.

RSVP by 30 August

artmuseum@uq.edu.au 07 3365 3046



Friday 6 September

Saturday 7 September

The contemporary intersection of art and language

The creative space of art, language and poetry

2.00pm – 2.45pm: Wayne Hudson *Art Futures: After Nicholas Zurbrugg*
Nicholas Zurbrugg promoted avant-gardism in Brisbane and taught courses on Avant-Garde Theories and Post-modernism at Griffith University. He also curated exhibitions and published innovative books. In this talk I discuss the relationship between naturalism and art futures with reference to Zurbrugg's unpublished last work: a subversive anthology of fragments relevant to post-modernism which we were coediting at the time of his sudden and unexpected death. Is a naturalist account of the avant-garde and post-modernism possible? Can we distinguish the creativity of radical artistic works from the sub-theorising with which they are often associated? What are we to make now of avant-gardism and post-modernism? This talk addresses contemporary questions in the light of Zurbrugg's corpus.

Wayne Hudson is Visiting Professor at the University of Tasmania and Adjunct Professor at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra.

2.45pm – 3.00pm: afternoon tea

3.00pm – 3.45pm: Bronwyn Lea *The poem as object*
A poem is not simply a text when published in a book and an object when displayed in a museum: a poem, particularly a concrete one, will oscillate between the two according to the vagaries and disposition of the reader-viewer's attention.

Dr Bronwyn Lea is Senior Lecturer in Writing at The University of Queensland.

3.45pm – 4.30pm: Rex Butler *A tribute to Nicholas Zurbrugg*
A tribute to Nicholas Zurbrugg, with an emphasis on his theoretical writings, interest in concrete poetry and his own concrete poetry – and their connection.

Rex Butler is Associate Professor and Reader in Art History at The University of Queensland.

cover:
Robert MacPherson (1937–)
All English Literature—Unwritten 1981
typewriter, offset lithograph on card
2 parts: 10.5 x 32 x 32 cm; 10 x 15.5 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Gift of Robert MacPherson 2011.
Reproduced courtesy the artist and Yuill | Crowley Gallery, Sydney

above left:
Nicholas Zurbrugg (1947–2001)
Intuition? Intolerable! 1989
digital print, artist's proof, 42 x 29.5 cm
[Adam Wolter, collaborator]
Collection of The University of Queensland. Gift of David Pestorius through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2000.
Reproduced courtesy of the artist's estate

above right:
Alan Riddell (1927–1977)
Sinusoidal Switchback (b) 1969
screenprint, edition 10/10
38 x 80 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Barrett Reid Archive
© Ann Barr

9.30am – 10.00am: coffee on arrival. CPD registration for teachers.

10.00am – 10.30am: Richard Tipping *Words as Art*
In recent years, words have arrived more prominently than ever in the visual arts – following on both from the explorations of concrete poetry and from conceptual art's enjoyment of works made of nothing else but language. This presentation looks at some of this variety, including the large sculpture *Watermark* ('flood') at the Brisbane Powerhouse Centre for the Live Arts, which unexpectedly became a watermark for the 2011 floods.

Richard Tipping is an artist and academic who lectured for many years in media arts at the University of Newcastle. Since 1978 he has held twenty six solo exhibitions in Australia and internationally, published nine books of poetry, including three with The University of Queensland Press and is represented in over sixty anthologies.

10.30am – 11.15am: Bronwyn Lea *Ekphrasis: Poetry Confronting Art*
Exploring the rich tradition of *ekphrastic* poetry – poems that comment on another art form, such as paintings, photographs, statues, or films – this session looks at ways an ekphrastic poem can transcend mere description to stand as an original gloss on the artwork it addresses.

Dr Bronwyn Lea teaches poetics and narrative at The University of Queensland. She is the editor of *Australian Poetry Journal* and the author of two award-winning collections of poetry. A third collection, *The Deep North*, is forthcoming with George Braziller, Inc. in the USA.

11.15am – 12.00pm: Fiona Scotney *Teaching Concrete Poetry and Visual Literacy*
Drawing on works from the *Born to Concrete* exhibition, this session asks: how do we read visual poetry? Using elements and principles of design, the talk discusses ways concrete poetry conflates the visual and the literary, and why the visual elements are as important as the written text.

Fiona Scotney is a Secondary Art and English Teacher who is currently completing her PhD at The University of Queensland, writing on Australian poetry of the 1970s. Fiona has lectured on poetry at UQ, and is currently tutoring in Literature.

12.00pm – 1.00pm: lunch

1.00pm – 2.00pm: Tour of *Born to Concrete: Visual Poetry from the Collections of Heide Museum of Modern Art and The University of Queensland* with exhibition co-curator Michele Hemrich. Exhibition organised by Heide Museum of Modern Art with The University of Queensland, and continues until 6 October. Find out more <http://artmuseum.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=189718>