

# EDUCATION RESOURCE

*Oi vεoi*

Ali McCann

8 February - 23 March 2019



Ali McCann, *Faye*, 2018, digital Type-C print, 76.2 x 61cm



*Oi νεοί*, a Greek term meaning ‘the youth’, is a new body of photographic and sculptural work by Melbourne-based artist Ali McCann, expanding upon her exploration of experiential learning, visual perception, and the aesthetics of pedagogy. Through the deconstruction, modification, and assembly of found artworks and teaching materials, these still-life tableaux explore Modernist pictorial strategies and 20th Century philosophies of education. This accumulation of figures, geometric forms, and studio detritus functions as an imagined archive, the falsified evidence of the artistic processes of a fictitious group of adolescents.



Ali McCann, *Suzanne*, 2018, Digital Type-C print, 61 x 76.2cm

Ali McCann lives and works in Melbourne. She completed a Master of Contemporary Art at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, in 2017. She also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne and a Graduate Diploma of Education, University of Melbourne. Since the early 2000s she has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney and regional Victoria. Recent solo exhibitions include *Masks for Magicians*, Caves, Melbourne (2018); *Polytechnic*, Tristian Koenig, Melbourne, (2018); *An Introduction to Liminal Aesthetics*, c3 contemporary art space, Melbourne (2017); and *Throwing off the Hump*, Kings Artist Run, Melbourne (2017). Her work has previously been shown at West Space, Melbourne; Bus Projects, Melbourne; TCB Art Inc., Melbourne; Chalk Horse, Sydney; and China Heights Gallery, Sydney. She currently teaches at the Northern College for the Arts and Technology, Melbourne.

# VISUAL ARTS 7 - 10

## Explore and Express

Artist Ali McCann has collected and used discarded teaching materials of our past and incorporated these into her work. This interest can be described as a 'concern with the aesthetics of pedagogy'.

- What do you think each of these words mean?
- How does their individual meaning change by placing them together?
- Do you see these ideas/interests/concerns represented in specific elements and features in the artist's work?

## Respond and Interpret

As you explore the exhibition try to connect the artworks visual elements, (colour, line, tone, texture, shape & form etc.) with other artworks, artefacts, objects and images you have seen outside the gallery. What visual connections can you make with the outside world? Can you identify the found materials in the artists work?

## Visual Arts Practices & Present and Perform

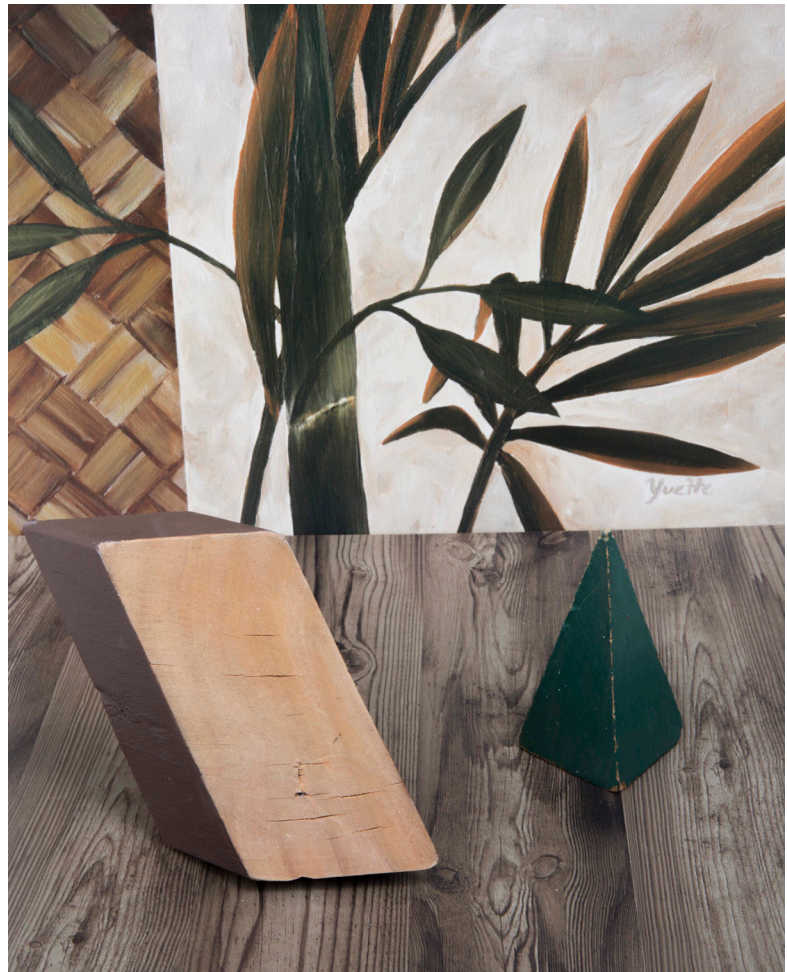
Artists often use the techniques of deconstruction, modification and assemblage to produce new artworks from the objects, images and detritus they find around them. Artist Ali McCann is working within this tradition and uses found objects, fragments of discarded artworks and outdated teaching materials to create her artworks.

Using both manual cut and paste collage techniques, and the use of ready-made objects collected from around your school, create an artwork from found objects and images, and photograph what you create. Remember to explore a range of configurations and take photographs of everything you think looks interesting. Choose the most successful images in this body of work and display or present them to your class.





Ali McCann, *Counterchange 1*, 2019,  
Digital Type-C print, 76.2 x 61cm.



Ali McCann, *Yvette*, 2019, Digital  
Type-C print, 38 x 30.5m.

# VCE STUDIO ARTS

## Question

The artworks in Artist Ali McCann's new exhibition are described as a 'new body of photographic work (that) expands on her on-going exploration of experiential learning, visual perception, and the aesthetics of pedagogy.' What is your understanding of these terms? Can you draw any visual connections with these terms and what you see in the artworks themselves?

As you explore the exhibition try to connect the artworks visual elements, (colour, line, tone, texture, shape & form etc.) with other artworks, artefacts, objects and images you have seen outside the gallery. Can you identify the found materials in the artist's work? Does the imagery and objects in her works remind you of a particular historical period, why/why not?

## Activity

### Studio Art Unit 2.3

A key outcome for Unit 2 and 3 of Studio Art is the students ability to research and draw connections between at least two artists and their artworks from different historical and cultural contexts. In this activity you will continue to consolidate this process.

Using an McCann artwork as a base you will choose another artist and artwork to compare her artwork with. Your research will focus on comparing the historical and cultural contexts in which both these artists were working and the artworks themselves. You will do this through an investigation of how personal and historical influences have affected both artists. The activity could take a visual form as you annotate each artwork and draw connections between the two.

# GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

**Visual Perception:** The ability to see, organize, and interpret one's environment.

**Aesthetics:** The branch of philosophy that is concerned with the nature of beauty and taste.

**Pedagogy:** The method and practice of teaching, especially as an academic subject or theoretical concept.

**Still-life:** One of the principal genres (subject types) of Western art – essentially, the subject matter of a still life painting or sculpture is anything that does not move or is dead.

**Tableaux:** Used to describe a painting or photograph in which characters are arranged for picturesque or dramatic effect and appear absorbed and completely unaware of the existence of the viewer.

**Modernism:** Refers to a global movement in society and culture that from the early decades of the twentieth century sought a new alignment with the experience and values of modern industrial life.

## RESOURCES

**Gertrude Contemporary:** <http://www.gertrude.org.au/exhibitions/>

**Ali McCann:** <https://www.alimccann.com.au/>

**Artist Profile:** <http://www.artistprofile.com.au/ali-mccann/>

**Caves Gallery:** <http://www.cavesgallery.com/ali-mccann.html>