

Australian Artists and the Museum

Scope

The book is focused on Australian art practice and Australian museums from the 1990s until the present. Using 100 images, the book contextualises this practice by reference to historical developments in Australia, particularly in the 1980s, and pertinent international trends in artist/museum relationships.

This book examines the relationship between contemporary Australian artists and the museum as a site for artistic intervention, the impact of artists on the museum and the expectations of the museum in engaging artists to interpret its collections. The book catalogues, illustrates and critically comments on work by prominent Australian artists. Over the last three years, the authors have undertaken a series of interviews with an impressive list of well recognised artists and museum curators and directors involved in the museum/artist interface in Australia since the 1990s. This book examines the relationship between contemporary Australian artists and the museum, the impact of artists on the museum, the museum as a site for artistic intervention, new ways that artists interpret collections for the public and the expectations of the museum in engaging artists to interpret its collections. This has been a growing area of engagement in recent years, marking a distinct turn in contemporary art practice, and a new direction for museums to engage their audiences. Yet, there has been no detailed study of the impact of Australian contemporary artists, contributions to making museums and their various functions accessible to the public. The value of such practice is not well understood within museums, particularly non-art