

CARA-ANN SIMPSON

Spectral Sensoria - Expression of Interest

Spectral Sensoria is a creative community project facilitated by Cara-Ann Simpson as part of her Toowoomba Arts Footprint Artist Residency. The project explores the full spectrum of sensory perception through a deep engagement and connection with the environment.

We are currently seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from members of the community to participate in this multi-sensory art project!

The Toowoomba Arts Footprint Artists in Residence Program was developed by The Friends of Cobb+Co Museum, a group of key Toowoomba Community members who support the Museum. The program provides a special opportunity for three Queensland artists to share their creative skills with the Toowoomba community through demonstrations, workshops and displays. This program has been fully funded by Arts Queensland and South West Qld Regional Arts.



Image: Cara-Ann Simpson, *vita, ut flores, revertetur ad terram* (life, like flowers, return to earth) 2020.

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Key Dates

28 March 2021	Expressions of Interest due
30 March 2021	Participants announced
09 April 2021	Introduction to project, deep listening, active observation techniques and brainstorming session. Venue: Empire Theatre Time: TBC 9:30am-2pm
12-13 April 2021	2-day intensive field trip with Gumingurru Aboriginal Corporation Venues: Gumingurru Aboriginal Corporation; Peacehaven Botanic Park; Bunya Mountains Time: TBC - likely to be full days, starting between 7:30am - 8:30am
15 April 2021	Field Trip - sensory engagement Venue: location TBC (within 40 minutes of Toowoomba) Time: Start TBC 7:30am - 8:30am Finish TBC - 12pm - 4pm (participants can choose to stay on during afternoon to undertake additional research / creative development)
16 April 2021	Field Trip - open invitation (available for participants external to the <i>Spectral Sensoria</i> project) Venue: location TBC (within 40 minutes of Toowoomba) Time: Start time TBC (8:00 - 9:00am)
21 April 2021	Group sessions for creative work development Venue: Cobb+Co Museum (individual participants as small groups) Time: TBC 9:30am - 4pm (session times provided to suit groups)
22 April 2021	Group session with USQ participants Venue: USQ TBC Time: Business hours to suit students
23 April 2021	Group session with Toowoomba State High School participants Venue: High School TBC Time: School hours to suit class
24 April 2021	Group work, including informal presentation of artwork and installations Venue: Cobb+Co Museum Time: TBC 9:30am-4pm

Requirements for Participation

- Ability to get to locations independently
- Ability to traverse walking tracks of up to 8km
- Sound recording device (can be a mobile phone)
- Photography device (can be a mobile phone)
- BYO materials for preferred creative expression (remember this will include field work, so you must be able to carry and use these materials on walks)
- BYO backpack / carry bag, lunch and water during field trips
- Participants must wear suitable footwear and clothing during field trips
- Participants / Guardians must be willing to sign an image release form (documentation of project)

Provided

- Materials for olfactory installation development
- Equipment for sound installation

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About Spectral Sensoria

Spectral Sensoria provides an opportunity for participants to engage broadly around the idea of 'sensorium' (full spectrum of sensory perception). The project provides a range of educational opportunities that tie into Traditional Custodian cultural practices and knowledge, local environmental issues and opportunities, expands understanding in of experimental and sensory art, and creative concept development.

Spectral Sensoria is a collaborative project including high school students, USQ students and community members. The project involves a series of field trips, studio workshops and discussions to create individual artworks and collaborative sound and olfactory installations.

Gummingurru Aboriginal Corporation is a key partner for this project. Outcomes from this partnership include opportunities for participants to learn more about Toowoomba region's natural, environmental, and cultural historic and living heritage, as well as having creative outcomes.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about how I develop my 'spectral photography', which uses the visual analysis of soundwaves to interpret the project through their own preferred visual medium, as well as record sound and document scent during field trips.

Participants will develop collaborative sound compositions from aural field recordings and will explore the conceptual boundaries of the project. Similarly, we will develop collaborative olfactory installation/s exploring different perspectives gathered during field trips.

Spectral Sensoria is fully funded by Arts Queensland and South West Qld Regional Arts as part of the Toowoomba Arts Footprint Artists in Residency program.



Image: Cara-Ann Simpson, *spatia in inter - silentium est inventus est I* (in the spaces between - silence is found I) 2020.

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Image: Cara-Ann Simpson. Photo courtesy of USQ.

About the Artist - Cara-Ann Simpson

Cara-Ann Simpson is an artist, curator, consultant and cultural heritage expert. She is a multidisciplinary artist with a focus on photography, installation, sensoria, space and the participant. Cara-Ann is engaged with cultural heritage, landscape and how people interact with their environment. She is currently the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery Curator for Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Cara-Ann has exhibited broadly within Australia and internationally, as well as being the recipient of numerous grants and awards. She grew up on a farm near Goombungee and went to high school and university in Toowoomba. At USQ Cara-Ann studied Visual Arts, and graduated with Distinction, receiving the University Medal - Faculty of Arts (2008), and the Hobday and Hingston Bursary from the Queensland Art Gallery (2007).

Artist Statement

I am interested in sensory perception and how people engage with their environment. For many years this has been focused on aural and visual engagement alongside bodily functions such as breathing and physicality awareness within space. This has grown to include a broader sensorium, inclusive of olfactory, tactility and atmospheric / climatic conditions.

A lot of my work has a strong connection to land and the environment, whether it is natural, built, landscaped, urban, rural or otherwise. In my series, *Furari Flores*, this connection is more intimate - a series of one-on-one interviews and observations with specific plant specimens. Each discovery I make has its own story about where I found it: what I heard / smelled / saw / felt, as well as how I reacted in that space.

These questions form opportunities to observe, learn and understand - a form of active observational engagement within my sensory realm. I take these observations and use them to create works that also consider the future perceptual experience of visitors interacting with a body of work or an installation; striving to create an immersive situation that offers a temporary distraction from the outside world.



Image: Cara-Ann Simpson with technical team, *Geo Sound Helmets* 2011, Blue Oyster Art Project Space. Photo: Emily Hlavac-Green

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Expression of Interest Application

Contact Details

Full Name:		Phone:	
Email:			
Address:			
Website / Social Media:			
Applicant Type:	Individual High School student USQ student		

Eligibility Checklist

	You meet all requirements listed under "Requirements for Participation"
	You are able to commit to all dates listed in the "Key Dates"
	You have provided a copy of your artist CV (for Individual and USQ student applications)
	You have provided a selection of support material demonstrating your creative practice
	You have attached a short artist statement (150 words)
	You and if required, your parent or guardian, is willing to sign an image release form

Please provide a short summary of your interest in this project (150 words)

Please provide evidence of your creative practice in support of your EOI

This could include images, links to video or sound work, or other documentation. Provide a short description or URL link below.

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Return to Cara-Ann Simpson: cara.ann.simpson@gmail.com