



LISMORE
REGIONAL
GALLERY

SECONDARY WORKSHEET

Living Things

Christopher L G Hill & Matt Dabrowski

5 April – 25 May 2014 :: Galleries 1, 2 & 3

centre for ants

eucalyptus

Ariana Reines

twitter generated poetry

gingham

geomorphic

rock soup broth



..... Exhibition

Living Things

Christopher LG Hill & Matt Dabrowski

Living Things showcases Melbourne-based artist Christopher L G Hill and Brisbane-based artist Matt Dabrowski, whose practices centre on the staging of chance encounters with found materials, evoking a liveliness that can appear free of obvious artistic intention.

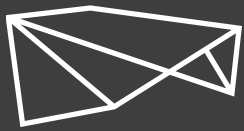
The exhibition examines each artist's idiosyncratic approach to animating the everyday to the art gallery context. Both Matt and Christopher imbue their forms with so many possible connotations that the works appear to have intricate lives of their own.

This idea that art objects can be 'alive' is at odds with the traditional understanding of art galleries and museums as institutions that exhibit 'dead' things; things that were once alive – or operational in the world – but are now obsolete and ready for historical observation.

The *Living Things* exhibition was curated by Dr Wes Hill, Lecturer of Visual Art Theory, Southern Cross University. A Curator puts exhibitions together working out where artworks will sit within the gallery, so they can be appreciated by visitors. In addition to this they ensure the ideas behind the artworks and their context can be more easily understood as the artist intended. Curators also look after the artworks in an exhibition so they can exist well into the future.

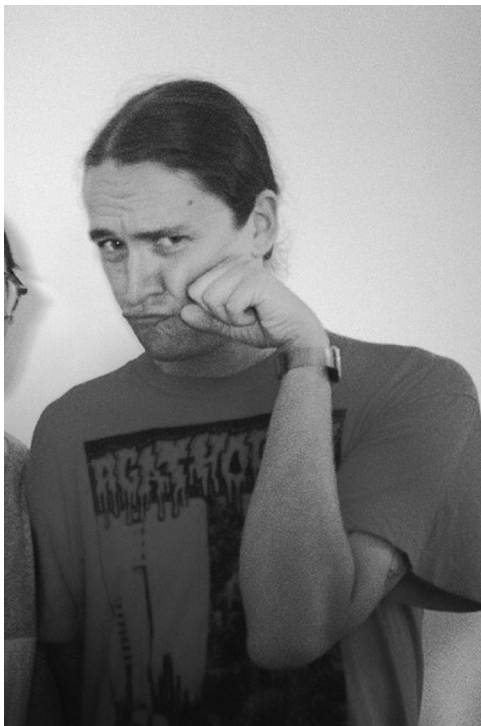


Image: Matt Dabrowski and the Many Hands of Glamour, *Vortex Book*, 2014. (Photo courtesy of Peter Wanny)



..... Artists

Christopher L G Hill



Christopher L G Hill was born 1980, Melbourne, Victoria. He lives and works in Melbourne. Christopher L G Hill was co-founder of artist-run space and studios Y3K and has participated in and organised many exhibitions. Some of these exhibitions include, *Yummy Fantasy*, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, 2010; *CDJ*, Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts, Auckland, 2011; *Fury Road*, Appendix Project Space, Portland, United States, 2012; *Consultancy*, NGV Studio, Melbourne, 2012; *The Third/Fourth Melbourne Artist Facilitated Biennial*, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne, 2013.

He is also involved in a series of innovative artist-led projects, Christopher L G Hill's idiosyncratic art practice embraces anarchist ideas to find new ways to examine the relationships between freedom, people and objects.

Matt Dabrowski and the Many Hands of Glamour

Matt Dabrowski is a Brisbane based artist known for his eccentric collaborative projects. He is an abiding figure in the landscape of Brisbane's alternative art scene, working over a number of art mediums including, sculpture, installation, film and photography, video animation and sound recording.





..... Artworks



Matt Dabrowski and the Many Hands of Glamour, *Won't YOU take me to Funkytown?* 2014, digital video

This footage was taken at a movement workshop by Javier Murugarren. The dancers in the video have varied experience in dance and movement but they are not professional dancers. The work could be read as a reference to the *Dada art movement with their ideas that blurred the boundaries between art and life. This idea is extended to the audience as well, as the artist invites the viewer to plug in their mobile phones or MP3 players to play different kinds of music, showing that the dancers suddenly seem to find rhythm in almost any music. The work suggests that art is all around us.



* The Dadaist's were a group of artists of the early 20th century who exploited accidental and contradictory or absurd effects in their work and who challenged established ideas of art, thought, morality, etc.

Marcel Duchamp was one of the best known Dada artists, 'Readymades' of Marcel Duchamp are ordinary manufactured objects that the artist selected and modified. By simply choosing the object (or objects) and repositioning or joining, titling and signing it, the object became art.



.....: Artworks :.....



Christopher L G Hill, *Freedom of Association*, 2014, Floor-work, assorted materials

Freedom of Association is about the spatial relationships of objects Christopher has placed within the gallery space. He references the 'readymades' of the Dadaists and the importance of the gallery in giving authority to an object, making it art. The objects that Christopher assembles, have no real monetary value, going against a preconception that artworks are valuable within this financial (capitalist) system.

Christopher's work looks casual, but in fact it is carefully considered and formally arranged. He looks for beauty in the relationships between objects, and the conversations they set up between one another. The beauty appears everywhere in the world around us, but the speed at which we live, and our tendency to attach higher value to some objects above others means some things easily overlooked. For example, if we look at the work formally as we would approach looking at a painting, i.e. seeing the relationships of colours, textures and spaces, the objects relate to one another and the work comes alive. Things mirror one another. For example an empty glove and the form of a leaf. We only see these things if we take the time to look. The work can take multiple forms, if moved slightly we see new relationships between objects. This work asks the viewer to take the time to look at the art in everyday objects.



History spot: Installation art



Installation art describes an artistic genre of three-dimensional works that are often site-specific and designed to transform the perception of a space. Installation art is a relatively new genre of contemporary art, practised by an increasing number of artists, which incorporates a range of 2-D and 3-D materials to influence the way we experience or perceive a particular space.

Installation art came to prominence in the 1970s but its roots can be identified in earlier artists such as Marcel Duchamp's early 20th century artworks with his use of the 'readymade' and artists such as Yayoi Kusama whose career has spanned from the early 1960s to present day. Kusama's large mirrored spaces full of repeated images of polka dots falls squarely into the installation art genre.

Installation art can be either temporary or permanent, artworks have been constructed in exhibition spaces such as museums and galleries, as well as public and private spaces.

The genre incorporates a broad range of everyday and natural materials as well as new media such as video, sound, performance, immersive virtual reality and the internet.



**Matt Dabrowski and the Many Hands of Glamour, *The Handmaid of the Lord*, installation, 2009-2014
live mushrooms, video animation and sound recording.**

Matt Dabrowski's Installation, *The Handmaid of the Lord* highlights our connection with the 'natural environment', the rhythms of nature and the complex relationship between nature and man made environment. The title of the artwork comes from a medieval phrase that describes when the Moon is Full.

Often Nature is virtually hidden within the city landscape, that which is left for us to enjoy is carefully manicured and controlled. Yet sometimes we can find fragments of nature left to remind us of what existed before the city was constructed; plants growing in the cracks of the footpath, insects and creatures that appear at night.

The Installation comprises of mushrooms growing in the exhibition space and a film projection of the rising Moon. The full moon perpetually rising and the mushrooms, representing the mysteries and cycles of nature and the growth of living things.



..... **Activities**

1. Collect found objects of all the same colour and create an installation of this work on the floor or table of your art room. You may want to do this as an individual or with a group or as the whole art class.
2. Research the work of one installation artist and make a small model of their work?
3. Grow plants in a terrarium or mushrooms of your class room or home. Use it as subject matter from which to make drawings or photographs of as they grow.

..... **Notes & Scribbles & Works Of Art**



LISMORE
REGIONAL
GALLERY

TEACHERS NOTES

SECONDARY

TEACHERS NOTES

Welcome to Lismore Regional Gallery

We are committed to supporting students and educators to further enhance their learning skills in critical thinking, self-expression and applied knowledge, whilst embracing new ideas relating to arts and culture. We want to build and nurture a love of arts and culture in our community and foster an educational environment that seeks to explore the joy of life-long learning through art.

These education resources have been created for the *Living Things* exhibition:

LIVING THINGS, 5 April – 25 May 2014 :: Gallery1 2 & 3, Lismore Regional Gallery:

The artworks of Artists Christopher L G Hill & Matt Dabrowski.

Created and Compiled by Learning Officer Claudie Frock and Curator Kezia Geddes.

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Lismore Regional Gallery website has an archive of past and current exhibitions and educational resources associated with the exhibitions, that can be accessed to support your students educational needs.

Here is a link to our online Image Archive:

http://www.lismoregallery.org/cp_themes/default/4col.asp?c=497

Here is a link to our online Education Resources Archive:

http://www.lismoregallery.org/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-ZGZ-08-72-54

Thank you for visiting Lismore Regional Gallery