

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Technology Sydney

This Art Life:

A study of six contemporary Australian artists

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Supervisor: Associate Professor Robyn Ferrell

Certificate of Original Authorship

I, Katharine Sands, declare that this thesis is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctorate of Creative Arts in the School of Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis. This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

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Signature:

Date: 22/02/2019

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The format of this thesis

This thesis comprises two sections. The first, entitled ‘This Art Life: A Study of Six Contemporary Visual Artists’, constitutes the creative component of this Doctorate of Creative Arts, and the second, entitled Dispersed Agency: Creative Practice in ‘This Art Life’, comprises the exegesis. The former is a series of essays written in a non-academic voice, whereas the latter is a piece of research abiding by academic conventions.

Abstract

Contemporary visual art is a field distinguished by the rolling evolution of forms and practices that are indicative of the time and place from which they derive. The study of the artistic practice of individual artists working in the field of contemporary visual art reveals that their art emerges at the interface between practice and life. Informing artworks is a multiplicity of factors across the social and material environment of the artist's world. Writing about this exchange in an accessible manner generates an appreciation of contemporary visual art and the textured landscape from which it emerges. The adoption of a conceptual framework from a work of literary criticism serves to illuminate particular qualities of both art and artist.

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