

## SCHEDULE

- 1.00 pm** Seminar registration
- 1.30 pm** Welcome  
**Rebekah Butler**, Executive Director, Museums & Galleries Queensland  
**Dr Campbell Gray**, Director, The University of Queensland Art Museum
- 1.40 pm** **Miri Young**, Head of Learning Innovation, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa  
*Museum as Lab: Transforming Learning at Te Papa*
- 2.35 pm** **Dr Holly Arden**, Senior Education Manager, The University of Queensland Art Museum  
*Art + Economics = ?!*
- 3.15 pm** Afternoon Tea
- 3.45 pm** **Athena Cabot**, Artist Educator & **Georgia Close**, Manager, Student & Teacher Engagement, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia  
*If the Museum was my School...*
- 4.25 pm** Panel Discussion with moderator **Terry Deen**, Head of Learning, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art
- 5.00 pm** Refreshments and networking



# TRANSFIGURE

## Learning in Cultural Environments

The University of Queensland  
Art Museum  
28 September 2017

#GLAMlearning

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*Transfigure: Learning in Cultural Environments* is the 2017 seminar presented annually in partnership by Museums & Galleries Queensland, The University of Queensland Art Museum and The University of Queensland Museum Studies Program.

Museums & Galleries Queensland is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and is assisted by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australia, State and Territory Governments and by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Front: Hinātore <Learning Lab>, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, 2017. Photograph by Jeff McEwan.  
Inside: Miri Young. Photograph by Mike O'Neill, Te Papa, 2017.  
Inside: Dr Holly Arden. Photograph by Simon Woods.



# PRESENTERS



## Miri Young

**Head of Learning Innovation, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa**

Twitter: @Te\_Papa | Facebook: @TePapa

Miri Young is Head of Learning Innovation at the National Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, where she is responsible for education, public programmes and Hīnātore: Te Papa's pioneering new Learning Lab.

Miri is specialised in arts and museum learning, cultural leadership, digital innovation, and public engagement. She holds a Masters in Humanities and Social Thought, specialising in Museum Studies from New York University. Previous experience includes Manager of Programmes and Interpretation at the Judd Foundation, USA; Senior Associate at Bolton & Quinn, London; and roles at Te Papa, City Gallery Wellington and the Dowse Art Museum.

### **Museum as Lab: Transforming Learning at Te Papa**

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is transforming its approach and facilitation of lifelong learning through exhibitions, formal and informal programmes, as well as Hīnātore: Te Papa's innovative Learning Lab. This presentation will consider the museum as lab: a site of experimentation, innovation and discovery.

The presentation will introduce Te Papa's Learning Philosophy and outline the development of this foundational document. The Learning Philosophy seeks to empower visitor lifelong learning that is future-focused, meaningful and accessible. The presentation will share excerpts from the Philosophy, which has established a common language and a set of aspirations for learning across the museum.

'Museum as lab' will also explore the development and early outcomes from Hīnātore as a site of innovative learning practice in the museum context. Te Papa's national collections in art, science, Mātauranga Māori, and New Zealand and Pacific Cultures are at the heart of Hīnātore programming, which takes a learner-centred and STEAM-based approach. Connective technologies and new models of digital engagement are increasing national access and providing radically new opportunities for visitors' deep engagement. The presentation will provide examples of the ways in which Hīnātore brings together strategy, collections, digital technology and staff development to realise new ways of learning.



## Dr Holly Arden

**Senior Education Manager, The University of Queensland Art Museum**

Twitter: @UQArtMuseum | Facebook: @UQArtMuseum

Dr Holly Arden is Senior Education Manager at UQ Art Museum, where she oversees the Art Museum's academic and public engagement, and assists with creative program development. She has lectured in Curatorship and Art History at UQ, Monash University and RMIT, and has worked in a number of curatorial roles, most recently for Federation Square, Melbourne. Holly's research and writing focuses on participatory art and the public. She is currently writing on the recent films and video installations of North American artist Natalie Bookchin.

## **Art + Economics = ?!**

### **Trans-disciplinary learning at the UQ Art Museum**

How can engaging with visual art develop student learning across multiple disciplines within a university environment, from Economics to Public Relations? And what, in particular, distinguishes a university art museum from other art spaces including state institutions and regional galleries?

This presentation proposes some thoughts on learning in a university art museum context, based on the challenge of meaningfully engaging with The University of Queensland's diverse publics, and especially its students and staff. It discusses some of the philosophical approaches that the UQ Art Museum takes to thinking about such audiences, and about connecting art with learning and research at UQ. It also covers recent, practical examples of initiatives that the Art Museum has taken to foster trans-disciplinary learning within the gallery context.



## Athena Cabot

**Artist Educator, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia**

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Athena Cabot is an Artist Educator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) and has been coordinating the Museum's School Subsidy Program since late 2015, supporting students and families from low socioeconomic backgrounds to access MCA creative learning experiences and to become confident and ongoing museum visitors.



## Georgia Close

**Manager, Student & Teacher Engagement, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia**

Georgia Close leads the MCA's Student & Teacher Engagement program. She works closely with a team of Artist Educators in the development of creative learning programs and resources for formal learning audiences, including early learners, primary and secondary students and their teachers. Georgia has managed education and children's programs in a range of museums and galleries, including Campbelltown Arts Centre and Cockatoo Island, for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

### **If the Museum was my School...**

"If the Museum was my school, I wouldn't miss a day." Joel, Year 6 student and MCA Work Experience participant.

In 2016, we were curious. How could we support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to learn that the Museum is a place for them? How could we extend this relationship to their families? What were the barriers and how could we overcome them?

Our investigation started with Merrylands East Public School (MEPS), a school highly regarded for pioneering initiatives supporting student achievement. Primarily from refugee or newly arrived families, many MEPS students have experienced disrupted schooling and speak English as an additional language. The school emphasises self-directed learning and real world projects, supporting students to achieve through their interests, passions and skills.

Together, we began to explore our questions and create new ones together: What were the possibilities for a museum learning program designed for one school community? What happens when school leaders and museum educators work together to integrate the learning priorities of the Museum and the school? What is the impact on students, families, teachers and museum educators? Through an intensive work experience program at the MCA we began to find answers.