

## ROBYN BACKEN

39 Rowley St Camperdown NSW 2050

robynbacken@gmail.com | [www.robynbacken.com](http://www.robynbacken.com)

### ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

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2003	Master of Art History & Theory at College of Fine Arts, University of NSW
1983	Bachelor of Visual Arts, Sydney College of the Arts
1977-79	Diploma of Visual Arts, Sydney College of the Arts

### OTHER POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

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2004	Metro Screen – Planning Skills for Interactive Media Projects
1997	Australian Network for Art and Technology, Summer School – Perth
1981-83	Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam (Australia Council: Overseas Study Grant)
1983	International Summer Academy, Salzburg. Sculpture – Marcus Lupertz
1982	International Summer Academy, Salzburg. Masters Sculpture – Edvardo Paolozzi
1980	International Summer Academy, Salzburg

### LECTURING POSITIONS

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2007 to present	Coordinator of Master of Coursework, Sydney College of the Arts (0.5 appointment)
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### GRANTS | AWARDS | FUNDING

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2018	<i>Residency &amp; Project Development Grant – Red Gate, Beijing, China</i>
2015	<i>North Rhine Westphalia International Visitor's Programme, Germany – Travel Grant</i>
2012-15	Visual Arts Board, Australia Council for the Arts Fellowship
2008	Australia Council – <i>New Works Grant</i>
2002	Research Grant, College of Fine Arts, University of NSW
2001	NAWIC – <i>Award for Achievement in Art in the Built Environment</i> National Association of Women in Construction – Acoustic Logic Consultancy Research Development Grant – College of Fine Arts, University of NSW
1998	Asialink – <i>Residency in Delhi India</i>
1997	Australia Council – <i>New Works Grant</i>
1996	Australia Council – <i>Quick Response Grant: Art and Architecture Conference, Adelaide</i>
1993-4	Australia Council – <i>Professional Development Grant: Artist in Residence Germany</i>
1985	Australia Council – <i>Project Grant</i>
1982	International Summer Academy, Salzburg – <i>Sculpture Scholarship</i>
1981	Australia Council – <i>Overseas Study Grant: Rietveld Academy Amsterdam</i>
1980	International Summer Academy, Salzburg – <i>Goldsmiths Award</i>

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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2017	<i>Barn Wall...I am Gla(s)d to hear you are fine (spaced 3: north by southeast) Rejmyre, Sweden</i>
2017	<i>I am Jet Black Glass (spaced 3: north by southeast) Rejmyre Glass Factory, Sweden</i>
2017	<i>Förbluffande Befästningsmur Mur Rejmyre Glasfabrik, Sweden</i>
2015	<i>If you do not speak, do I speak for you? Incinerator, Willoughby, Sydney</i>
2012	<i>Last Word 2012 Bundanon, NSW</i> <i>Whisper Pitch Dimension Crossing, Performance Space, Carriageworks, Sydney</i>
2011	<i>Exposure, Rejmyre, Sweden</i>
2010	<i>Connecting You Canberra Contemporary Artspace, Canberra</i>

2007	<i>It's me...I'm here...where're you</i> Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
2006	<i>Break in Play</i> Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Sydney (collaboration Terry Hayes & Harry Barnett)
2005	<i>Vinculum</i> (Collaboration with John Tonkin) Artspace, Sydney
2006	<i>Gesumptkunst</i> Art Almanac, Sydney (Collaboration with Jelle van de Berg)
2001	<i>SSO</i> Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
1998	<i>littoral</i> Artspace, Sydney
	<i>littoral &amp; Scales of the Sole</i> IMA, Brisbane
1997	<i>Scales of the Sole</i> Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
1995	<i>Presage</i> Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
	<i>verge in rain ... a translation</i> Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
1994	<i>verge in rain</i> Kunsthaus Rhenania Gallery, Cologne
1993	<i>pronto – Compounded Garden</i> Installation, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
	<i>pronto</i> Fifth Australian Sculpture Triennial – <i>Various Occupations</i> Linden, Melbourne
1990	<i>SPRUNG</i> Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
1986	<i>Second Generation</i> Contemporary Jewellery Gallery, Sydney
	<i>Seeing Double</i> (collaboration with Chris Fortescue) First Draft, Sydney
1983	<i>Coming Through</i> Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam
1982	<i>Coming Through</i> Performance and Video, Gallery Mattar, Cologne

#### **PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS - FUNDED**

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2018-19	<i>It is what they whispered...</i> UNO project, Green Square (in process)
2017	<i>Nomanslanding</i> Tramways, Glasgow, Scotland
	<i>Thought Train</i> Wynscreen, Wynyard Station, Sydney
2015	<i>Nomanslanding</i> , Darling Harbour Sydney & Ruhr Triennale, Germany
2013	<i>Night Watch</i> Brisbane CBD Commission (\$150,000)
2012	<i>Last Word 2012</i> Bundanon, NSW (\$10,000)
	<i>Whisper Pitch</i> Performance Space, Carriageworks, Sydney
2009	<i>Walls that Whisper</i> Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra 2006-09
	<i>Delicate Balance</i> Ballast Point Sydney, Sydney Foreshore Authority
2004	<i>Droplet</i> Lend Lease Hickson Rd, Sydney
2002-3	<i>Lux</i> St Canisis – Kings Cross, Sydney
2001	<i>Banner Project</i> National Museum of Australia, Canberra
2000	<i>Weeping Walls</i> Sydney International Airport
	<i>the building that speaks</i> New Farm Powerhouse, Brisbane
1998-99	<i>Archaeology of Bathing</i> Sculpture Walk, Sydney
1997-98	Signage of the Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
1995-96	<i>Blindfold</i> Liverpool Library, Sydney
1994	<i>Christ Knows</i> , Powerhouse, Casula, Sydney

#### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

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2018	<i>Spaced 3: North by South</i> Group exhibition, Art Gallery Western Australia, Perth
2017	<i>Performing Labour</i> Art LAB Rejmyre Glass Factory, Sweden
2016	<i>Art LAB at Museum</i> Rejmyre, Sweden
2015	<i>Incidental Mur-muring</i> Cementa15 Contemporary Arts Festival, Kandos
2014-15	<i>Emptiness</i> Australia Council foyer Gallery, Sydney
2013	<i>Tele-vision</i> Performance Space, Carriageworks, Sydney
	<i>Bricked</i> Camouflage Cultures, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
2012	<i>Can you hear me?</i> TarraWarra Biennial 2012, Sonic Spheres, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville

- Eye for an Eye* Daya / Kindness: Australia-India a cultural exchange, Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- A Very Enchanting Thing* Sookmyung, South Korea
- 2011 *Last Word 2011* Siteworks, Bundanon, NSW
- 2010 *End of the Line* Ghost Show Hazelhurst Gallery, Sydney
- Last Word 2010*, Siteworks, Bundanon, NSW
- Mirror<>Mirror: Then and Now* Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane & Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide
- 15:00-16:00 *Mangrove City One Minute*, World Expo, Urban Footprints Pavilion, Shanghai
- 2009-10 *Mirror<>Mirror: Then and Now* Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, University Museum Sydney, University of Sydney & Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide
- 15:00-16:00 *Mangrove City One Minute*, One Minute Foundation, Amsterdam
- 2007 *Whispering Trees* De Overkant Den Haag Sculptur, Holland
- Artist' Shoes* The Museum of artist Shoes, Ghent, Belgium
- Science as Art* collaboration organised by Garvan Institute and Roslyn Oxley at Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2006-07 *Yours, Mine ours* 50 years ABC TV Archive Project, Lewers Bequest, Penrith, Sydney
- 2006 *Break in Play* Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Sydney (collaboration)
- 2005 *Gesumtkunst* Art Almanac, Sydney (Collaboration with Jelle van de Berg)
- 2004 *ALSO* Conversion, Goulburn Region Gallery, Goulburn, NSW
- 2003 *Rice Talk* Echigo – Tsumari Triennial, Japan
- Imagining Prometheus* Palazzo dell Ragione, Milan, Italy
- 2002 *The First 20 years of Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery* Roslyn Oxley9, Sydney
- 2001 *Catching...the harbour* Australian Museum, Sydney
- Intersections of Art and Science* Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 *Flow* National Gallery Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1999 *UNIVERSE Project* Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide
- Mapping Your Countries* Djamu Gallery, Australian Museum, Customs House, Sydney
- 4 Blind Dates at the Kendra* Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, India
- 1997 *Dots to Data* Australian Perspecta 1997, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- Field of Dreams: Message Sticks for Native Title* SH Ivan Gallery, Sydney
- 1996 *Bi Focal* Spirit and Place, The Spirit in Australian Art 1880 – 1996, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1994 *Shifting Edges* Powerhouse Casula, Sydney
- 1993 *Sweet Dreams* Australian Perspecta 1993 Satellite Exhibition, Clarendon Homes, Homeworld II Prospect, Sydney
- 1992 *Clear Case* Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- FACT* An Installation Publication, A National Touring Project, Ars Multiplicata, Sydney
- New Acquisitions* Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- Derision and Desire* The Car Blaxland Gallery, Grace Bros, Sydney
- 1991 *Sprung* Australian Perspecta 1991, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- Discrete Entity* Canberra School of Art Gallery, Canberra
- Urban Detritus* Australian National Gallery, Canberra
- 1990 *Urban Construction Project* Construction (performance with Andrew Charker and Anne Morrison) City Square, Melbourne
- The Contemporary Art of Dress* Marimura Arts Museum, Japan
- 1989 *The Contemporary Art of Dress* Victoria and Albert Museum, London & Powerhouse, Sydney
- 1989 Perth International Craft Triennial* Art Gallery Of Western Australia, Perth
- Dreams are not stories...they happen in space* (performance with Judy Best) Queen Victoria Building, Sydney

	<i>Inside the Greenhouse Effect</i> Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney
1988	<i>Accentrix</i> Albury Regional Art Centre, Albury <i>Australian Decorative Arts 1788-1988</i> Australian National Gallery, Canberra
1987	<i>Self Portrait Show A Cog</i> , Sydney
1986	<i>Group Exhibition</i> Queen Victoria Art Gallery, Launceston
1985	<i>Group Exhibition</i> Contemporary Jewellery Gallery, Sydney <i>Personal Choice</i> Jam Factory Gallery, Adelaide
1984	<i>Streetspace</i> Shop Front Installation, Satellite Biennale, Sydney <i>Opening Group Exhibition</i> VO Gallery, Washington <i>Crosscurrents</i> Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
1983	<i>Sculpture &amp; Multi-media</i> Niew Gallery, Amsterdam <i>Group Exhibition</i> Sternteiler Gallery, Bonn <i>Sculpture Exhibition</i> Salzburg

## RESIDENCIES

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2018	Red Gate Residency, Beijing, China (April)
2016-18	spaced 3: north by southeast and Art LAB, Rejmyre, Sweden
2016	Space Place Country – Research Cluster, <i>Lighting the fires</i> cultural workshop & residency, Bundanon, NSW
2014	Dirt, Blood, Water, Riversdale, Bundanon and Sydney Festival Glasgow, Scotland and Duisburg, Germany for <i>Nomanslanding</i> Kandos Art Projects for <i>Cementa15</i> , Kandos, NSW
2012	Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, India
2011	Rejmyre, Sweden Bundanon SiteWorks Residency, Bundanon, NSW
2010	Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney Siteworks Bundanon, NSW – Art meets Science
2009	Bundanon Studio Residency, Bundanon, NSW Old Parliament House, Canberra
2008	Pymble Ladies College, Mangrove Mountain, Hawkesbury, NSW
2003	University of Wollongong, Wollongong
2001	Australian Museum, Sydney
2000	Artspace Residency, Sydney
1998-9	Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, India
1998	Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
1994	Kunsthau Rhenania Gallery, Cologne, Germany

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

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2018-19	UNO, Green Square, Sydney
2017	Transport for NSW
2013	Brisbane City Council
2009	Sydney Foreshore Authority
2004	Lend Lease, Sydney
2003	Art Front, Japan
2001	National Museum Canberra
2003	St Canisis, Sydney Brisbane City Council

- 2001 Australian Museum, Sydney  
City of Sydney
- 1995 Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
- 1992 Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 1988 Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
- 1984 Powerhouse Museum, Sydney  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
Liverpool Council, Sydney
- 1981 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA COVERAGE

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- 2017 Aßmann, K. Battis-Reese, V. Crepaz, L. Heilmeyer, F. (Ed.) *Urbane Künste Ruhr : Arts in Urban Spaces 2012-2017* Publisher Kerber, Germany  
Wansbrough, A. *Going with the Flow: Art, Science, History and the Sydney Harbour*. Eyeline 87  
BBC Radio Scotland: The Janice Forsyth Show – interview with Robyn Backen and Graham Eatough  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08tbv56>  
Edwards, A. Exeunt Magazine. Published Thursday 29 June 2017.  
<http://exeuntmagazine.com/reviews/review-nomanslanding-tramway-glasgow/>  
McMillian, J. Scotsman: Scotland National Paper. Published 10.45 Tuesday 27 June 2017.  
*Theatre reviews: Nomanslanding | Deadline*  
<http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/theatre/theatre-reviews-nomanslanding-deadline-1-4487493>  
Cooper, N. The List. 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017. *Nomanslanding reflects on the artificial constructions that divide us*. <https://www.list.co.uk/article/92547-nomanslanding-reflects-on-the-artificial-constructions-that-divide-us/>  
Jucan, I. Dissertation, *Chapter 4: Performing Labor: Towards an Aesthetics of Over-identification*. Brown University (not for circulation in process of completing)
- 2016 Cementa15 publication (in progress)
- 2015 Murphy, J. Slow Burn, Art Monthly Issue 285/November 2015, p54, p55
- 2015 Poblocki, V. Sensing the Unseen, The Willoughby Visual Arts Biennial, *if you do not speak, do I speak for you?* Incinerator Art Space catalogue
- 2015 Priest, G. A meeting culture through public art, RealTime issue #127 June--July 2015 pg. 50
- 2014 Barrett, J. Millner, J. *Australian Artists in the Contemporary Museum*, Ashgate 2014, p102, p112
- 2013 ISEA conference  
Finegan, A *Robyn Backen Architecture in Transmission* Art Monthly, Summer 2012/13
- 2012 Mudie, E. *Memorable Ephemera*, RealTime Issue 109 p37  
Kenny, C. *Tell it to the whispering walls, says Sydney artist*, 19 April University of Sydney  
<http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=9057#content>  
Finegan, A. Performance Space catalogue
- 2011 Leigh, G, *on the rocks*, Landscape Architecture Magazine, May 2011  
Best, S. *Backspace – Robyn Backen: The art of communication works from 1990-2010*.  
Dean, B. *Spooky, Darlings*, Runway 18 Expectation p65  
*Exposure*, Rejmyre, Sweden. <http://www.kultursidan.nu/?p=1991>  
<http://artlabprojects.org/> [http://risd.tv/dpeltz/artlab/images\\_web/press\\_archive/katrineholmskurien\\_july182011.jpg](http://risd.tv/dpeltz/artlab/images_web/press_archive/katrineholmskurien_july182011.jpg)
- 2010 Mudie-Cunningham, D. *Ghost Show* Hazelhurst Gallery, Catalogue  
Millner, J. *Conceptual Beauty*, Artspace 2010 p9, 23-25  
Broker, D. *Connecting You Robyn Backen* catalogue Canberra Contemporary Art Space  
Cheney, J. *Connect with installations* Canberra Times 4 Aug p12  
University of SA, Samstag Museum Education resource online 2010  
Stephen, A. *Mirror Mirror: then and Now* catalogue  
Nunn, L. *Mirror Mirror Images*, The Advertiser, 15 May

- Neylon, J. *On Reflection*, The Adelaide Review, 10 May p26.
- 2009 Olsen, N. *Sydney College of the Arts – Prospectus*, SCA – University of Sydney.  
Sharrad, A. *Ballast Point Public Art* The Peninsula Observer Vol 44 No1 Issue 310.  
Sansom, M. *Art and history hang in balance*, The Glebe  
ACUADS 08/09 Australian Council of University Art and Design  
*How does “Edgy” Research Foster Innovative Teaching?*
- 2008 *30 Years 1977- 2007* Ivan Dougherty Gallery COFA – Catalogue
- 2007 de Rooij, M-J. *Whispering Trees*, In DeOverkant/Downunder – Catalogue, (pp37-38), Stichting Den Haag Sculptuur  
Rose, J. Artists in Transit, *De Overkant/Down Under: Den Haag Sculpture 2007*, Loop #04, p9. Sydney. Rouge Media  
Finegan, A. *Robyn Backen and John Tonkin: Vinculum*. Artspace Projects 2005, Sydney, Artspace, Visual Arts Centre Ltd.  
Dunn, E. *Take a Studio, a Lab and a Stand Back*, Sydney Morning Herald, 9 Feb Science as Art – Catalogue, Garvan Institute
- 2005 Vernon, C *100 Forests/100 Gardens*, Architecture Australia Sept/Oct
- Bellamy, S. *Our newest icon unveiled*, Canberra Times 1 June 2005
- 2004 Couacaud, S. *2003 Echigo-Tsumari Triennial*. Art and Australia, Vol. 41/4  
Lend Lease Financial Review May
- 2003 Rice Talk Echigo -Tsumari Triennial – catalogue, Japan  
Imagining Prometheus – catalogue Palazzo dell Ragione, Milan, Italy  
Murphie, A & Potts, J. *Culture and Technology*, NY Palgrave and Macmillan
- 2001 Genocchio, B. & Geczy, A. (Eds). *What Is Installation? An Anthology of Writings on Australian Installation Art*  
Trow, Z. *Powering up the House*, Real Time no. 41 Feb-Mar 2001  
Farrelly, E. *A walk on the short-sighted side* Sydney Morning Herald 4 Jun  
Best, S. *Place -making in the liminal Zone: Sydney Airport’s Art Work Program*, Art and Australia, 38.3 March/April/May  
Kindley, I. *time and tide*, muse aug-sept-oct
- 2000 Macgowan, T. *The Art of the Airport*, Monument Oct/Nov  
Brassil, J. *Artist Choice*, Art and Australia, Spring  
Best, S. *Public Art and the Olympics*, Architecture Australia, Spring  
O’Brien, G. *Maps of the heart sweeten departures*, Sydney Morning Herald 24 Jul  
Thomas, M. (Ed.) *Uncertain Ground/essays between art and nature*, Schofield, L. Impressive Entry, Sunday Telegraph 9 July  
Casula Works – Public Art at the Casula Powerhouse Art Centre
- 1999 Backen, R. *Artist Choice: The Holy Face*, Art and Australia vol 36 3 1999  
Interiors and the Architectural Imprint by Phillip Kent. Art and Australia vol 36 3  
Barrett, J. *Christ Knows* Casula Works – Public Art at the Casula Powerhouse Art Centre
- 1998 Millner, J. *Art Sensor*, Real time, April May  
Best, S. *The Water Works of Robyn Backen*, Eyeline, Spring  
Best, S. *Bathing in the Element*, Artspace catalogue essay
- 1997 Hawks, G. *Picture This!* The University of Sydney News, 25 Sept  
Genocchio, B. *United in a natural division*, Business Weekly Review, Aug 25  
Chenery, S. *Perspecta Perspectives Metro*, Sydney Morning Herald Aug 8  
Sydney Customs House (Public Art Competition) Monument, Number 17
- 1996 Waterlow, N. *Numinous Worlds*, Spirit and Place - catalogue  
Nimmo, A. *Cultural Agenda*, Architecture Review Spring  
Strobbe, N. *Review*, Eyeline Autumn

- 1995 Kisters, J. *Robyn Backen Galerie am Nil* Kunstforum, Winter  
Holder, J. *Casula Powerhouse Regional Art Centre*, Art and Australia, Spring
- 1994 Chapman, C. *Carnivorous Plants*, Art and Australia – Sept  
Cater, M. Contemporary History in the Making Artlink vol 14 no 3 Spring  
Couacaud, S. Public Art in Sydney, Artlink vol 14 no 3 Spring  
Dunn, J. *Nose in a Window*, Object – issue 2  
Davies, S. *Water - Robyn Backen*, Monument – vol 1 number 2  
Sydney Review, May
- 1993 Artlink, June-Aug  
O'Brien, G. *from POWER to the PEOPLE*, Sydney Morning Herald, 4 Aug  
Chapman, C. *A thousand Eyes*, Sculpture Triennial, catalogue  
Hutak, M. *Home is where the art is*, Sydney Morning Herald, 19 Oct
- 1992 Colman, J. *Making the City Object*, Spring  
*City as Artform*, Sydney Morning Herald  
Eagle, M. *Discrete Entity*, Art and Text, Jan
- 1991 Watt, D. *Perspecta Reviewed*, ART monthly Australia, Oct  
Dunn, J. *The Object of Installation*, Crafts NSW, Spring  
Mendelssohn, J. *Unified Disparity* The Bulletin  
Smith, T. *Installing the format of the future?* Sydney Morning Herald, Aug 17  
Harris, C. *3D art*, 3D World Aug 17  
Grishin, S. *Taking a Swipe at Conformity*, Canberra Times, Oct  
McDonald, A. *Discrete Entity*, Agenda 20/21  
Chapman, C. *Discrete Entity The Accomplice and Installation*, Eyeline, Summer  
Ewington, J. Sprung 1991 Australian Perspecta Catalogue.
- 1990 Ewington, J. *Autumn in November*, ART monthly Australia, Dec
- 1989 Ewington, J. ... *a new beginning, a raid on the inarticulate*, VACB Overseas Promotions Magazine  
Interior Design, Sept  
Follow Me, Sept/Oct  
Mordue, M. *Breaking Mother's Crystal*, Vogue Oct
- 1988 Anderson, P. *Australian Jewellers*, book
- 1986 Adams, B. *A Show for Quick Steppers*, Sydney Morning Herald 5 Dec
- 1987 Talbert, P. Review Photofile, Autumn  
Artist/Designers Sydney College of the Arts: 10 years  
Art and Technology Artlink, Jun  
Cronly, M. *Seeing Double*, Follow Me, Jun/Jul  
Tudor, R. Review Lemel, Jun
- 1984 Ferrell, R. *All that Glitter*, Sydney Morning Herald, 9 Oct