



University of
Southern
Queensland

Bearing Witness: Absence

DeLight SPARK Ipswich Projection

Original Work: Exhibition (Visual Arts)

Artwork by Linda Clark (UniSQ)

[Supporting documentation, Year: 2021]

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION - Bearing Witness: Absence,
delight SPARK Ipswich, Original Work (Exhibition)**



1) SPARK Ipswich 2021 Program was used in the promotion of this work, and provides evidence of artists involved and funding bodies:

<https://eprints.usq.edu.au/cgi/users/home?screen=EPrint::View&eprintid=48382#t>

2) Video documentation of *Bearing Witness: Absence 2021*, a video work projected on St. Mary's Catholic Church using projection mapping technology, as part of deLight SPARK Ipswich Festival:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13b769KaixfCshfDCFXczJ93bKH6d51IW/view?usp=share_link

RESEARCH STATEMENT- Bearing Witness: Absence, delight SPARK Ipswich, Original Work (Exhibition)



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Background

Public art in Australia is currently undergoing an adaptation, moving away from autonomous art to that which engages with the environment, culture and community in which it is situated (Simpson 2017). Engagement with, and dissemination of personal narratives through public art is particularly needed in regional communities to address and reduce 'regionalism' or psychological feelings of being isolated or 'outside' of metropolitan communities. While key artists such as Ian Strange are producing public art which is in dialogue with its immediate community, there is evidence that more public art which disseminates personal stories of the community and place in regional areas is required to connect with viewers to reduce regionalism.

Contribution

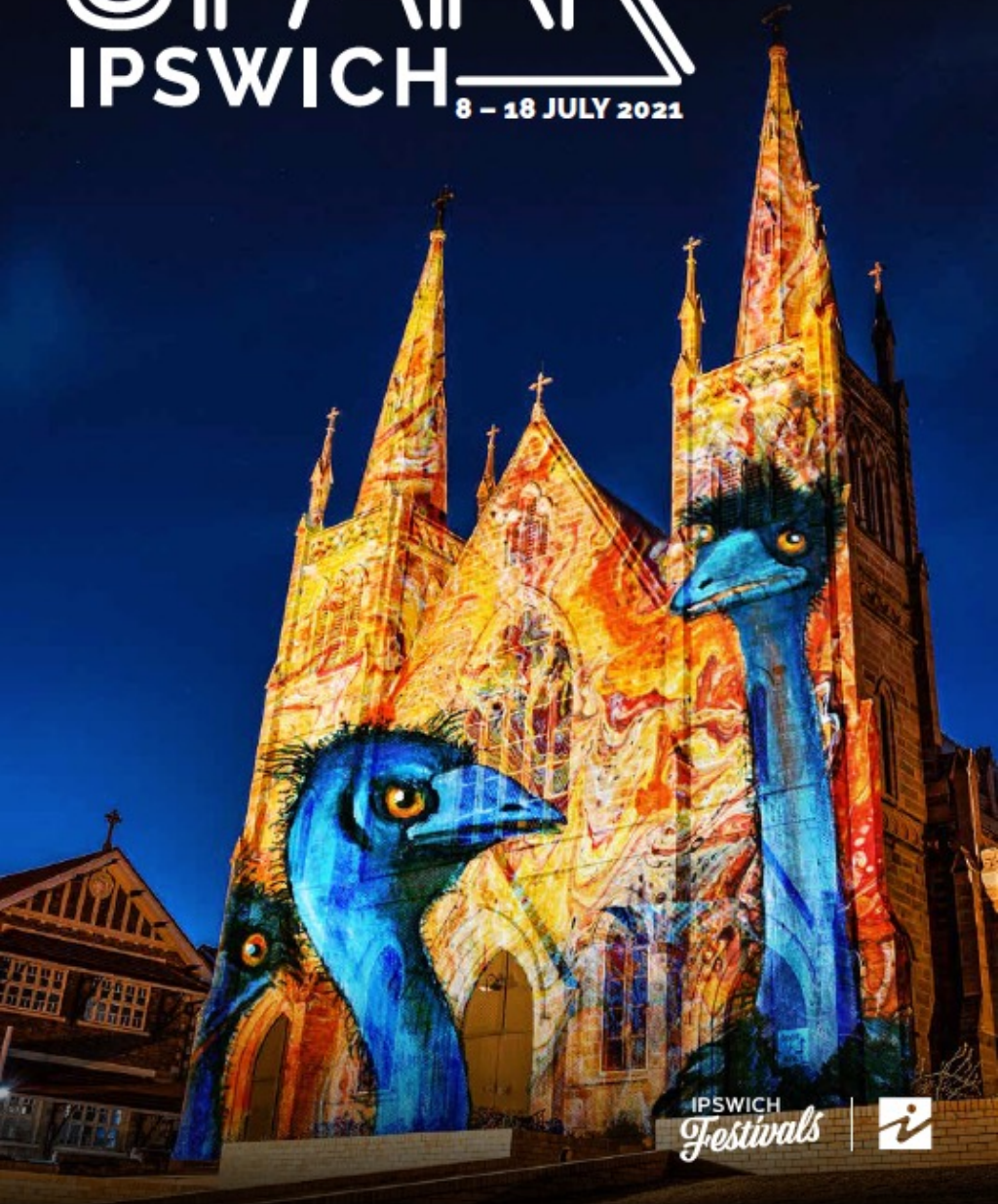
'Bearing Witness: Absence' is a site-specific video projection in DeLight 2021 SPARK Ipswich, responding to the need for public art that offers viewer engagement with regional community histories and narratives. The work is novel in showcasing a regional 'mother-artist model' investigating a mother-child co-construction of artwork which explores their resiliency and adaptability when moving from one regional area to another. The public artwork addresses regionalism by examining whether sharing the adaptive strategies of the MAM generates creative networking strategies of co-working, and collective support among broader regional communities.

Significance

The significance and calibre of the DeLight 2021 SPARK Ipswich exhibition was that it was part of a ten-day programme of events, funded by the Ipswich City Council and Arts Queensland. The project included artwork projections of eleven high profile artists, including Donna Davis, presenting a model to enable resilience and adaptability for artists in regional areas. The group exhibition was held in a regional context as part of a local council festival initiative, ensuring state-wide dissemination of the creative regional works. The research significance of the exhibition was strengthened by large scale public viewing of the creative work and collaborative creative partnerships with arts practitioners and specialists that were established during this project.

SPARK
IPSWICH
8 – 18 JULY 2021

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Support Documentation:

Program of events for SPARK Ipswich Festival 2021,
including Bearing Witness: Absence projection by Linda
Clark.