

The Second Window

2020



Original Work in Group Exhibition (Visual Arts)

Artist: Rhi Johnson

[Original Work Submission Year: 2020]



The Second Window is an edition of reduction linocut prints produced for the 2020 Print Council of Australia Print Commission.

Exhibition location: Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts
Exhibition dates: 2 October 2020 - 15 November 2020

Exhibition location: Sydney Contemporary (online exhibition)
Exhibition dates: October 2020

2020 Print Commission Artists: Daniel O'Shane, Silvi Glattauer, AHC McDonald, Joanna Kambourian, **Rhi Johnson** & Sheyne Tuffery

Research Background: Contemporary printmaking addresses visual narration that documents the individual and collective experience. Often these visual narratives are representative of selected depictions of everyday experience. Within this context, there is much exploration in exploring the ways in which subconscious or involuntary thoughts and occurrences defer from or disrupt everyday narrative of experience, and how can these be considered meaningful. This visual research asserts that the value of such experiences could be located in the Kantian notion of 'free play' between imagination and understanding, where neither cognitive faculty subsumes the other (Kant, 1790).

Research Contribution: *The Second Window*, involving an edition of linocut prints, deals with notions of experience and response as revised and reworked through a prolonged, intermittent engagement with material and process. The resultant works manifest as simultaneously familiar and unfamiliar, reminiscent of aspects of human experience that similarly challenge prior understanding. The work's novel contribution is underpinned by enabling viewers to begin to integrate experiences of similar visuals with imagined potential, thereby engaging in a kind of discourse between cognitive faculties. Through my ongoing series of reduction linocut prints, I seek to visually address the duality between imagination and understanding as outlined.

Research Significance: *The Second Window* is an edition of 30 reduction linocut prints that were commissioned by The Print Council of Australia (PCA) for the 2020 PCA Print Commission. Six Australian artists were selected from 68 applicants by a panel of established printmaking artists such as Dr Jazmina Cininas and Rona Green, who are experts in their respective fields. The creative works were funded by the PCA and sponsors Arthouse Direct and Magnani 1404. The prints are held in private and public collections nationally, including the PCA and the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery. The works were also exhibited online through Sydney Contemporary and at Umbrella Studios Contemporary Arts. Artist interviews are published on the PCA online blog, and images of the works were featured in the Spring 2020 issue of IMPRINT magazine.



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Rhi Johnson
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Reduction linocut

The Second Window as part of the 2020 PCA Print Commission (installation view)
2020

Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



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