

Make Visible: *It's O.K. To Be Me*

Curatorial/Creative Portfolio (Visual Arts)



UniSQ Project Team lead:

Amy Mullens, Beata Batorowicz, Annette Brömdal, & Brodie Taylor (UniSQ).

Curatorial panel:

Shannon Novak, Chris Mills-Kelly, Gwen Walker, Beata Batorowicz & Brodie Taylor

Make Visible project is a satellite exhibition series including:
Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (Host), Queensland Museum and
University of Southern Queensland Art Gallery.

[Curatorial - Exhibition Year: 2022]

Make Visible: *It's O.K. To Be Me* - Original Work in Group Exhibition

Make Visible is a satellite exhibition series led by renowned New Zealand artist Shannon Novak who is featured in the The 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT10). The project aims to grow support for the LGBTQI+ community in Queensland by making visible the challenges and triumphs for this 'rainbow' community.

The project is hosted by Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art and further partnered by Queensland Museum and University of Southern Queensland Art Gallery between 2021-2022. *Make Visible: Its O.K To Be Me* is the University of Southern Queensland exhibition iteration at the UniSQ Gallery, Block Toowoomba campus that aims to enact as a physical platform where local LGBTIQ+ voices can be centred, amplified and celebrated. The exhibition ran from 21 March until 29 April and is accompanied by a community project, titled 'Dear Toowoomba...' as an extension of QAGOMA's 'Dear Queensland'.



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Make Visible - *It's O.K To Be Me*

UniSQ Project Lead team: Amy Mullens, Beata Batorowicz, Annette Brömdal & Brodie Taylor.

Curatorial Panel: Shannon Novak, Chris Mills-Kelly, Gwen Walker, Beata Batorowicz & Brodie Taylor.

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Make Visible: *It Is O.k. To Be Me*

Background: Queensland LGBTQIA+ communities encounter ongoing mental health issues such as high depression and suicide rates due to hardships, violence and discrimination experienced in diverse societal settings (Zwick et al., 2021). Therefore, there is much need in raising awareness and creating 'safe spaces' of LGBTQIA+ communities to develop a sustained societal transformation.

Contribution: The curatorial premise for *Make Visible* involves LGBTQIA+ artists, scholars and allies in activating cultural and educational spaces in making visible the challenges and triumphs of rainbow communities. The curated works are installed in such a way that they transform art and educational sites as 'safe spaces' for rainbow communities. The curatorial emphasis is ongoing sustained effects across local and global communities. This is exemplified by the featured community participatory work 'Dear Toowoomba...' as an iteration of Queensland Gallery of Modern Art's 'Dear Queensland..' project within the exhibition's curatorial design.

Significance: Hosted by Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, *Make Visible* was a highly attended satellite exhibition series led by renowned New Zealand artist Shannon Novak as part of the 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art and partnered by Queensland Museum and University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ). The UniSQ project lead team includes interdisciplinary researchers; Amy Mullens, Annette Brömdal, Beata Batorowicz, Brodie Taylor alongside artists Chris Mills-Kelly and Gwen Walker who successfully connected communities through the participatory work 'Dear Toowoomba' and numerous external panel discussions and workshops including presentations at Toowoomba's Curious Arts Festival and the exhibition was reviewed in *NITRO* journal and the Field Guide.



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Make Visible: It's O.K To Be Me

UniSQ Satellite Exhibition from series hosted by QAGOMA and partnered with Queensland Museum and University of Southern Queensland.

Shannon Novak
I Do Not Fit Neatly
2022

Vinyl Installation with artist
Photo: UniSQ Photography



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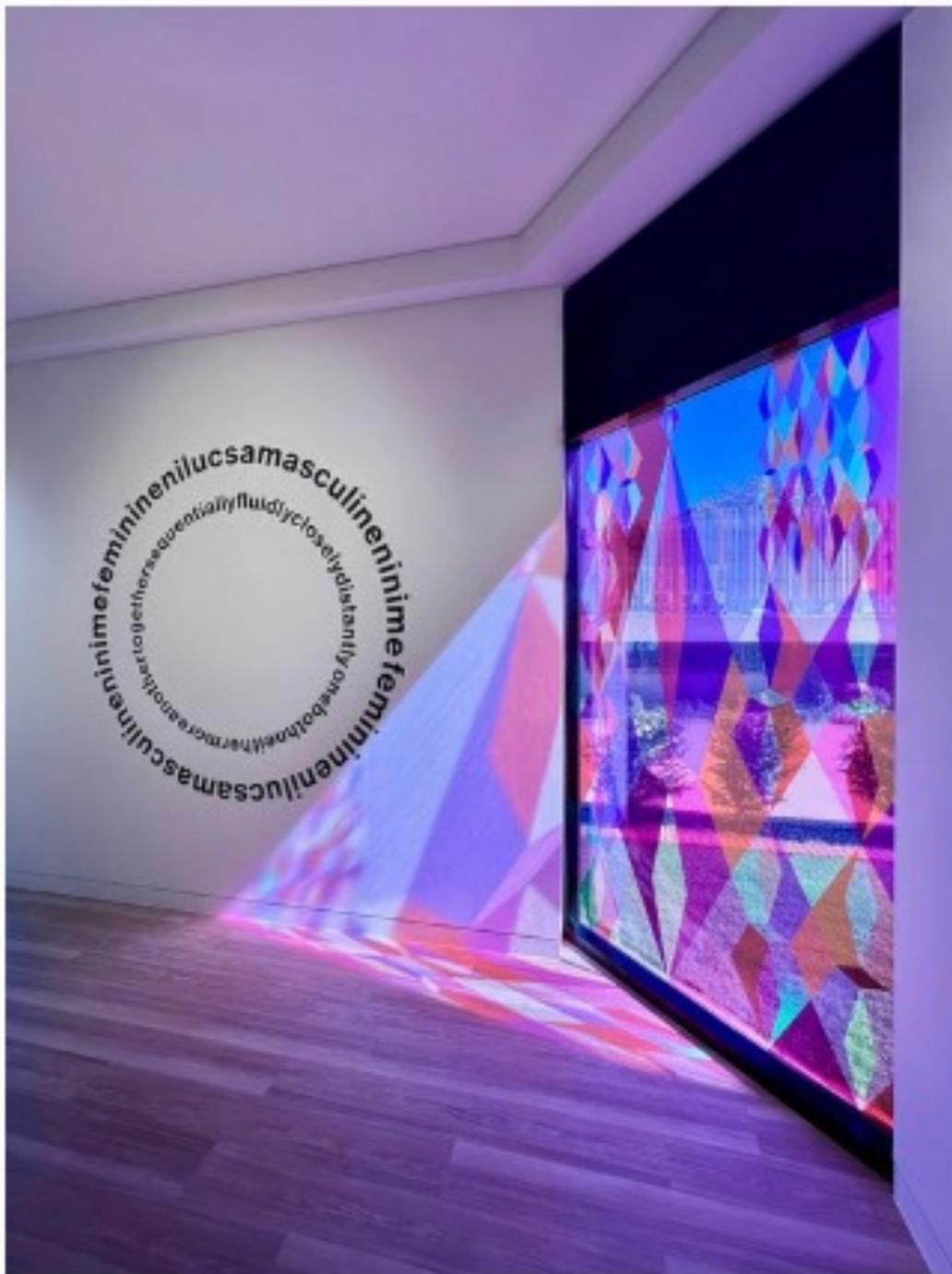
Shannon Novak

I Do Not Fit Neatly

2022

Vinyl Installation

Photo: UniSQ Photography



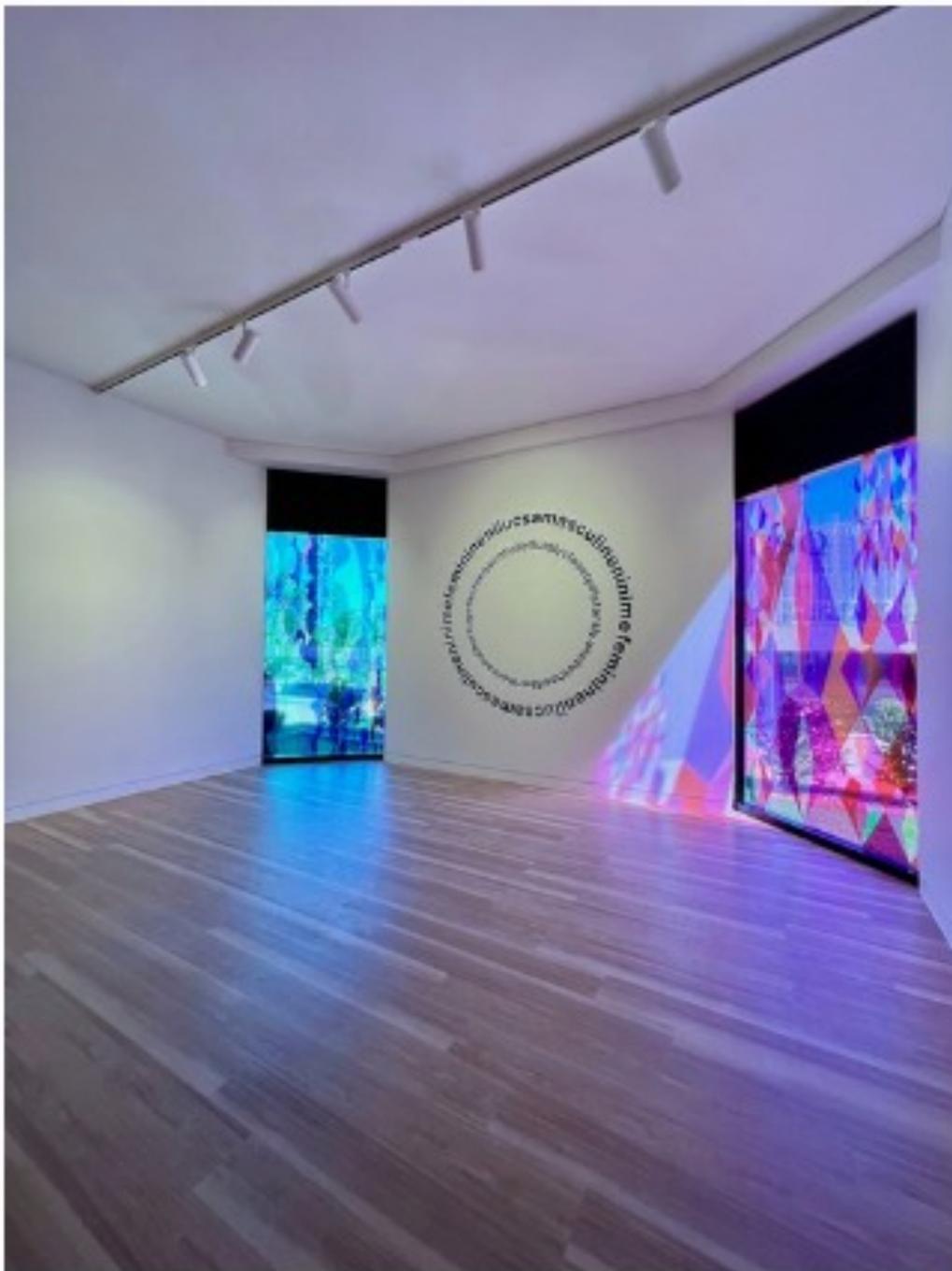
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Make Visible: It's O.K To Be Me

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Shannon Novak
I Do Not Fit Neatly
2022

Vinyl Installation
Photo: UniSQ Photography



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Shannon Novak
I Do Not Fit Neatly
2022

Vinyl Installation
Photo: UniSQ Photography



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UniSQ Satellite Exhibition from series
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Southern Queensland.

Shannon Novak
I Do Not Fit Neatly
2022

Vinyl Installation (Window View)
Photo: UniSQ Photography



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Shannon Novak

I Do Not Fit Neatly

2022

Vinyl Installation (Window View)

Photo: UniSQ Photography



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Shannon Novak

I Do Not Fit Neatly

2022

Vinyl Installation (Window View from Outside)

Photo: UniSQ Photography



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Shannon Novak

I Do Not Fit Neatly

2022

Vinyl Installation (Window View from Outside)

Photo: UniSQ Photography



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Annette Brömdal, Amy Mullens, Beata Batorowicz, & Brodie Taylor

Never Let Anyone Say That A Good Fight For The Fight For Good Wasn't A Good Fight Indeed (Detail View)

2022
Mixed Media Installation
Photo: Shannon Novak





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Annette Brömdal, Amy Mullens, Beata Batorowicz, & Brodie Taylor

Never Let Anyone Say That A Good Fight For The Fight For Good Wasn't A Good Fight Indeed (Detail View)

2022

Mixed Media Installation

Photo: Shannon Novak



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Annette Brömdal, Amy Mullens,
Beata Batorowicz, & Brodie Taylor

*Never Let Anyone Say That A Good
Fight For The Fight For Good Wasn't
A Good Fight Indeed (Detail View)*

2022

Mixed Media Installation

Photo: Shannon Novak





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Mixed Media Installation

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Annette Brömdal, Amy Mullens, Beata Batorowicz, & Brodie Taylor

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Mixed Media Installation

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Amy Mullens, Annette Brömdal, Beata
Batorowicz, & Brodie Taylor
*We Have Not Come This Far To Only
Come This Far*

2022

Text and Light Installation
Photo: Shannon Novak

gender prisoners experien uniformly
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prisoners from both other prisoners and pris
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Amy Mullens, Annette Brömdal, Beata Batorowicz, & Brodie Taylor
We Have Not Come This Far To Only Come This Far

2022

Text and Light Installation
Photo: Shannon Novak



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*Almost uniformly
transgender prisoners experience stigma
and discrimination in their everyday lives while
incarcerated...This dismissal of "otherness" results in
increased levels of violence (or threats) towards transgender
prisoners from both other prisoners and prison officers.* ~ Brömdal, A.,
Mullens, A. B., et. al (2019)

*Where healthcare professionals
hold inaccurate knowledge and negative attitudes towards people living
with HIV... it can manifest as stigma and discriminatory practices and adverse
patient outcomes.* ~ Kaladharan, S. et. al (2021)

*In the Australian
context, the discrimination faced by First Nations Australian trans incarcerated
people is increased as many from remote communities have not accessed
gender-affirming hormones and are therefore not recognized as trans.*
~ Sanders, T. et. al. (2022)

*...transgender people are not a
homogeneous group, and, like any other priority sub-population
in society, there is great diversity in expression of gender identities
and other intersectional factors including sexual orientation,
cultural, ethnic, religious/spiritual, class/socioeconomic
status, and geographical backgrounds.*
~ Brömdal, A., Clark, K., et al., (2019)

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Amy Mullens, Annette Brömdal, Beata Batorowicz, & Brodie Taylor
We Have Not Come This Far To Only Come This Far

2022

Text and Light Installation
Photo: Shannon Novak

10.8%
**of health workers
in the substance use
sector indicated they were
'not comfortable' working
with transgender clients.**

~ Mullens, A. B. et. al.
(2017)



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Installation View

Photo: Shannon Novak



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Chris Mills-Kelly

Puzzled

2022

Wood

Photo: Shannon Novak



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Wood (Detail View)

Photo: Shannon Novak



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Chris Mills-Kelly

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Gwen Walker

The Girl in the Mirror

2022

Instant Photographs

Photo: Shannon Novak



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Gwen Walker
The Girl in the Mirror (Detail)
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Photo: Shannon Novak



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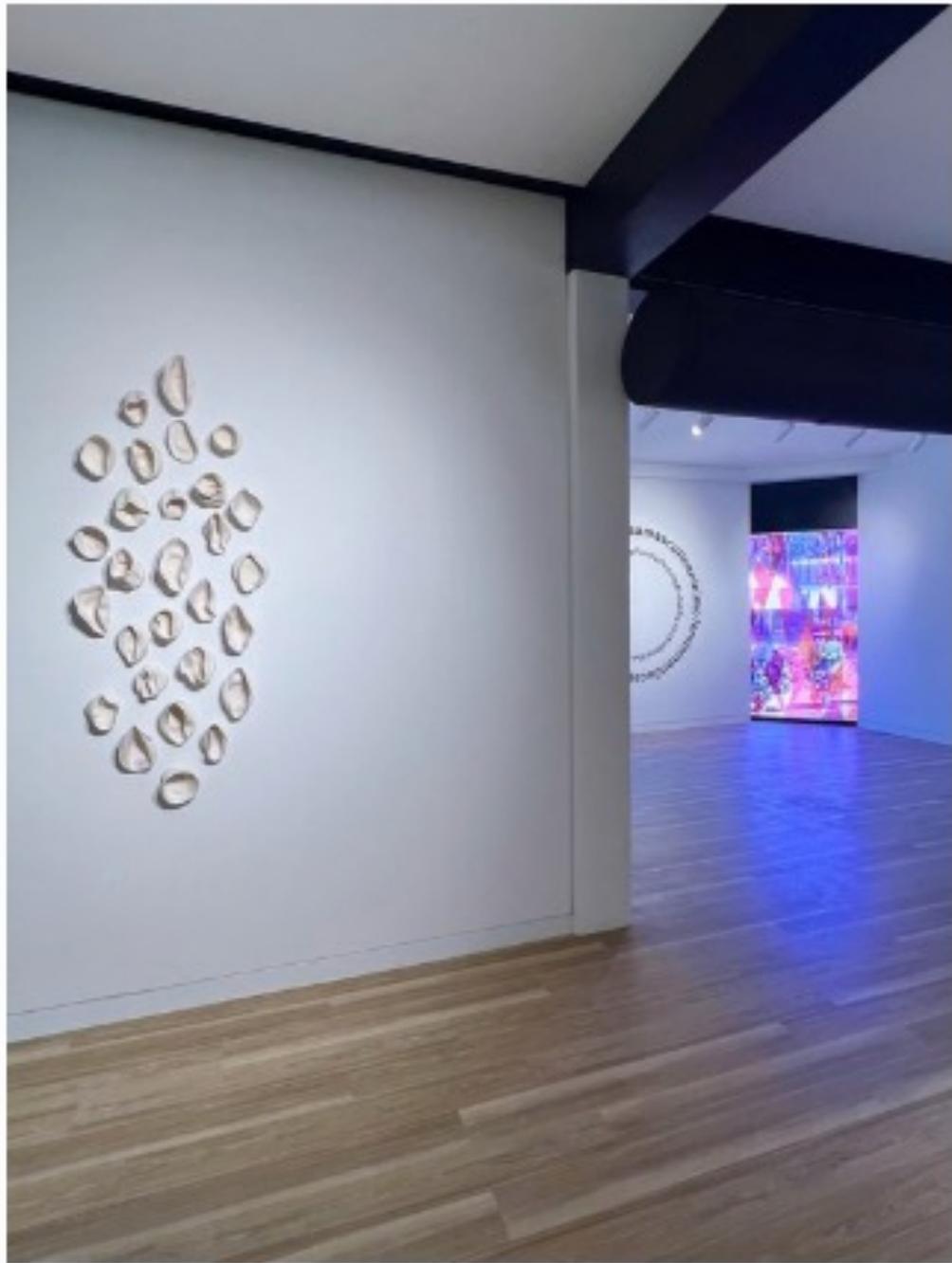
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Georgia Breeden
Melting Moments
2022
Raw Earthenware

Photo: Shannon Novak



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Sandy Pottinger & Susan Lostroh
*And then; Somewhere; Poised;
Becoming*
2022
Mixed media

Photo: UniSQ Photography



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Exhibition Installation View

Photo: UniSQ Photography



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DEAR TOOWOOMBA...

One thing we can do to help drive these numbers down is to make visible the challenges we face so people can see what we are going through and consider ways they may be able to support us. It's about getting our struggles out in the open and talking about them, letting people know what life is really like for us day to day. By participating in this project, you help to get that conversation rolling, increase public awareness, and grow local support. What would you say to "Toowoomba" if you could? What message or story would you like to share with "Toowoomba"?

Write, transcribe, mark, draw its up to you.

This artwork being published online and onsite by USQ and the Make Visible project via the website, social media and other digital channels. The data supplied for the "Dear Toowoomba" project will be utilised for research and/or academic purposes. (Note: Any personal or identifying information will be removed before the data is shared with researchers and the results are made public).



Make Visible: It's O.K To Be Me

UniSQ Satellite Exhibition from series hosted by QAGOMA and partnered with Queensland Museum and University of Southern Queensland.

Exhibition Installation View - 'Dear Toowoomba' community project

Photo: UniSQ
Photography

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Exhibition Installation View - 'Dear Toowoomba' community project (Detail)

Photo: UniSQ Photography



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Make Visible: It's O.K To Be Me

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Exhibition Installation View -
'Dear Toowoomba' community
project (Detail)

Photo: UniSQ Photography

ade me feel shame for being
different. You have tried to make
me straight, less queer, more
hetero, you have scared me, called
me names. But you will never
break me! I will die QUEER!

ing kind,
all do.
To all the LGBTQIAT community, you
are never alone and I see and
hear you.



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Make Visible: It's O.K To Be Me

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Exhibition Installation View - 'Dear Toowoomba' community project (Detail)

Photo: UniSQ Photography



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***Make Visible: It's O.K To
Be Me***

UniSQ Satellite Exhibition
from series hosted by
QAGOMA and partnered
with Queensland
Museum and University
of Southern Queensland.

Exhibition Installation
View - 'Dear Toowoomba'
community project
(Detail)

Photo: UniSQ
Photography



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Make Visible APT10 Satellite Exhibition from series hosted by QAGOMA and partnered with Queensland Museum and University of Southern Queensland.

Shannon Novak
2021-2022

- The photos of all work at QAGOMA were commissioned for APT10. Images courtesy Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art. Photography: Katie Bennett, Chloe Callistemon, Merinda Campbell, Marc Grimwade, Joe Ruckli, and Lee Wilkes.

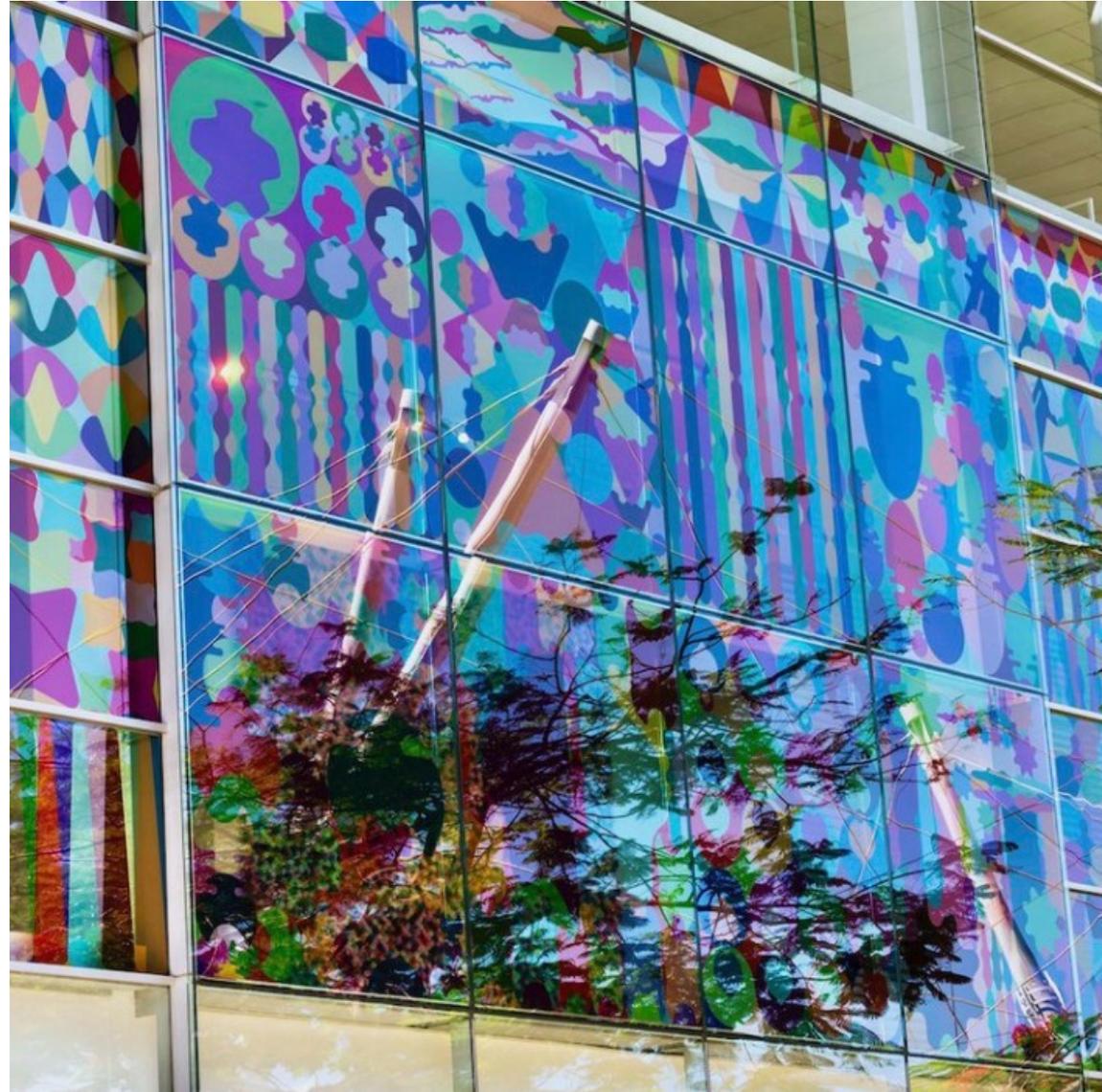
- The photos of all work at the Queensland Museum are courtesy of the Queensland Museum. Photography: Joe Ruckli and Peter Waddington.



Make Visible APT10 Satellite Exhibition
from series hosted by QAGOMA and
partnered with Queensland Museum and
University of Southern Queensland.

Shannon Novak
2021-2022

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Dear Queensland

QAGOMA and artist Shannon Novak, have invited members of Queensland's LGBTQI+ communities to pen a virtual letter to Queenslanders, reflecting on their challenges and triumphs. The letters and visual responses below form part of an important archive that centres and amplifies voices from LGBTQI+ communities.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art stands and recognise the creative contribution First Australians make to the art and culture of this country.

This forms part of Make Visible, an ongoing community led project developed by artist, curator, and activist Shannon Novak, whose work features as part of APT10. The aim of the project is to grow support for the LGBTQI+ communities worldwide by making visible challenges and triumphs for these communities.

If you need support, free support services for LGBTQI+ people are available.

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Make Visible APT10 Satellite Exhibition from series hosted by QAGOMA and partnered with Queensland Museum and University of Southern Queensland.

'Dear Queensland....'
Community project at QAGOMA, Brisbane.