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artisan reopens with two new exhibitions inspired by COVID-19



1 of 2 What Lies Above What Lies Below 2020



artisan, Queensland's peak body for craft, has fully reopened with the launch of two new exhibitions inspired by the global COVID-19 experience: [AboutFace](#) and [artisan Collects](#).

[AboutFace](#) takes as its departure the highly evocative symbol of COVID-19, the face mask. The iconic image of the surgical mask emerged as a symbol for COVID-19 and the era of social distancing. To document this, artisan invited the international craft and design community to make, remodel, rework, embellish and decorate the simple home-made surgical mask as a creative reflection of the current global experience.

Selected masks now form an online exhibition as well as a window exhibition at artisan, showcasing 63 artists and 104 artworks from Australia, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Italy, Poland, Zambia and the UK.

Cassandra Lehman, curator of [AboutFace](#) explained that the contributing artists have brought their unique understanding and experience of this extraordinary time to the surface, using the mask as a starting point.

"These masks carry great meaning. They will endure and serve as a document for right now, for what we are going through and who we really are, in the face of COVID-19," she said.

The second exhibition, [artisan Collects](#), is a stunning curated showcase of collectable crafted artworks by local artists who challenge and reposition what craft can be.



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