

Alchemy Embodiment Transmutation:

An UniSQ School of Creative Arts Publication



Textual Work - Exhibition Catalogue (Visual Arts)

Accompanying a School of Creative Arts Research Symposium and Exhibition at UniSQ.

Tarn McLean, Rhi Johnson & Beata Batorowicz (UniSQ)

Loophole Press, Victoria, Blurb Platform

[Textual Work, Exhibition Catalogue Year: 2021]

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Alchemy Embodiment Transmutation: An UniSQ School of Creative Arts Publication [Textual Work]

Background: The CoVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the Australian Creative Arts university sector. On a national level, the government lockdowns and self-isolation procedures have impacted the reduction or closure of many creative arts research programs as well as the production of creative arts research outcomes such as access to physical exhibition and performance venues (Wilson, 2021). Within this broader context, there is much exploration to be had in considering the alternative strategies to creative arts research as forms of resilient practices within the current higher education sector.

Contribution: Drawing on the wide accessibility of exhibition publications, this textual work marks the resiliency of creative research through a uniquely curated cross-section of creative practices at the University of Southern Queensland during the CoVID-19 pandemic. The work brings together interdisciplinary emerging and established creative researchers that innovatively explore adaptability and resiliency within the arts that are interconnected with the themes of alchemy, transmutation and transformation.

Significance: The textual work consists of various writing by University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) creative researchers and was launched at the accompanying School of Creative Arts Research Symposium and exhibition at UniSQ. The catalogue launch involved a school-wide attendance and was published by Loophole Press, Victoria, via the Blurb platform. The broader public and external university interest enabled this publication to become a pilot for the 2022 cross-university symposium and publication 'Creative Returns' launching at UniSQ in 2022. The latter, involved collaborations from Australian Catholic University, University of Canberra, University of Saskatchewan and University of Auckland.



University of
Southern
Queensland



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

soca 2021

An exhibition catalogue accompanying the School of Creative Arts Research
Symposium at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Australia.

Image of
Catalogue
Publication:

*Alchemy
Embodiment
Transmutation:
An UniSQ
School of
Creative Arts
Publication
(2021),
Loophole Press,
Victoria.*

Source: <https://au.blurb.com/books/10839681-soca-2021>



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

soca 2021

ALCHEMY EMBODIMENT TRANSMUTATION

A USQ School of Creative Arts Research Exhibition

soca 2021
School of Creative Arts

An exhibition catalogue accompanying
the School of Creative Arts Research Symposium,
ALCHEMY EMBODIMENT TRANSMUTATION
Red Door Gallery, USQ, 24th September, 2021.

University of Southern Queensland
West Street
Toowoomba, QLD, Australia, 4350



The SOCA Research Committee would like to acknowledge the
DVC Research and innovation, the Graduate Research School and
the Centre of Culture and Heritage at USQ.

Image of Catalogue
Publication:

*Alchemy Embodiment
Transmutation:
An UniSQ School of
Creative Arts
Publication (2021),
Loophole Press,
Victoria.*

Source: <https://au.blurb.com/books/10839681-soca-2021>



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

FOREWORD

Throughout history, the creative artefact has served as a record of lived experiences and as a catalyst for sustained dialogue. *ALCHEMY EMBODIMENT TRANSMUTATION* serves to enact these roles in a contemporary context, through the showcasing of creative works by USQ staff and postgraduate students. Collectively these works represent a snapshot of creative arts research interests and outcomes from various fields including poetry, film, music, performance, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture and mixed media practice.

Art is a record of time and place; of the societal and cultural context it is drawn from. Creative artefacts offer insight into the human condition... whether they seek to provide comfort or incite discomfort, whether they critique established systems or engage with and expand historical practices, or whether they are self-referential or refer to broader issues.

The diversity of outcomes shown in *ALCHEMY EMBODIMENT TRANSMUTATION* reflect the commitment of the artists to their individual research, and to broader societal and cultural conversations embedded in the community at large. It is exciting to see these works installed in the one space, to witness the coming together of teacher and student. *ALCHEMY EMBODIMENT TRANSMUTATION* is a visual and auditory celebration of enquiring minds, reflecting on knowledge gained combined with a critical reflection on what it means to be in the world today.

Dr Rhi Johnson & Dr Tarn McLean (Exhibition Curator)

Image of Catalogue
Publication:

*Alchemy Embodiment
Transmutation:
An UniSQ School of
Creative Arts
Publication (2021),
Loophole Press,
Victoria.*

Source: <https://au.blurb.com/books/10839681-soca-2021>

ALCHEMY EMBODIMENT TRANSMUTATION

This interdisciplinary exhibition brings together the School of Creative Arts (SoCA) staff and postgraduate researchers through the exploration of the School's first research symposium entitled *Alchemy Embodiment Transmutation* held on 24th September 2021. Contextually, the SoCA Research Symposium explores the varying alchemical and embodied states across the School's research themes that range from Wellbeing to Military Conflict and Veteran Affairs. Working from this premise, the exhibition draws out the eclectic and unique approaches of individual researchers and the way that the conceptual and creative processes and methods within practice provides an opportunity for transmutation across these themes.

More broadly, the launch of the SoCA Research Symposium and its accompanying exhibition marks the School's emerging research culture; its developing interdisciplinary and collaborative engagement. Central to this, is the celebration of SoCA's distinctiveness as well as diversity within its approaches to research that comprises of both traditional and non-traditional forms of research. In turn, this provides a rich platform for exploring the interrelationship between professional industry and academia within research outputs and considering its impact and engagement.

Central to this Creative Arts exhibition, is the opportunity for our postgraduates to showcase their creative research alongside Creative Arts staff. This approach directly aligns with SoCA's research development strategy involving collaboration and the optimisation of research outcomes as well as the broader *University of Southern Queensland Academic Plan 2019-2022* of engaging in a *Students as Partners* educational approach within learning and teaching and research.

On behalf of the SoCA Research Committee, I sincerely thank the USQ DVC Research and Innovation Division; our Faculty of Business Education Law and Arts (BELA) Executive Dean – Professor Barbara de la Harpe; our BELA Associate Dean (Research) – Professor Margaret Baguley; our Head of School – Dr Rebecca Scollen and most importantly our SoCA staff in being an integral part of the development of our School research culture.

Associate Professor Beata Batorowicz,
Associate Head (Research), USQ School of Creative Arts, with
SoCA Research Committee members including:
Dr David Akenson; Dr Chris Carter; Dr Darryl Chalk; Associate
Professor Pema Duddul; Associate Professor Janet McDonald
and Dr Tarn McLean.



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

Image of Catalogue
Publication:

*Alchemy Embodiment
Transmutation:
An UniSQ School of
Creative Arts
Publication (2021),
Loophole Press,
Victoria.*

Source: <https://au.blurb.com/books/10839681-soca-2021>

Ally Zlatar's practice-led research draws on her own experiences as an artist who has been diagnosed with eating disorders including Anorexia, Bulimia and Orthorexia. Taking on an autoethnographic insider artist-researcher approach, my artworks foreground the psychological states and emotional qualities of eating disorders as a mental illness. Zlatar's focus on critical visual reinterpretations of eating disorders is strategic in counteracting mainstream media, particularly popular imagery of certain body ideals as exemplified through the 'Culture of Thinness'.

Zlatar's work explores contemporary artists such as Lee Price and Kiera Faber that address the distorted body image in order to provide insights into our perceptions of self-image, as well as to offer alternative representations that encompass the broader complexities of mental health and well-being. For example in the work "I Cannot Sew Up My Sorrows" 2021, Zlatar explores the mental struggle and pain felt living with an eating disorder whereby the artist metaphorically likens her experience to the ongoing attempt of trying to sew up a wound that can never really heal.

Ally Zlatar - Doctor of Creative Arts Student
I cannot sew my sorrows 2021
Acrylic on canvas,



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

Image of Catalogue
Publication:

*Alchemy Embodiment
Transmutation:
An UniSQ School of
Creative Arts
Publication (2021),
Loophole Press,
Victoria.*

Source: <https://au.blurb.com/books/10839681-soca-2021>



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

My arts practice is multi-disciplinary based in visual and oral storytelling. I engage in a diversity of modalities as this allows for a variety of multi-sensory experiences to interrogate the research question and discover about male breast cancer experience. The creative outcomes explore different modalities and include photography, video, textile-based sculpture, performance and works on paper. The use of diverse materials and performative artworks reflect the tactility and embodiment of the disease, it has a physical manifestation on the bodies of breast cancer patients. By exhibiting a diversity of bodies with breast cancer it is a strategic application that allows the viewer of the artworks to renegotiate their own understanding of the disease.

Alyson Baker - Doctor of Creative Arts Candidate
The Challenge of Pink, 2020
Video Still



Image of Catalogue
Publication:

*Alchemy Embodiment
Transmutation:
An UniSQ School of
Creative Arts
Publication (2021),
Loophole Press,
Victoria.*

Source: <https://au.blurb.com/books/10839681-soca-2021>



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

Image of Catalogue Publication:

*Alchemy Embodiment Transmutation:
An UniSQ School of Creative Arts Publication (2021)*
showcased at *Alchemy Embodiment Transmutation
exhibition*, Red Door Gallery, UniSQ, 24 Sept. 2021.

Photo: Simon Van Der Spoel



University of
**Southern
Queensland**



*Alchemy Embodiment
Transmutation:
An UniSQ School of Creative Arts
Publication (2021) showcased at
Alchemy Embodiment
Transmutation exhibition,
Red Door Gallery, UniSQ,
24, Sept. 2021.*

Photo: Simon Van Der Spoel