

A Partial Overlap 2023

Original Work in Solo Exhibition (Visual Arts)

Rhi Johnson

[Original Work Submission Year: 2023]

A Partial Overlap is a solo art exhibition by Contemporary Printmaker Rhi Johnson. The exhibition draws on the convergence of lived experience, memory, and intuitive response. Through reduction linocut printing processes, Rhi Johnson explores urban, natural, and combined sites of personal significance. The resultant works are not a direct visual interpretation of the sites depicted but map a kind of tension between the experience of place and subsequent cognitive processes.

Dr. Rhi Johnson is a Toowoomba based artist and educator who works primarily in the fields of Printmaking, Artist's Books and Mixed Media art. She is interested in the formation of everyday narratives, and how these can be disrupted or subverted visually. Rhi investigates visual cues that can punctuate an environment, object or space of perceived meaning, and in doing so, may allude to subconscious methods of processing information. She is currently lecturing in Printmaking at the University of Southern Queensland. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally, and has works in print collections across Australia.

Exhibition location: Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland.

Exhibition dates: 10 March 2023 – 16 April 2023

Research Background: *A Partial Overlap* is situated in the technical field of contemporary linocut printmaking, which is leveraged by artist Rhi Johnson to explore broader themes of memory and place. This is informed by the creative practices of other contemporary Australian artists who explore sites of significance and ties to individual and collective memories including painter and sculptor Mason Kimber and painter Christine Porter. Considering this framework, Johnson investigates how an experience of a place, subsequent memories, and subtle shifts in the recollection and representation of this place can engage broader audiences. Contemporary artists including Bridie Gillman, particularly through her exhibition *Unreliable Memories*, refer to memory as fluid and transformative, referenced via gestural mark-making and abstraction. Johnson seeks to occupy the space between close visual retelling and gestural abstraction, with subtle image shifts, vague familiarity, and open-ended storytelling.



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

Research Contribution: *A Partial Overlap* is a novel investigation into memory, place, and individual and collective storytelling. This is staged through reduction linocut printmaking processes, which are conventionally subject to extensive pre-planning and clearly defined visual phases. While the artist initially engages these traditional techniques, but throughout the intermittent carving and printing processes she employs strategies of intuitive responses and spontaneity to stage a subtle shift between location depicted and cognitive engagement with this location. This is an innovative use of traditional techniques in a contemporary conceptual context.

Research Significance: *A Partial Overlap* is a solo exhibition made by Rhi Johnson and shown at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts in Townsville (March – April 2023). This exhibition was part of a suite of exhibitions opened simultaneously, alongside *Concurrent Visions* by Dr Anneke Silver and *Weaving with Paint* by Clare Jaque Vasquez. The exhibition opening was well-attended, with over 200 visitors to the gallery space and more throughout the duration of the show. An artist floor talk and intensive linocut workshop were also run as part of the exhibition program. Publications related to this exhibition include an article by curator Daniel Qualischefski in IMPRINT titled *Layers of Memory and Ink* and a catalogue essay by Dr Kate Cantrell titled *Timing the Future*.



A Partial Overlap (installation view), 2023, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography by Daniel Qualischefski, courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



University of
Southern
Queensland



A Partial Overlap (installation view), 2023, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography by Daniel Qualischefski, courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



University of
Southern
Queensland



A Partial Overlap (installation view), 2023, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography by Daniel Qualischefski, courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



University of
Southern
Queensland



A Partial Overlap (installation view), 2023, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography by Daniel Qualischefski, courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



University of
Southern
Queensland



57



A Partial Overlap (installation view), 2023, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography by Daniel Qualischefski, courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



University of
Southern
Queensland



A Partial Overlap (installation view), 2023, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography by Daniel Qualischefski, courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



University of
Southern
Queensland



A Partial Overlap (installation view), 2023, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, Queensland
Photography by Daniel Qualischefski, courtesy of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts