

# Tricking the eye— contemporary trompe l'oeil

26 November 2016 to 12 February 2017

Drawing on the centuries old tradition of trompe l'oeil painting (or 'trick of the eye'), this exhibition brings together the work of twelve contemporary artists whose paintings, sculptures, photographs and moving images are intentionally illusionistic, play with perspective or are something other than what they may initially appear to be.

Exhibition sponsor



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

COVER

Jan Murray

*Pergamon – Berlin #1 (detail)* 2016

oil on linen

Courtesy of the artist and Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne

Photographer: Andrew Curtis

## Geelong Gallery

Little Malop Street  
Geelong 3220  
T 03 5229 3645

**Free entry**

Open daily 10am – 5pm

Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,  
Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Guided tours of the permanent  
collection Sunday between 2pm – 4pm

Artists:

Colleen Ahern  
Chris Bond  
Stephen Bowers  
Daniel Crooks  
Georgina Cue  
Gregory Hodge  
Jess Johnson  
Tully Moore  
Jan Murray  
John R Neeson  
Ricky Swallow  
Anne Zahalka

Tricking the eye—  
contemporary trompe l'oeil—  
family trail

G E E L O N G G  
E E L O N G G  
E T O N G V L  
T O N G V L L  
O N G A T L L E R Y  
N G A L L E R Y  
G A L L E R Y

[www.geelonggallery.org.au](http://www.geelonggallery.org.au)



## Getting started

Welcome to *Tricking the eye—contemporary trompe l'oeil*. This family trail is a fun activity sheet for children and their guardians to do together in the Gallery. Discover more about the artworks in the exhibition and encourage children to look more closely at the artworks to enhance their experiences.

Recommended for children aged 4 to 7 years. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times. Please admire but do not touch the works of art. You may borrow a pencil from reception but please make sure you return it.

As you walk around the exhibition make sure you look at all the artworks. Can you spot how the artists are trying to trick you? Can you be tricked?

## Everyday objects

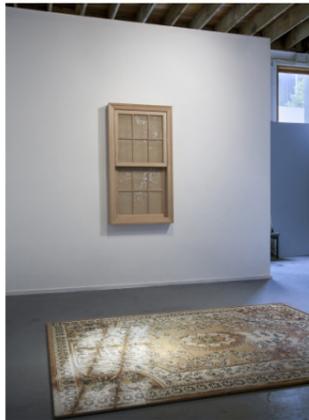


As you enter the foyer you will notice a commissioned wall painting and installation by artists Tully Moore and Colleen Ahern. The artists have used techniques of trompe l'oeil to create the illusion of everyday objects.

List the names of the different everyday objects that you can see that have been painted.

Look closely at the artwork. What do you think the artists are trying to represent and why?

## Optical illusions



Find artist Georgina Cue's work titled *Light works*. What optical illusions are happening in this artwork? List all the tricks you can see.

Is this work two-dimensional or three-dimensional?

The artist has another artwork titled *The Necker cube*. What optical illusions are happening in this artwork?

## Is it real?



Find the artist Anne Zahalka's photographs. The photographs combine realistically painted backdrops with taxidermied animals—these staged dioramas blur the line between the real and non-real.

Look at the photographs closely. Describe what you see.

Listen carefully, what sounds can you hear?

## Three-dimensional worlds



Locate artist Jess Johnson's video work *Mnemonic pulse*. The artist creates two-dimensional drawings that are transformed into a three-dimensional world using animation.

What is the shape the artist has created for the viewer (you) to watch the video through?

What other devices typically use this shape to help you look through or see?

Count how many strange 'alien heads' you can see in the video.

After you have finished watching the video try and list all the images, shapes, words and letters you can remember.

## Glossary

**Trompe l'oeil:** A French phrase meaning to 'deceive the eye': an artist's technique used throughout history that makes two-dimensional paintings appear as though the imagery is three-dimensional—tricking the viewer's eye into believing it is real.

**Optical illusion:** Artists create optical illusions by using colour, light and pattern to create images that trick our brains into seeing things that may, or may not, be real.

**Two-dimensional:** A flat shape that has only two-dimensions, width and height. For example squares, circles and triangles.

**Three-dimensional:** A solid shape or object that has height, width and depth. Shapes include cubes, spheres and cylinders.

## Spot the artwork



The artist Jan Murray has painted air vents that have been placed around the gallery.

Can you spot Jan Murray's air vents throughout the gallery spaces? How many of her paintings can you see? Note: Please don't touch the artwork.

Air vents are typically located in the structures of buildings. List other features in the exhibition that are also typically found within a building?

## What's the trick?



Find the sculptures that play with the scale of the everyday object.

Who is the artist?

What are the sculptures made of?

1  
**Colleen Ahern and Tully Moore**  
*FauxMoCo* 2016  
oil and synthetic polymer paint on wall and wood  
Courtesy of the artists  
Colleen Ahern is represented by Neon Parc, Melbourne  
Photographer: Andrew Curtis

2  
**Georgina Cue**  
*Light works* 2012  
acrylic yarn on tapestry canvas, hard wood  
Courtesy of the artist  
Photographer: Christo Crocker

3  
**Anne Zahalka**  
*Jack Rabbit* 2006  
type C photograph; edition of 10 + 2 A/Ps  
Courtesy of the artist and Arc One Gallery, Melbourne

4  
**Jess Johnson**  
Simon Ward (animation) and Andrew Clarke (soundtrack)  
*Mnemonic pulse* (still) 2014  
single-channel high definition digital video with audio  
16:9, 5 minutes, 32 seconds  
Reproduced courtesy of the artist, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Ivan Anthony, Auckland, and Jack Hanley Gallery, New York

5  
**Jan Murray**  
*Adroit - Richmond #2* 2016  
unique state, patinated bronze and oil paint  
on linen  
Courtesy of the artist and Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne  
Photographer: Andrew Curtis

6  
**Ricky Swallow**  
*Magnifying glass with rope no. 5* 2014  
unique state, patinated bronze and oil paint  
Monash University Collection  
Purchased by the Faculty of Science 2015  
Reproduced courtesy of the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney  
Photographer: Fredrik Nilsen