



*QUT presents*

# DESIGN FOR ALL (DFA) WEEK

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Vis-ABILITY

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HOSTED BY THE SCHOOL OF  
DESIGN, DESIGN LAB AND  
FACULTY OF CREATIVE  
INDUSTRIES, QUT, BRISBANE,  
AUSTRALIA



This eBook is proudly presented by QUT Design Lab as Design for All (DfA) Week represents our vision of 'Change by Design' that is carried throughout our research and teaching projects. Design for All (DfA) Week partnered with a number of organisations as highlighted below:



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QUT Art Museum			





## INTRODUCTION: DESIGN FOR ALL (DFA) WEEK

Design for All (DfA) Week is a week long conversation about design and its role in enabling social inclusion, equity and accessible everyday experiences for people living with disabilities. Across ten free events, researchers, artists, designers and thought leaders from Australia and around the world will share their insights on the creative and ethical challenge designers face in their critical responsibility to design for human diversity. This week was also a celebration of Australian and European collaborations, as QUT became the first non-European member of EIDD.

QUT Design Lab believes that Design is no longer just a noun, but a verb. It is not just an object, but an action. It is not just an artefact, but an approach. Design resists stasis: it enables, disrupts, innovates, mediates, and facilitates. Uniquely equipped to deliver social, cultural, political, economic and environmental impacts, design drives value creation and innovation in the 21st century. It is through this lens that the following events were curated for DfA Week.





# DESIGN FOR ALL (DfA) WEEK

QUT, Brisbane  
Australia

April 8-12, 2019



## MONDAY 8/4

2-5pm

- Opening of *Design for All Week*, Australia

### INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

- Symposium and Panel Discussion (KG Z9-607 & 608)

5-7pm

- *TouchABLE imageries* exhibition Opening from Belgium (KG Z9 Corridor)

## TUESDAY 9/4

9am- 12pm

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Co-design workshop with international experts on creating tactile imagery with the QUT Art Museum for the *Vis-ability* exhibition

12.30-1.30pm

- Exchange: *In Focus* curator and artist talk at the QUT Art Museum

## WEDNESDAY 10/4

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Co-design workshop with international experts on creating tactile imagery with the QUT Art Museum for the *Vis-ability* exhibition

### INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- EIDD-DfA Europe Keynote Lecture and Design Workshop at The Cube

TouchABLE imageries exhibition at





## THURSDAY 11/4

## FRIDAY 12/4

9am- 12pm

9am- 12pm

### TRAINING

with inter-  
creating tactile  
T Art Museum  
hibition

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Co-design workshop with inter-  
national experts on creating tactile  
imagery with the QUT Art Museum  
for the *Vis-ability* exhibition

5-8pm

### AGEMENT

ynote  
Exhibition

6-8pm

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- International Inclusive Film  
Screening and Moderation  
panel at The Hall (KG)
- Closing of *Design for All Week*,  
Australia

and In Focus exhibition



**APR 8TH**

## **SYMPOSIUM: VISABILITY THROUGH DESIGN**

VisABILITY through Design Symposium brought together international thought leaders to explore the impact of design and its ability to enable change. By discussing the opportunities design has to support meaningful change, this symposium aimed to highlight how we can create cultures of inclusion, and support all people's abilities. An amazing line up of speakers presented case studies, design projects, community outreach, advocacy and policy design with examples from architecture, service design, housing, industrial design and design anthropology.

Speakers: Professor Mandy Thomas, Dr Janice Rieger, Professor Lisa Scharoun, Dr Jasmien Herssens, Kathryn Lyons, Professor Megan Strickfaden and Dr Jane Bringolf. Panel members: Dr Lena Belin, Katherine Lyons, Dr Jasmien Herssens, Dr Jane Bringolf, Professor Megan Strickfaden and Dr Marg Ward.









## **APR 8TH - MAY 20TH**

### **EXHIBITION: TOUCHABLE IMAGERIES**

This exhibition shows a selection of pictures taken by children born blind. These children had never seen and were unfamiliar with a photo camera. The idea of inviting children to take pictures of their daily environment arose out of a research study on haptic perception in architecture by Jasmien Herssens. Herssens volunteered and conducted research at the Blind Institute Spermalie in Brugge.

Originally, Dr. Herssens intended to invite the children after her observation for a quest or a spatial game in order to analyse haptic spatial perception. However, one day one of the children explicitly asked her to use her camera and this gave her the idea to use the camera as a tool to talk about space and architecture. These children were invited to take pictures of their daily environment and talk about their spatial experiences. The exhibition was an installation that invited people to reflect upon the concept and experience of haptic perception. Moreover, the design of the exhibition is built in a way that represents the principles of haptic perception.

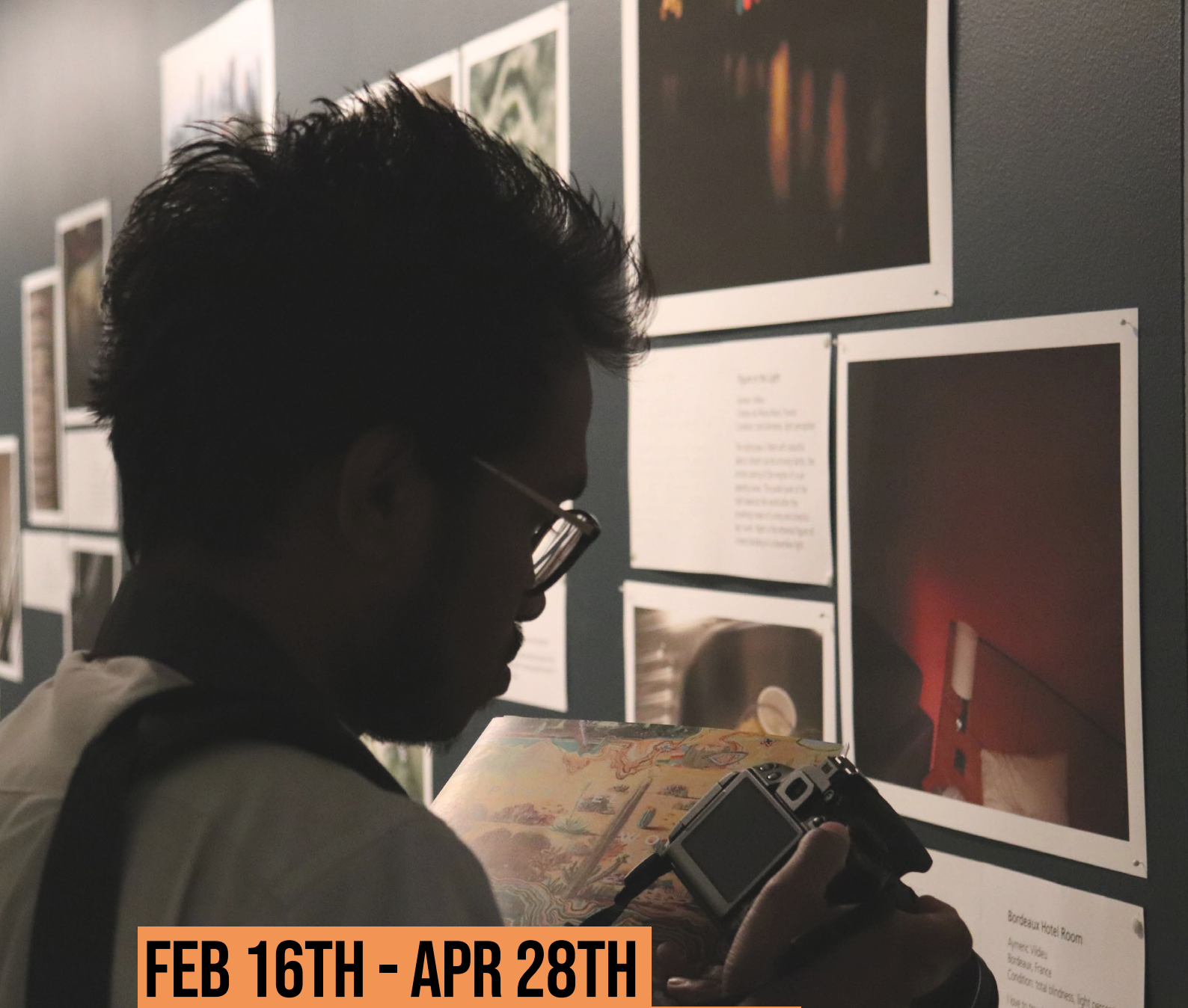




**“THE EXHIBITION WAS TRULY  
SOMETHING SPECIAL.”**







## **FEB 16TH - APR 28TH**

### **IN FOCUS EXHIBITION AND EXCHANGE**

The In Focus exhibition brought together the works of Australian and international photographers to offer rich and challenging insights into the world of documentary photography.

*"Blind photography offers views into different ways of being and knowing, and offers a material substance (photographs) to open up dialogue about less material things (blindness). By bringing some of the nuances about blindness into focus, photographs taken by blind and visually impaired people truly challenge visual expectations." – Dr. Megan Strickfaden*

The In Focus: 'Blind Photographers Challenge Visual Expectations' exhibition was on tour from Canada and presented alongside Exchange Value. Curated by Megan Strickfaden and Janice Rieger, the show featured 9 international blind and partially sighted photographers depicting compelling narratives about inhabiting, negotiating and interpreting the built environment.









## CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP WORKSHOP AND DESIGN JURY

Through experimentation, discussion, skills and knowledge exchange at 3 half days of co-design workshops, makers developed recommendations for a tactile work that enabled an artwork to be experienced and understood primarily through touch. Makers created prototypes for a tactile representation of the painting “Present Portal” by artist Catherine Parker. The prototypes informed the final work, which QUT Design Lab staff fabricated, and QUT Art Museum staff displayed alongside the painting at the Vis-ability exhibition.

The workshops were led by Megan Strickfaden, Janice Rieger and Jasmien Herssens. Documentation of these workshops are included in the digital catalogue ([https://issuu.com/qutartmuseum/docs/vis-ability\\_catalogue](https://issuu.com/qutartmuseum/docs/vis-ability_catalogue)), and learnings from the process shared in an essay. Recommendations from this workshop also informed secondary school workshops held at the QUT Art Museum.







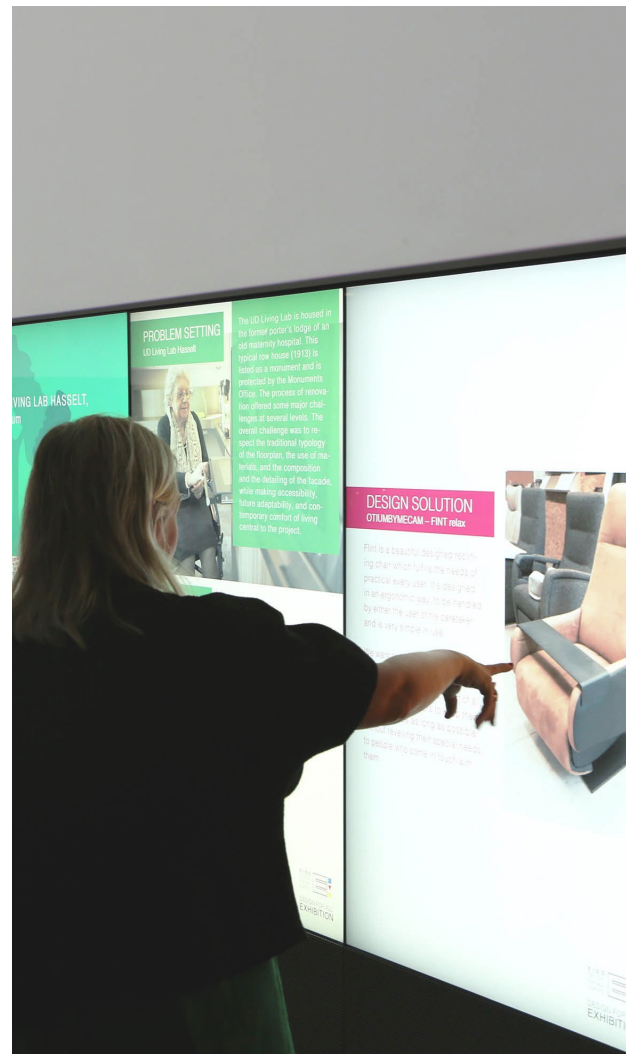
**APR 10TH**

## **EIDD-DFA EUROPE LECTURE & EXHIBITION**

This event celebrated a joint exhibition and collaborations between Europe and Australia and welcomed QUT as the first academic overseas member to EIDD DFA Europe. This event brought together designers, industry, government and academics to connect through Design for All. During the evening, hosted by the QUT Design Lab, participants had the opportunity to network and hear international speakers, Onny Eikhaug, President of EIDD DfA, Jasmien Herssens, Executive Board Member of EIDD DFA and Janice Rieger, Senior Lecturer with the QUT Design Lab.

“Design for All is design for human diversity, social inclusion and equality. This holistic and innovative approach constitutes a creative and ethical challenge for all planners, designers, entrepreneurs, administrators and political leaders.” - From The EIDD Stockholm Declaration, 2004.









**APRIL 12TH**

## **INCLUSIVE INTERNATIONAL FILM SCREENING**

The inclusive international film screening included films from Australia, Finland, Canada and China that represent different kinds of abilities, disabilities, inclusion and exclusion through material culture, architecture, urban spaces, landscapes and design. This screening was about access, inclusion and community outreach and included live audio descriptions and Auslan interpretation. The Film screening was separated into two parts with a total of 9 films screened:

Part 1: 'Seeing' things from a Different Perspective, which included the films: *Bakala*, Australia (Aboriginal); *Eske*, (Finland); *Musical Notes* (Canada); *Visitability* #1 (Canada)

Part 2: Part 2: Temporal and Embodied Encounters: Design, Disability and Slowing Down, which included the films: *Smoke Time* (Canada & China); *Visitability* #2 (Canada); *Heel of a Time*, Canada; *Visitability* #3 (Canada) ; *Wandering on the Braille Trail* (Australia).









## FILM DISCUSSION MODERATION PANEL

The International Inclusive Film Screening panel discussion aimed to question, critique and celebrate making the invisible visible through co-creation. Through the films, we explored two distinct themes: multisensorial and spatio-temporal diversity; and vis-ABILITY through co-creating cultures of inclusion. Panel members include:

- Janice Rieger, Senior Lecturer, School of Design, QUT, Australia
- Megan Stickfaden, Professor, Department of Human Ecology, UA, Canada
- Jennifer Cullen, Chief Executive Officer of Synapse Australia Limited
- Bree Hadley, Associate Professor in Drama, QUT, Australia
- Sean Maher, Senior Lecturer, Film, Screen & Animation, QUT, Australia
- Sarah Boulton, Disability Advocate, Public Speaker, Filmmaker, Canada & Australia
- Phoebe Hart, Senior Lecturer, Film, Screen & Animation, QUT, Australia









## **MAY 11TH - AUG 4TH**

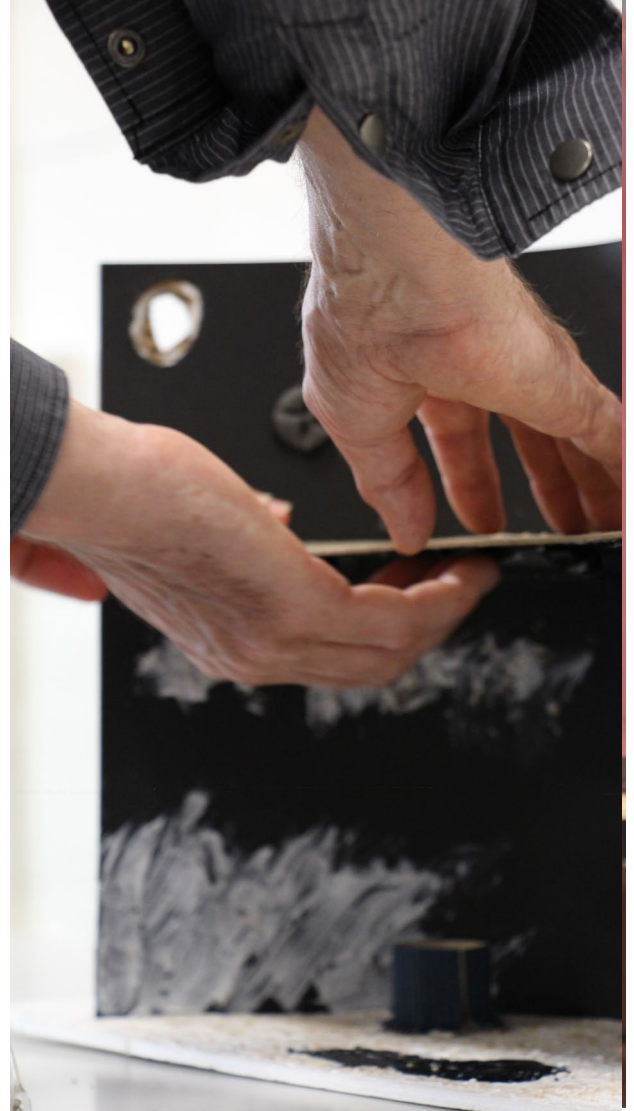
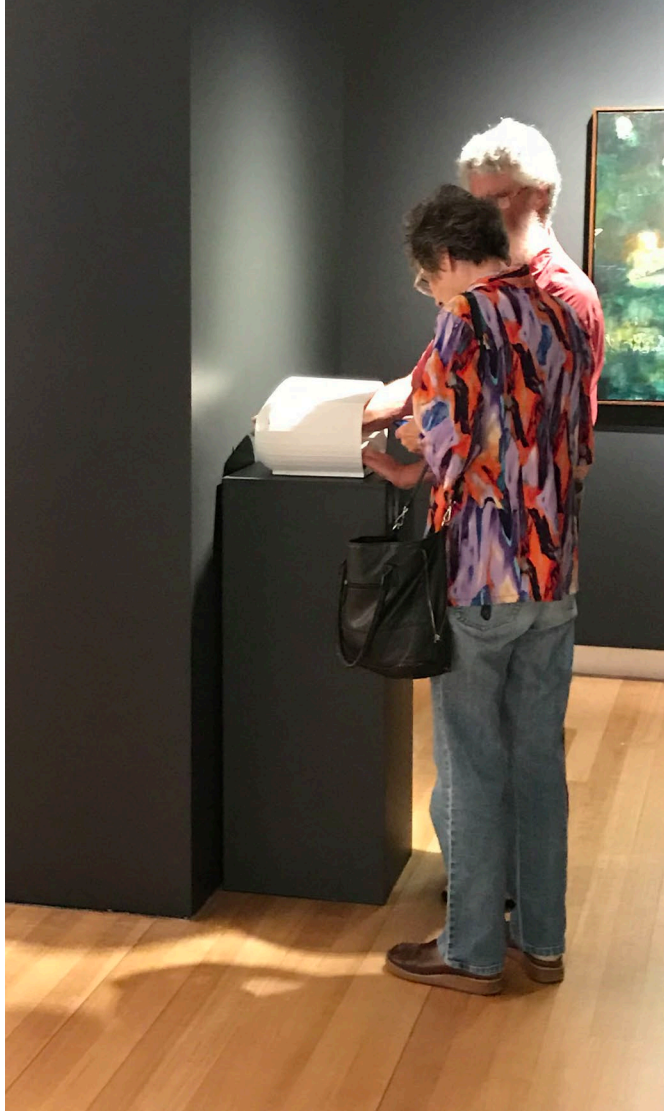
### **VIS-ABILITY EXHIBITION**

Bringing together a selection of recent acquisitions from the QUT Art Collection, Vis-ability promoted an understanding of the lived experiences of people who are blind and people with low vision, exploring various perspectives and senses to encourage different ways of seeing. Visitors had the opportunity to experience tactile models, audio descriptions, artworks and films. Vis-ability aimed to increase the visibility of the QUT Art Collection, while broadening audiences' perception of 'visual art'.

Research partners: Dr Janice Rieger, Creative Industries Faculty and QUT Design Lab

Advisors: Richard Attwater, Gnanaharsha Beligatamulla, Dr Alexander Black, Ann Bosserez, Sarah Boulton, Dr Marianella Chamorro-Koc, Salvatore Fazio, Jack Fitzwalter, Dr Bree Hadley, Dr Jasmien Herssens, Sarah Johnstone, Katyusha Methansia, Annie Rolfe, Nicholas Sabulis, Dr Megan Strickfaden, Anna Svensdotter, Gunawan Taduwidjaja, Corey Tinney, Aymeric Vildieu, Vision Australia, and Michael Whelan.





**“GREAT EXHIBITION TO MAKE PEOPLE MORE AWARE OF DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AND  
AND EXPERIENCING THE WORLD.” – VIS-ABILITY EXHIBITION VISITOR FEEDBACK**





# QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY





DESIGN FOR  
ALL WEEK

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This week would not have produced these outcomes without the valuable contributions of:

- QUT School of Design
- QUT Art Museum
- EIDD - DfA
- EU Commission Erasmus + Mobility Grant
- Hasselt University, Faculty of Architecture and Arts
- Creative Industries Curatorial Committee
- University of Alberta, Department of Human Ecology
- Faculty of Creative Industries, QUT
- MJD Foundation
- Access Arts
- School of Creative Practice, QUT
- Vision Australia
- Brisbane Art and Design Festival (BAD), Museum of Brisbane

And our appreciation to the DfA Week Student Committee members:

- Gnanaharsha Beligatamulla
- Stefan Choo
- Sarah Johnstone
- Mehrmoosh Mirzael
- Linda Osborne
- Carla Sartori
- Gunawan Taduwidjaja
- Kamal Wasala

Special thanks to our photographers and videographers:

- Gnanaharsha Beligatamulla
- Anneke Bosserez
- Kyle Zenchyson



# DFA WEEK COMMITTEE

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**ANNEKE BOSSEREZ**

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Architecture and  
Arts, Hasselt University, Belgium

# TESTIMONIALS

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As an invited speaker for the symposium and a participant for the following two days, I send my congratulations for an excellent event. For me, it was a great pleasure to meet Jasmien Herssens and Megan Strickfaden as well as other speakers and participants to share experiences and ideas. I look forward to maintaining ongoing relationships with individuals and EIDD-DfA. Indeed, I am waiting to see the dates of the DfA Conference in Belgium next year with the hope that I can attend. Although I am not a designer in the professional sense, I found the program fascinating. It gave me the opportunity to expand my thinking and to see how designers work and create and challenge societal norms in pursuit of the aim we all working towards - a more inclusive world. Once again, my heartiest congratulations. I'd love to see this kind of event in Sydney. - **Jane, Chair, Centre for Universal Design Australia**

I went along to the DfA Symposium as someone working in the area of increasing and supporting people with disability in the workforce. The presentations opened my eyes to how impactful the concept and application of universal design would be to not only people with a disability, but in making environments accessible to all. My reflection on the sessions were around how passionate and dedicated the presenters were around progressive approaches to universal design. I was also touched and inspired by the young woman in the wheelchair and her speech and follow up video around the issue of toileting for her and others with health conditions requiring more accessible bathrooms. It was presented in such a powerful way, I went back to work to retell the story to all of my team. Well done to a fabulously engaging session! - **Allana, Australia, State Government**

The DFA Week was an inspiring event and wonderful opportunity for me. Especially, because we have limited expertise of DfA or Inclusive Design in Indonesia. Thanks for involving me in the program. Hope to join the next DfA in Belgium.  
- **Gunawan, Indonesia, Participant, PhD Student and Volunteer**



# CONTINUED

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I attended various activities during Design for All week and gained deep insights into designing with people with disabilities and a deeper knowledge of the lived experience of people with visual impairments. I attended the three-day Co-design workshop led by Dr Megan Strickfaden, Dr Janice Rieger and Dr Jasmien Herssens along with participants who were blind. The aim was to create a 3D tactile model to represent a beautiful surrealist landscape painting by artist Catherine Parker. It was fascinating to hear the views of the participants who were blind and it was a wonderful introduction to the embodied experience of creating a tactile model. I found the workshop to be a mindful, enriching, yet challenging experience. - **Ann, Australia, Participant**

As a legally blind audience member I was so impressed at the effort put into the Inclusive Movie Night. I have never been to an event where the content of the films were audibly described live! It was incredible to be in an audience where I could enjoy the evening at the same time as everybody else! I came with friends who were both sighted and non-sighted and their feedback was so positive. My friends who are blind or have low vision were also quite moved at how much attention was paid to making us feel included! This is not usual for us and we were so impressed and thankful that somebody did this for our community! As someone who did a bit of work behind the scenes for this event, I was so relieved that it was so well received and felt proud to be able to show the work involved not only to the blind / low vision community but to the sighted community as well! I am all for promoting awareness and it was elating to hear people who had never been exposed to audible description say in amazement "I had no idea" or "now I understand" and even better "that was cool!" - **Sarah, Australia, Participant**

I attended the DfA event at QUT with guest speakers and was hugely inspired (I've been telling people about tactile watches as an example of beautiful and functional design for all). - **Attendee, Brisbane City Government**

# IMPACT

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**DfA Symposium:**

8 April 2019

- 70 participants

**TouchABLE Imageries:**

8 April to 20 May 2019

- 60 participants at exhibition opening

**In Focus: Blind Photographers Challenge Visual Expectations:**

16 Feb to 28 April 2019

- 3699 total attendance
- 130 school age students

**EIDD-DfA Keynote Lectures and Exhibition:**

10 April 2019

- 71 participants

**International Inclusive Film Screening:**

12 April 2019

- 123 participants

**Co-Design Workshop and Design Jury:**

9 April to 11 April 2019

- 25 workshop participants
- 7 expert jury members

**Vis-ABILITY Exhibition:**

11 May to 4 August 2019

- 17 "Making Visible" workshops | 944 artworks made
- 5166 total attendance (average 60 attendees per day)
- 557 participants in public programs



# MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

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## **Vis-ability: Artworks from the QUT Art Collection**

Publisher: Issue, online, free

ISBN: 978-085856-010-9

Links: <http://www.artmuseum.qut.edu.au/whats-on/2019/vis-ability.php>

Links: [https://issuu.com/qutartmuseum/docs/vis-ability\\_catalogue](https://issuu.com/qutartmuseum/docs/vis-ability_catalogue)

<http://www.artmuseum.qut.edu.au/whats-on/2019/exchange-value.php>

## **Media for DfA Week and the Vis-ability exhibition:**

Extensive radio, print and digital coverage, including:

- Art Guide (national publication)
- ABC radio (national broadcast)
- RPH radio (2 radio programs, 1 for DfA Week and 1 for Vis-ability exhibition, national broadcasts)
- 4ZZZ radio
- Concrete playground
- National webinar presentation on inclusive exhibition design, featuring 'Vis-ability', with Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) on 18 July 2019
- Brisbane News
- Australian Newspaper (national newspaper)
- City News North
- Visit Brisbane
- Vision Australia
- QUT Media
- QUT Design Lab
- Faculty of Creative Industries Media
- Museum of Brisbane, BAD Week

# EXHIBITIONS

TouchABLE Imageries, Z9 Foyer, Creative industries Faculty  
Dates: April 8 - May 20, 2019

InFocus , QUT Art Museum  
Dates: February 16 - April 28

Vis-ability, QUT Art Museum  
Dates: 11 May – 4 August, 2019

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# REFERENCE

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Herssens, Jasmien, Strickfaden, Megan  
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