



TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART

Hilarie Mais, installation view, TarraWarra Museum of Art, 2018
Exhibition organised and toured by the Museum of Contemporary Art
Australia, supported by Red Energy
Photo: Andrew Curtis © the artist

Teacher's Notes

Hilarie Mais

Co-curated by Blair French and Manya Sellers

TarraWarra Museum of Art

24 February – 29 April 2018

Curriculum Links

This Education Resource is designed to complement the exhibition *Hilarie Mais*, and focus student visits to TarraWarra Museum of Art.

It can provide a stimulus for discussion in the classroom with material that can be adapted for all levels and abilities.

The Education Resource for *Hilarie Mais* includes teacher's notes, a short biography, images for discussion, quotes by the artist and others, and three sections which provide an opportunity to link to the Victorian Curriculum for year 7-10, VCE Art and Studio Arts.

The exhibition *Hilarie Mais* supports the Victorian Government education initiatives, Exploring and Expressing Ideas, Visual Arts Practices, Presenting and Performing and Responding and Interpreting in the Visual Arts, as well general capabilities including Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical and Intercultural Understanding, and Personal and Social Capabilities.

Hilarie Mais supports the VCE Art and Studio Arts curriculum with a focus on Introducing the Analytical Frameworks, Discussing Art, Studio Practice and Art Industry Contexts.

Introduction

Hilarie Mais is a Sydney-based artist who makes abstract constructions and paintings that explore geometric forms such as the grid and the circle. In these works, the structure of the grid is often merged with forms found in nature, in particular patterns underpinning biological growth.

Mais has always sought to personalise abstraction partly through emphasising the hand of the artist, so elements of her constructions such as the screws affixing the timber rods are visible and marks of a brush can often also be seen. Scale is equally important, directly relating to the artist's body and reach.

"I make all my work from beginning to completion – I do not use fabrication or have assistants involved – so there is a deep engagement, an emotional investment with the work in physical terms and in time, in the act of making. This intense relationship I feel imbues the work with presence. When a work is finished I feel quite bereft of the relationship and the intense intimacy."

- Hilarie Mais



Artist Bio

HILARIE MAIS

Born in England, Hilarie Mais has been working as an artist since the early 1970s and has lived in Sydney since 1981. Whilst she has exhibited extensively in Australia and internationally this is her first major solo museum exhibition. It brings together a selection of 20 artworks produced since Mais' last survey exhibition at the Drill Hall Gallery at the Australian National University in Canberra in 2004.

Curator Bios

BLAIR FRENCH

Blair French is Director, Curatorial and Digital at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. He was previously Executive Director at Artspace Visual Arts Centre, Sydney. French has developed solo exhibitions with a wide range of artists and has realised a number of major group exhibitions throughout his career.

His publications include many edited artist monographs and catalogues and he holds a PhD in art history and theory from the University of Sydney.

MANYA SELLERS

Manya Sellers is Assistant Curator, Collection at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. Since 2014 she has worked with numerous Australian artists on a range of exhibitions, commissions and events at MCA. She speaks and writes regularly on contemporary art.