

# Presentation Abstracts

(in order of program)

# revivify

2 0 1 6



**AI** P A I N T I N G S  
**CCM** S Y M P O S I U M

# revivify 2016

14<sup>th</sup> AICCM Paintings Special Interest Group Symposium

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

26 - 28 October 2016

# Charles Blackman in Queensland

Full presentation

## Anne Carter

Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art  
anne.carter@qagoma.qld.gov.au

This presentation explores Charles Blackman's painting materials by examining five paintings from the QAGOMA collection dated 1951 to 1961. This investigation confirms Blackman's predominant use of alkyd house paints and the occasional use of oil paint, nitrocellulose paint and other yet-to be identified paint types.

The earliest painting examined is (*Self-portrait in front of a boarding house, Spring Hill*), painted in 1951 while the Blackmans were staying in Brisbane. Charles and Barbara moved to Melbourne and were married in June 1951. In 1952 the Blackmans travelled north for the winter and QAGOMA owns two paintings from this time *Barnes Auto, Brisbane* and *City lights*, both 1952. Before they left Melbourne, art patron Sunday Reed presented Blackman with a leather plumber's bag filled with brushes and small tins of Dulux enamel paint, and its use in these paintings from 1952 is explored. The Alice in Wonderland pictures were painted by Blackman in Melbourne between 1955 and 1957 and the series was continued near Brisbane in 1957. *The Blue Alice*, 1956 in the QAGOMA collection is the first of the Alice in Wonderland series, and was one of five paintings sold at the original 1957 exhibition. Blackman describes changing his medium around 1952 to handmade paints, and this is explored through analysis. In June 1960, Blackman had a sell-out exhibition at the Johnstone Gallery in Brisbane. *The Bouquet*, 1961, was likely painted in Brisbane in January at their newly purchased St Lucia home before the Blackman's set sail to London to take up the Helena Rubenstein Travelling Scholarship on 2 February 1961.

Anne Carter has worked as Paintings Conservator at the Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane since 2000, undertaking the role of Head of Conservation from 2002-2006. Anne studied a Bachelor of Applied Science in Conservation of Cultural Materials (Paintings) at the University of Canberra (1996), after completing a Bachelor of Art (Art History) from the University of Queensland (1988) and a Diploma of Art (Illustration) from Queensland College of Art (1986). Anne undertook a two year internship at the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1997-9 where she studied the devarnishing of modern oil paintings. Her interests continue to include the conservation of modern and contemporary paintings, and she has most recently published on the materials of Ian Fairweather.