

Presentation Abstracts

(in order of program)

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14th AICCM Paintings Special Interest Group Symposium

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

26 - 28 October 2016

Valentine's Day massacre: the defacing of a Haring mural in Collingwood

Full presentation

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In 1984 American artist, Keith Haring, executed a large-scale mural on an external side-wall in Collingwood as a gift to the Collingwood Technical College, the community and the Melbourne Cultural scene. The work is significant as one of some 31 international public works by Haring that survive since the artist's death in 1990.

Following years of benign neglect located behind a locked gate, the area has since experienced increased gentrification and development. The site is now open to general foot traffic along Johnson St, Collingwood and is now shared with various arts communities including the major tenant Circus Oz.

In 2013 the entrance to the site was redeveloped by what was then Arts Victoria and a highly successful, major restoration project was undertaken by Antonio Rava, an Italian Mural Conservator. Since the restoration, and the new public access to the site, the Haring Mural has experienced several graffiti attacks. GCCMC has been engaged by Arts Victoria to remove the graffiti, which has involved an ongoing dialogue between all stakeholders, focusing on possible preventive solutions, including barriers, consolidants and coatings. This paper will discuss the research undertaken by GCCMC into the ongoing preservation of this public artwork.

Cushla Hill is Senior Paintings Conservator at The Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation and Sessional Paintings Lecturer in the Academic Program. She has worked as a Paintings Conservator for various Australasian National Institutions and has extensive experience in Private Conservation Consultancy. Cushla is a professional member of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials.

Cushla has delivered Conservation programs to the University of Canberra, University of Melbourne and Queens University, Ontario, Canada. Her areas of expertise are the Materials and Techniques of Paintings, Treatment Techniques, Preventive Conservation and the Conservation of Contemporary Art. Her research interests include the Materials and Techniques of early 20thC Melbourne artists from the VCA School, and Modernist & Contemporary Australasian Art.