



The Royal Australian Chemical Institute - Qld Branch Chemical Education Group

Presents

The 2019 O'Donnell Schools Lecture
"Art vs Science Chemistry"



Presented by: Dr Jeanette Stok
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The University of Queensland



Jeanette STOK, Inherited Borders (2017) Galvanised wire and wire mesh, detail.
Photo credit: Michelle Vine.

Abstract

Art and science are often perceived as incompatible and yet many of the processes and materials artists use rely on chemistry and chemical knowledge. From the pigments and glazes employed in traditional art forms such as painting and ceramics, to the materials developed for contemporary art installations, chemistry is fundamental to creating art. Additionally, many chemical techniques are also instrumental in analysing and protecting historical artworks in order to preserve them for posterity. This lecture will look at a number of contemporary artists and show how chemistry and chemical methods are integral to their arts practices. It will demonstrate how chemistry is just as important in creating art as it is in preserving it.

Biography

Dr. Jeanette Stok is both a practicing visual artist, in addition to a post-doctoral researcher and educator at the University of Queensland. She completed her PhD in Chemistry (2002) at the University of Queensland and received her BFA (Sculpture) from Queensland College of Art (2016). Over the last twenty years, she has been worked as a research scientist, in the field of enzymology, in laboratories that include the University of California, Davis and the University of Oxford. In 2016, she completed a Queensland Government AIRS residency at the Ecosciences Precinct in Brisbane where she had the opportunity to combined both fields to create science-based art.

—The O'Donnell Schools Lecture Series—

The RACI Schools Lecture series was introduced in 1980 by the Chemical Education Group of the Qld Branch of the RACI. At that time the Education Group was headed by Professor Jim O'Donnell, the resident Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Queensland. Sadly, Jim passed away in 1995, and the Schools Lecture Series has been subsequently renamed for him. The Lecture is open to students in Grade 11 and 12 studying chemistry/science, & students in Junior Secondary interested in studying chemistry/science to Grade 12 may also attend.

—Past RACI O'Donnell School Lecturers—

1980	Dr. Cliff Hawkins	UQ	1991	A/Prof. Richard Keene	JCU	2004	Dr Todd A Houston	GU
1981	Dr. Ernie Senogles	JCU	1992	Dr. David Druscovich	CQU	2006	Dr Murray Davies	JCU
1982	Dr. John Cross	DDCAE	1993	Dr. Peter Pomery	UQ	2008	E/Prof Graeme George AM	QUT
1983	Dr. Peter Hallman	QIT	1994	Dr. Carol Davis & Mrs. Rosemary Phillips	GU Stuartholme School	2011	Dr Lisbeth Grondahl & Miss Jorja Cork	UQ UQ
1984	Dr. Alan Knight	GU	1995	Dr. Neville Bofinger	QUT	2012	Dr Aaron Micallef	UQ
1985	Dr. Peter Lawson	CIAE	1996	Dr. Bruce Bowden	JCU	2013	Dr Sarah Cresswell	GU
1986	Dr. Malcolm McCamish	UQ	1997	Dr. Mark Holmes	CQU	2014	Dr Timothy Dargaville	QUT
1987	Dr. John Coll	JCU	1998	Dr. Geoff Barnes	UQ	2015	Dr George Vamvounis	JCU
1988	A/Prof. Ken Busfield	GU	1999	Dr. Chris Brown	GU	2016	Dr Wayde Martens	QUT
1989	Prof. Jim O'Donnell	UQ	2000	Dr. Steve Bottle	QUT	2017	Dr Elizabeth Krenske	UQ
1990	Prof. Richard Russell Mr. Bob Switzer	BU BU	2001	Dr. Ray Marshall	USQ	2018	Dr Andrew Pearson	GU
			2002	A/Prof. Graeme Hanson	UQ			

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