

# The University of Queensland

## UQ Art Museum

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### Return to Sender

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Return to Sender

The exhibition catalogue published to accompany the exhibition *Return to Sender*, which featured eleven artists who left Queensland in the late 1970s and early 1980s, largely in reaction to the political and cultural milieu of the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era.

The artists included **Barbara Campbell, Jeff Gibson, John Gillies** (a work made with **The Sydney Front**), **Ross Harley, Rosemary Laing, Lindy Lee, Fiona MacDonald, Tracey Moffatt, Robyn Stacey, Mark Titmarsh** and **Gary Warner**.

*Return to Sender* included major works loaned from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of South Australia, Griffith University, National Gallery of Australia, Newcastle Art Gallery, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Rockhampton Art Gallery and CQUniversity, with additional works loaned from private collections and the artists. Works from The University of Queensland Art Collection also featured.

While the exhibition was inspired by the exodus from Queensland in the late 1970s and early 1980s, it also invited a focus on ideas that were then circulating in Australian art, especially in Sydney, where many of the artists were subsequently based. The works in *Return to Sender* were made in the 1980s and early 1990s, and primarily comprise photography and other forms of photomedia, including video and Super 8 film; and performance-based video.

The publication includes reproductions of all the artworks exhibited in *Return to Sender* and includes a list of works, short artist and author biographies, and a timeline for the Queensland years.

Essays have been contributed by **Professor Ross Gibson** (Sydney College of the Arts, The

University of Sydney), **Associate Professor Rex Butler** (UQ), **Dr Martyn Jolly** (ANU School of Art, Australian National University) and exhibition curator **Michele Helmrich** (UQ Art Museum). Both Ross Gibson and Martyn Jolly were part of the Queensland diaspora.

Exhibition dates: 16 June – 26 August 2012

Authors: Rex Butler, Ross Gibson, Michele Helmrich and Martyn Jolly

Editor: Michele Helmrich

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Order [here](#)

## Exhibition

View the exhibition Return to Sender [here](#)



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