

**VIRGINIA COVENTRY**

**b. 1942, Melbourne**

**EDUCATION**

1967-68 Post-graduate studies (Painting) Slade School of Fine Art, University College, London  
1960-64 Dip. Fine Art (Painting) RMIT, Melbourne

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2020 *Sudden Light*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
2017 *Open Air*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, Sydney  
2016 *From then til Now*, Charles Nodrum Gallery, Richmond, Victoria  
2015 *Squares Floating* Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
2013 *Head over Heels* (2013) exhibited in a project at The Drill Hall Gallery, ANU, Canberra  
2012 Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
2010 Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
2008 Silvershot Gallery, Melbourne  
2007 *In Place*, Tin Sheds Gallery, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, The University of Sydney  
2006 Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra  
2005 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
2004 *The Light of Open Spaces: A Survey of Virginia Coventry's Work*, The Drill Hall Gallery, ANU, Canberra, Curated by Terence Maloon  
2003 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
2002 Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra  
2001 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
1998 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
1997 AGOG, Canberra  
1995 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
1993 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
1992 La Trobe Valley Arts Centre, Morwell  
1991 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Powerhouse Museum, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney  
1989 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
1986 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
1982 Art Projects, Melbourne  
1980 Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Art Projects, Melbourne  
Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane  
1979 Art Projects, Melbourne  
1977 Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2022 *Novus concordia*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
2014 *The Democracy of Drawing*, AirSpace Projects, Sydney  
*The road: photographers on the move 1970-85*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne  
*Feminism 1965-85: feminist photography in Australia*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne  
2013 *LSG2013*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
2012 *2 x 2*, Adelaide Central Gallery, Adelaide School of Art, Adelaide  
*Less is More – More is Less*, Shoalhaven City Arts Centre, Nowra

2011 *Abstraction*, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra

2010 *Black is The Colour*, Shoalhaven City Arts Centre, Nowra

2009 *Summer Exhibition*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney  
*The Sulman Prize*; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

2007 *Into Abstract*; Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor

2004 *The Sulman Prize*; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
*Good Looking: Narrative Photographs Past and Present*; The Ian Potter Centre,  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

2003 *Redlands Westpac Art Prize*; Mosman City Gallery, Sydney

2001 *Abstraction*; Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney  
*The 31st Alice Prize*; The Araluen Centre, Alice Springs

1999 *25th Anniversary Exhibition*; Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney  
*Shifting Currents*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW  
*Triptych*; Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra

1998 *Graphic*; Monash University Gallery, Melbourne  
*Co-existence* (in association with Artists Against Racism); Hogarth Galleries, Sydney  
and University of Wollongong

1997 *Sextet*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW

1996 *Women at Watters: 1964-1994*; Watters Gallery, Sydney  
*Interlude*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW  
*Up, Down and Across*; Campbelltown City Art Gallery

1994 *Drawing on Inspiration*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW  
*The 19th Annual Fremantle Print Award*; Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle  
*A Hundred Years*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW

1993 *Virtu*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW  
*Nuclear (R)age*; Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne

1992 *Manu et Mente*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW

1991 *At Least its Gone to a Good Home* (in association with Dissonance—Aspects of  
Feminism and the Arts); The Tin Sheds, the University of Sydney

1990 *40 Artists - 40 Works*; Watters Gallery, Sydney  
*Acquisitions 1984-90: A Collection of Australian Contemporary Art*; University Art  
Museum, The University of Queensland

1989 *Australian Artists Books: The Eighties*; Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra  
*A Touch of Black*; Watters Gallery, Sydney  
*Portrait of a Gallery—Watters Gallery 25 years*; Watters Gallery, Sydney

1988 *Structures of Necessity*; First Draft, Sydney  
*Towers of Torture*; The Tin Sheds Gallery, The University of Sydney

1987 *In Print: Vol 1. Artists Books*; Power Gallery of Contemporary Art, The University

1986 *Big Pictures: Australian Photography 1975-1985*; Australian National Gallery at  
The Drill Hall, ANU, Canberra

1984 *The Centre—Works on Paper by Contemporary Australian Artists*; Art Gallery of  
South Australia  
*Symbols, Emblems and Signatures*; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth,  
New Zealand, in association with the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

1983 *Continuum '83*; Gallery Lunami, Tokyo  
*Attitudes to Drawing*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, City Art Institute, Sydney

1982 *Eureka!: Artists from Australia*; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London

1981 *Landscape—Art; two way reaction*, Australian National Gallery at Melville Hall, Canberra  
*Landscape (Some Interpretations)*; Tasmanian School of Art Gallery,

- University Tasmania
- 1980 *Self Portrait/Self Image*; Victoria College of the Arts, Melbourne and the Gallery Directors' Council of Australia traveling exhibition 1980-81
- 1979 *Frame of Reference*; Ewing and George Paton Galleries, The University of Melbourne  
*Photographs*; Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Alexander Mackie C.A.E., Sydney  
*Biennale of Sydney: European Dialogue*; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1978 *Six Series*; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
*The Map Show*; Ewing and George Paton Galleries, Melbourne University
- 1977 *The Women's Show*; Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide  
*Whyalla—Not a Document* (as work in progress); Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide
- 1976 *A survey of Post-object Art in Australia and New Zealand*; Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide  
*Drawing: Some Definitions*; Ewing and George Paton Galleries, The University of Melbourne  
Photographic documentation of *Standing, Lying, Walking and Talking* (Stuart Brisley) for the Biennale of Sydney; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
*Ten Viewpoints*; Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney
- 1975 *Three Women Photographers*; Ewing and George Paton Galleries, The University of Melbourne
- 1974 *International Women's Day Festival*; Exhibition Gardens, Melbourne
- 1969 *Click*, (inflatable structure/walk-through projection space); National Universities Arts Festival, University of Melbourne  
*Slade Postgraduate Show*; University College, London

## AWARDS

- 2013 Inaugural Recipient, City of Kogarah Art Prize 2013, New South Wales (acquisitive)
- 2005 Visual Arts and Craft Strategy New Work Grant, Australia Council
- 1999 Art Gallery of New South Wales Paris Studio (July - September 2000)  
Development Grant; Visual Arts/Crafts Fund, Australia Council
- 1994 Faculty Research Grant; College of Fine Arts, UNSW
- 1992 Faculty Research Grant; College of Fine Arts, UNSW
- 1989 Academic Professional Development Leave; research for solo exhibition
- 1988 Half Standard Grant; Visual Arts and Craft Board, Australia Council
- 1986 Academic Professional Development Leave; research in Italy, France and Germany
- 1983 Project Grant; Visual Arts Board, Australia Council
- 1981 Academic Professional Development Leave; research for *The Critical Distance* project
- 1977 Overseas Travel Grant; Visual Arts Board, Australia Council

## STATEMENTS & WRITINGS BY THE ARTIST

- Drawing: Some Definitions* (catalogue); Ewing and George Paton Galleries, The University of Melbourne, 1977
- Six Series* (catalogue); National Gallery of Victoria, 1978
- European Dialogue—Biennale of Sydney*, (catalogue); Art Gallery of NSW, 1979
- Lip* (1978/79), Melbourne, 1979; *From the Ground Up* (Photographs, text)
- Frame of Reference* (catalogue); Ewing and George Paton Galleries, The University of Melbourne, 1980
- Eureka!: Artists from Australia* (catalogue); ICA, London, 1982

*Continuum '83* (catalogue); Tokyo, 1983  
*The Centre - Works on Paper by Contemporary Australian Artists* (catalogue); Art Gallery of South Australia, 1984  
*The Critical Distance: Work with Politics/Photography/Writing*; Hale and Iremonger, Sydney 1986 (introductory essay)  
*Structures of Necessity* (catalogue); First Draft, Sydney, 1988  
*Manu et Mente* (catalogue); Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UNSW 1992  
*Up, Down and Across* (catalogue) Campbelltown City Art Gallery 1995  
*Graphic* (catalogue); Monash University Gallery, Melbourne 1998  
*Soundings* (catalogue), Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra 2002  
*The Light of Open Spaces*, (catalogue), Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, 2004  
*In Place*, (catalogue), Tin Sheds Gallery, The University of Sydney, 2007  
*ABSTRACTION Artist Interviews*, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, 2011

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Annear, Judy, *Frame of Reference*, George Paton Gallery, Melbourne University Union, Parkville, 1980  
Best, Susan, 'Colour, Composition and Non-composition: New work by Virginia Coventry' (catalogue essay) Liverpool Street Gallery, September, 2010  
Burke, Janine, *Self Portrait / Self Image*, Australian Gallery Directors' Council, 1980  
Burke, Janine, *Field of Vision: A Decade of Change - Women's Art in the Seventies*, Viking/Penguin Australia, 1990  
Carroll, Alison, *The Centre - Works on Paper by Contemporary Australian Artists*, Art Gallery of South Australia  
Douglas, Tim, 'A century of being driven to abstraction', *The Australian*, 1 September 2011  
Drury, Neville, *New Art Two: New Directions in Contemporary Australian Art*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1988  
Ennis, Helen, *Big Pictures: Australian Photography 1975-1985*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 1986  
Ennis, Helen, 'The 1970's and Now', *Afterimage*, September 1986  
Fitzgerald, Michael, Open Gallery, *Spectrum, Sydney Morning Herald*, 20-21 October 2012  
Frost, Andrew, 'Driven to abstraction', Metro Art, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 24-30 September 2010  
Frost, Andrew, *The Art Life*, 5 October 2010 <http://theartlife.com.au/2012/virginia-coventry-2012/>  
Grishin, Sasha, *The Canberra Times*, 12 August 1997  
Grishin, Sasha, *The Canberra Times*, 18 September 2002  
Ewington, Julie, *Eyeline*, issue # 8, March 1989  
Grace, Helen, 'Against 'Social Concern'', *Art Network*, issue # 3, January 1982  
James, Bruce, *The Australian*, 12 September 1997  
Lynn, Elwyn, *The Australian*, 3-4 June 1986  
MacIntyre, Arthur, *Australian Contemporary Drawing*, Boolarong Publications, Sydney 1988  
Mendelssohn, Joanna, *The Australian*, 4 August 1995  
Maloon, Terence, *The Weaving of Hands; Tony Tuckson at 75*, *Art and Australia* Vol. 3, # 33, April 1996, pp. 348, 352  
Maloon, Terence, *The Light of Open Spaces—a survey of Virginia Coventry's work*; ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra 2004  
Maloon, Terence, 'Echolocation'; *In Place*, Tin Sheds Gallery, Faculty of Architecture, The University of Sydney, 2007  
Maloon, Terence, *Abstraction*, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, 2011  
McDonald, John, 'Lines of thought', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 September, 2011  
McKenzie, Helen, 'Program Highlights at Liverpool Street Gallery', *Art Collector*, Issue 70, Oct-Dec 2014  
Moore, Catriona, *Indecent Exposures: Twenty Years of Australian Feminist Photography*;

Allen and Unwin, Sydney 1994, pp. 101,102  
Morris, Meaghan *Critical Reflections*; Artforum April 1992, p. 79  
Mudie Cunningham, Daniel, 'Artnotes NSW', *Art Monthly*, #221, July 2009 p. 58  
Murphy, Bernice, *Australian Perspecta 1981*; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney 1981  
Nelson, Robert, *The Age*, 5 November 2014  
O'Sullivan, Jane, 'NSW Wrap', *Art Collector*, Issue 53, Jul-Sept 2010  
Phipps, Jennifer *Symbols, Emblems, Signatures - Australian Drawings 1984*; Govett - Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand 1984  
Rooney, Robert, *The Australian*, 31 July 1998  
Stanhope, Zara, *Graphic*; Monash University Gallery, Melbourne 1998  
Rhodes, Kate, *Good Looking: Narrative Photographs Past and Present*; The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia, Melbourne 2004  
Walton, Natalie, "Virginia Coventry", *Daily Imprint*, 30 September 2010  
<http://www.dailyimprint.net/2010/09/artist-virginia-coventry.html>

## COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
Centre for Contemporary Art, Hamilton, New Zealand  
College of Fine Arts, The University of New South Wales, Sydney  
Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
The Powerhouse Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney  
The University of Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
Alan Cleary Collection, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Windsor  
M G Dingle and G B Hughes Collection  
Shoalhaven City Arts Centre, Nowra  
City of Kogarah Cultural Centre, Kogarah

Private collections in Australia and overseas