Virtual Encounters
09.07.2010-01.09.2010 - Virtual Encounters: Paula Dawson - Holograms

Ann, 2008,
laminated hologram edition 3/3
80.0 x 107.0 cm
Commissioned Newcastle Region Art Gallery, 2008
Macquarie University Collection
Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Paula Dawson, 2010
Photography Dean Beletich

Memory Theatre 1
1987
pseudo-colour rainbow hologram
Plate size 30.0 x 40.0 cm
Photography Terence Bogue
Scan Effy Alexakis

Luminous presence
2007
digital holographic stereogram
95.0 x150.0 cm
Collection of the artist
Photography Oliver Strewe

9 July - 1 September 2010
Virtual Encounters is a major exhibition of works by internationally acclaimed artist, Paula Dawson. The exhibition, rarely seen on public display, offers the public a unique opportunity to engage with the symbiotic relationship between art and science through Dawson's striking and haunting holograms. More than just a showcase of science meeting art, Virtual Encounters is a beautiful and interactive experience for all audiences.

The exhibition is a major event within Macquarie University's Laserfest Sydney commemorating 50 years of laser technology. It embraces holography as a significant force in visual art practice to enhance our experience of time, memory and the everyday presence of living. It explores the way technology and advanced systems of communication have altered our understanding of 'presence' in real time and space. In turn, Dawson's practice is informed by ongoing developments in new technology that can transfer presence across time and space.

A highlight of the exhibition will be Dawson's seminal piece To Absent Friends, 1988 on display for the first time. To Absent Friends is the largest hologram ever produced, showing the greatest depth of field on an international scale. To Absent Friends is the recreation of a bar restaurant that represents a complex theatre of memory of what happens over time at a New Year's Eve Party.

Virtual Encounters is a partnership exhibition between the Macquarie University Art Gallery and Newcastle Region Art Gallery.

Newcastle exhibition: 11 September - 7 November 2010

More details about Laserfest activities worldwide

Virtual Encounters: Paula Dawson - Holograms is

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Installation view of Virtual Encounters: Paula Dawson - Holograms
Photography Effy Alexakis PHOTOWRITE