

Victoria Reichelt

Future Ruins

6 – 31 October 2015

Queensland artist Victoria Reichelt has exhibited extensively nationally and locally since 2001. Her skillfully crafted paintings are studies in precision and investigate society's shift from the analogue to digital.

In her upcoming exhibition, *Future Ruins*, she considers the abandoned, haunting interiors of library and archive spaces, as a way of looking at our most recent past and thinking about our digital future. Her sensitive treatment of these soon to be defunct spaces highlights the rapid shifts brought about by technological advances.

Historically, the ruin has represented a remnant and repository of past knowledge and as we witness the decline of the traditional physical archive as the keeper of history (in favour of the digital), these paintings explore the aesthetics of abandonment. As library and archive spaces morph into burgeoning hubs of new media, their abandoned back rooms remind us that the ruins of the future will not offer the picturesque decay of romantic crumbling walls. Instead, the modern ruin will be a stark and silent place of grey concrete corridors, where even the intensity of industrial colour will vanish into darkness and decline.

Reduced to their most bare and lifeless forms, these future ruins offer an opportunity to speculate about the fate of materiality. Spaces to contemplate what traces and residues will remain when human imagination, creativity and knowledge is captured in ways bereft of physical tangibility.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Reichelt's work is highly recognised and she has received numerous awards, including the Sulman Prize in 2013. Her work has been in exhibitions at Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation and at Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA). It is included in collections both nationally and internationally, including Artbank, QAGOMA, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Rockhampton Art Gallery, University of Wollongong and Deakin University.