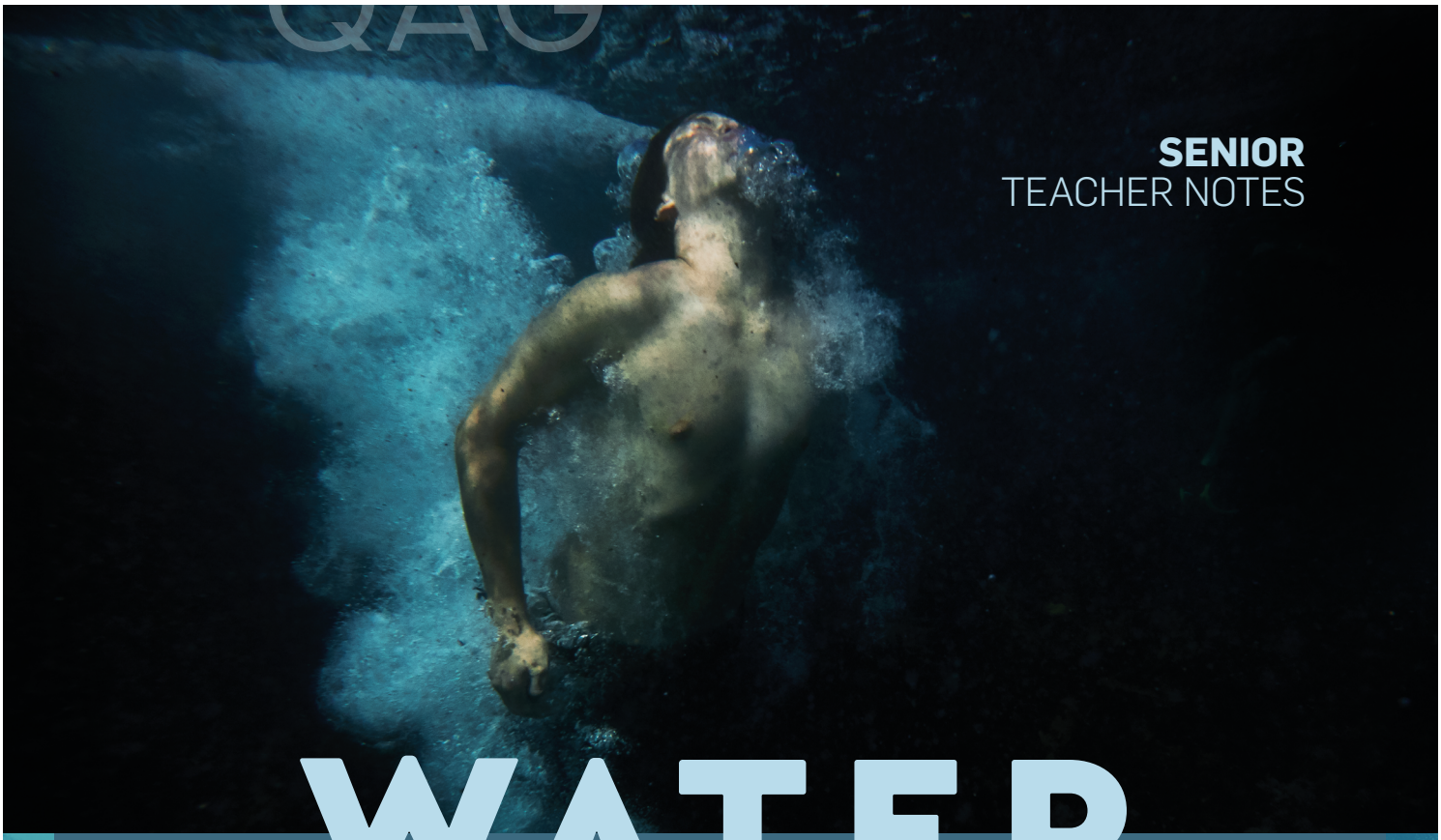


SENIOR
TEACHER NOTES

WATER

About the exhibition

Water, in all its states, is one of our planet's most vital elements. It sustains our bodies and connects all life. This exhibition engages with some of the most challenging water-related problems of our time, and reveals the role water plays in our everyday lives. Drawing together major installations and smaller, quieter works by international and Australian artists, 'Water' offers global perspectives on local concerns.

About the resource

'Water' draws attention to the challenges of climate change and sustainability that are affecting our world. By engaging with this exhibition, students will:

- consider how water connects people and places, and how this is represented in the images and objects artists use
- explore the perspectives of international and Australian artists with diverse art practices and reflect on how these might better inform their own world views
- and consider what knowledge and understanding artworks can convey, and reflect on the capacity of art to turn ideas into action.

Students can analyse works through the personal, contemporary, cultural and formal contexts using the questions provided below. The **QAGOMA Learning Online Collection** features additional information about selected artworks, as well as questions for further discussion and ideas for responding activities that teachers can adapt to suit their students.

Art as Lens

Consider the forms and meanings the subject of water takes when viewed through the lens of multiple artists, analysing and interpreting their artworks and art practices through the personal and contemporary context.

Personal

How do artists communicate influences on their life and experiences?

How do artists generate ideas from their own experiences, imagination or memories?

How do artists create sensory experiences to generate emotional responses for the viewer?

How do artists connect with viewers' experiences and/or expectations to construct meaning?

Contemporary

How do artists challenge ideas of the past?

How do artists use materials, technologies or approaches to affect the audience's experience?

How do artists provoke discussion about twenty-first-century issues?

How do artists employ imagery and/or display techniques to challenge aesthetic traditions?

Art as Knowledge

Investigate through the contexts how artists used cultural knowledge or knowledge from other disciplines and areas of interest to inform their art practice and produce personal responses to the same stimulus – water.

Cultural

How do artists reflect community interests through social commentary?

How do artists respond to cultural influences?

How do artists explore cultural traditions?

How do artists respond to influences of art movements, styles and origins of time and place?

Formal

How do artists employ specific art elements and principles to communicate meaning?

How do artists enhance the interpretation of the artwork through processes, materials and media?

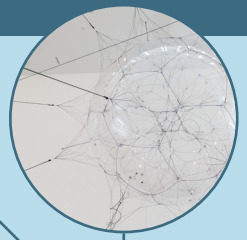
How do artists communicate intentions using symbols, motifs or signs?

How do artists share characteristics with art movements, times, places or events?

WATER

LEARNING RESOURCE
FLOORPLAN

Rivane Neuenschwander
Contingent 2008



Tomás Saraceno
Biosphere 2009

Olafur Eliasson
Riverbed 2014

William Forsythe
The Fact of Matter 2009

Megan Cope
RE FORMATION 2019

David Medalla
Cloud Canyons No. 25 1963/2015

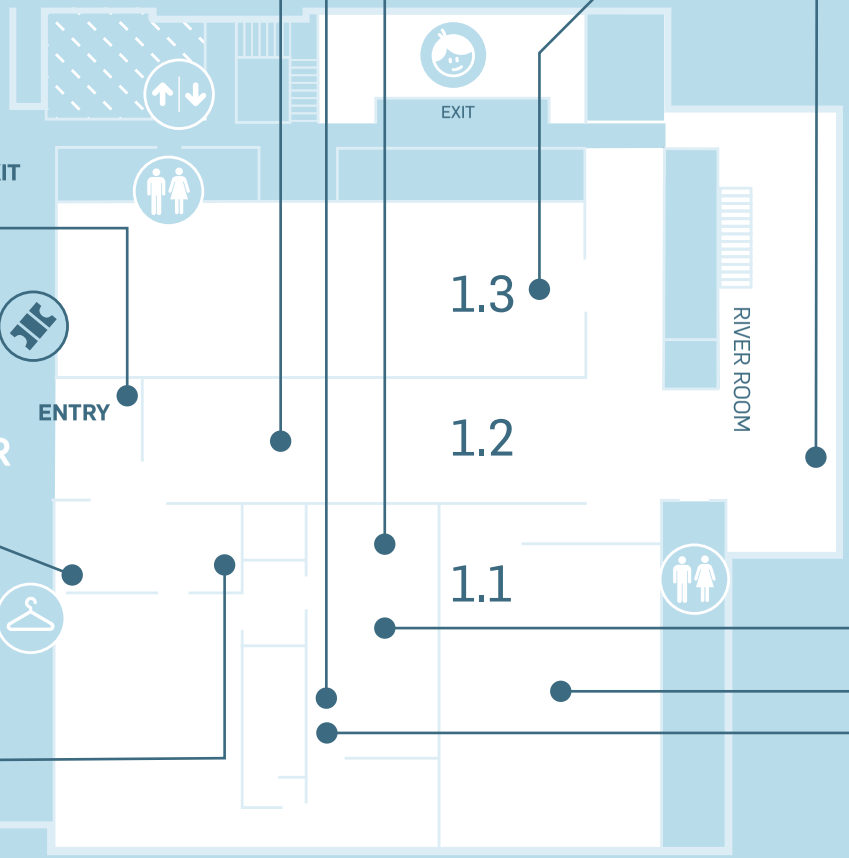
Angela Tiatia
Holding on 2015

Peter Fischli and David Weiss
Snowman
1987/2017–19

Wukun Wanambi
larrakitj, larrakitj, and wawurritjpal (larrakitj) 2017

Cai Guo-Qiang
Heritage 2013

Charwei Tsai
Circle 2009



Resources

QAGOMA Learning Online Collection

learning.qagoma.qld.gov.au

Curriculum

Queensland Visual Art General Senior Syllabus

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/senior-subjects/the-arts/visual-art

Additional Resources

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA). *Water* [exhibition catalogue], QAGOMA, Brisbane, 2019.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals

Captions

Unless otherwise stated, all artworks © The artists.

Paul Blackmore / Australia b.1968 / *Heat 1* (from 'Heat' series) 2018, printed 2019 / Archival inkjet print / Courtesy: The artist | **William Forsythe** / United States b.1949 / *The Fact of Matter* 2009 / Polycarbonate rings, polyester belts, and steel rigging / Courtesy: The artist, Gagosian Gallery, New York, Forsythe Productions, Berlin / © The artist and Gagosian Gallery, New York | **Megan Cope** / Quandamooka people, Australia b.1982 / *RE FORMATION* 2019 / cast-concrete oyster shells, copper slag / Purchased 2019 with funds from the Contemporary Patrons through the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA | **David Medalla** / The Philippines/ United Kingdom b.1942 / *Cloud Canyons No.25* 1963/2015 / Plexiglass tubing, motor pumps, porous stones, wood, water, detergent / Purchased 2014. Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA | **Angela Tiatia** / New Zealand/Samoa/Australia b.1973 / *Holding On* 2015 / Single-channel high definition video, 16:9, colour, sound, 12:11 minutes / Courtesy: The artist and Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney | **Rivane Neuenschwander** / Brazil b.1967 / *Contingent* 2008 / Digital Betacam, DVD and Quicktime file on media player: 10:30 minutes, colour, silent / Purchased 2008. Queensland Art Gallery Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA | **Tomás Saraceno** / Argentina b.1973 / *Biosphere* 2009 / PVC, rope, nylon monofilament, acrylic, air pressure regulator system / Purchased 2014 with funds from Tim Fairfax AC through the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA / Photograph: Natasha Harth, QAGOMA | **Olafur Eliasson** / Denmark/Iceland b.1967 / *Riverbed* 2014 / Water, rock (volcanic stones [blue basalt, basalt, lava], other stones, gravel, sand), wood, steel, plastic sheeting, hose, pumps / Courtesy: The artist; neugerriemschneider, Berlin; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York/Los Angeles / Photograph: Anders Sune Berg | **Peter Fischli** and **David Weiss** / Switzerland b.1952 and 1946–2012 / *Snowman* 1987/2017–19 / Ice sculpture in refrigerated vitrine, ed. of 2 with 2 AP, AP 2/2 / Purchased 2019 with funds from Tim Fairfax AC through the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA / Image courtesy: Peter Fischli and Sprüth Magers, Berlin/London/Los Angeles; Matthew Marks, New York/Los Angeles; Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zürich | **Wukun Wanambi** / Marrakulu, Dhurili people, Australia b.1962 / *Larrakitj* 2017 / Wood with white clay pigment; *Larrakitj* 2017 / Wood with white clay pigment; and *Wawurritjpal (Larrakitj)* 2017 / Wood with natural pigment / Purchased 2017 with funds from Pamela, Michael and Jane Barnett through the Queensland Art Gallery l Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA | **Cai Guo-Qiang** / China/United States b.1957 / *Heritage* 2013 / 45 (from 99) life-sized replicas of animals: polystyrene, gauze, resin and hide / Installed dimensions variable / Commissioned 2013 with funds from the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Diversity Foundation through and with the assistance of the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA / Photograph: Natasha Harth, QAGOMA | **Charwei Tsai** / Taiwan b.1980 / *Circle* 2009 / Digital video, Quicktime file, 4:3: colour, sound, 40 seconds / Purchased 2010 with funds from the Bequest of Grace Davies and Nell Davies through the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA

Publisher

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This resource has been developed by QAGOMA Learning staff, Geraldine Kirrihi Barlow, Curatorial Manager, International Art, QAGOMA, and the QAGOMA Learning Teacher Advisory Group 2019.

Acknowledgment of Country

The Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land upon which the Gallery stands in Brisbane. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders past and present and, in the spirit of reconciliation, acknowledge the immense creative contribution Indigenous people make to the art and culture of this country.

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