



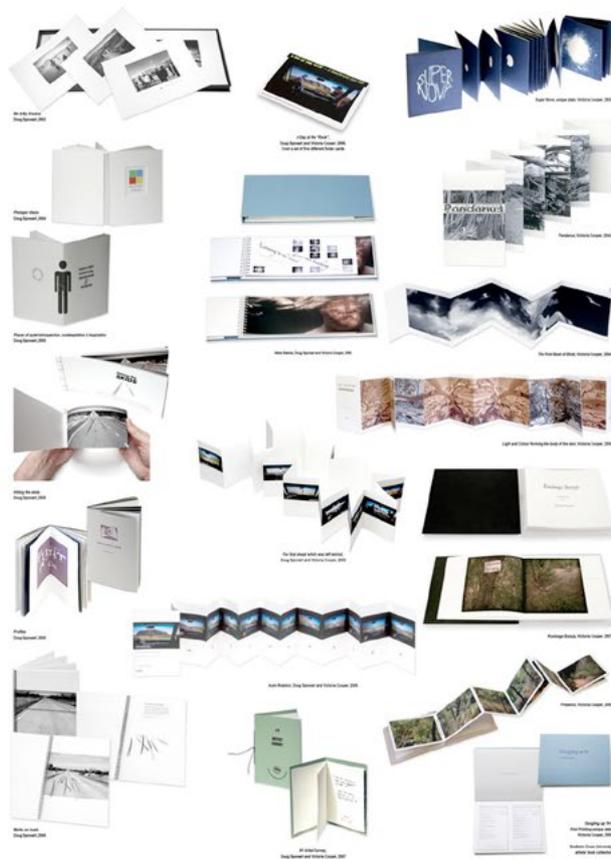
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November 26, 2022

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



For around 40 years Victoria Cooper and Doug Spowart produced numerous artists books and photobooks both as individuals and in collaboration.

They have a deep affinity with all forms of the book and visual reading. Through this medium they continue to experiment and explore the photographic and poetic narrative potential of books.

Their work has been acquired for the artists' books, rare book and manuscript collections in many private, regional and state public galleries, national and international collections including the British Library. Both Cooper and Spowart have judged photobook awards, presented lectures and contributed to photobook review panels in Australia.

Ten years ago they completed individual PhD studies in photography, photobooks and artists books. Since their academic studies, they have received individual Siganto Research Fellowships at the Australian Library of Art, State Library of Queensland to research aspects of this seminal artists books collection.

They have published and presented papers on the contemporary photobook and artists' books at national and international forums. Doug's research on Australian and New Zealand Photobooks was featured at the Vienna Photobook Festival and recently he has completed the curation of a collection of ANZ photobooks to be included alongside the Martin Parr collection at Tate Britain.

Doug and Victoria actively maintain the Blog www.wotwedid.com to document their activities. They also promote Australian and New Zealand Photobooks through the Antipodean Photobook Blog.



www.wotwedid.com



www.theantipodeanphotobook.com



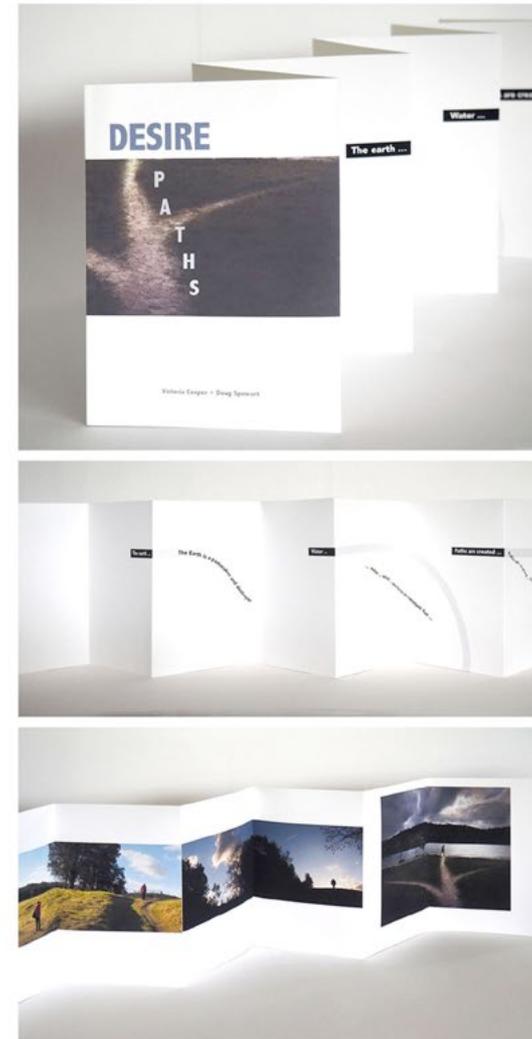
EXHIBITIONS + AWARDS + COLLECTIONS

EXHIBITED: H-O-M-E Collaborative exhibition
Gallery on Ovens, Wangaratta

FINALIST: The LIBRIS AWARDS
Artspace Mackay

The MULLINS CONCEPTUAL
PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE
Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery

COLLECTED: STATE LIBRARY of QUEENSLAND



DESIRE PATHS: Navigating the path

The second book in the series

In the dynamic ecosystem of land air and water, all things find their desired pathway from one place to another. Whether they are Desire Paths or Desire Lines they exist as physical and psychological interventions. They inform the flow of and directions in everyday life in response to seen or perceived obstacles. There is innate desire to navigate the best path to the destination.

Our artistic process is also defined by the desire to discover new paths around the traditional norms. Over time these new paths become alternative solutions to the ultimate desired outcome. We are also interested in the reading of books as an act not directed by us the maker but by the readers desire to find their way through the narrative. All these paths or lines are the existential experience and representation of desire.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Date: February 2022

Media: Archival inkjet inks on Epson Watercolour paper

Book Format: concertina book

Page Number: unpaginated

Edition: Unique State

Designer and Concept: Cooper + Spowart

Book Construction: Concertina book binding and printing by Doug Spowart

Dimensions (cm): 20.0 x 14.0 x 1.8cm, size variable extending up to 602 cm

DESIRE PATHS



VICTORIA COOPER + DOUG SPOWART

A detail of the concertina book

DESIRE PATHS: Stepping off the concrete

The third book in the series

Desire Paths is based on our ongoing work to locate ourselves in Place and Land as a shared and more-than-human space. In this exploration of the concept we embark on a journey that inhabits new directions and spaces. Beyond the concrete we meander and traverse the unknown, sometimes challenged by our choices of path, while also experiencing the freedom to be.

Desire Paths also relates to our book making process as a set of turns. The peaks and valleys of the concertina format provides dimension and space for the journey from many perspectives of reading: sometimes leading to dead ends but always seeking to arrive at a different conclusion.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Concept & Design: Cooper + Spowart

Images and words: Cooper + Spowart

Printing & assembly: Spowart

Date: November 2022

Media: Archival inks on Epson Radiant White Watercolour paper

Book Format: concertina book in folder

Page Number: unpaginated

This Edition: Artists proof

Dimensions (cm): 20.0 x 14.0 x 1.0cm,
size variable extending up to 352 cm

This Edition: Artists Proof

Images from journies in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.

Created and printed on Bpangerang Country, Benalla Victoria, AUSTRALIA



EXHIBITIONS

SUMMER SALON 2022
Centre for Contemporary
Photography, Melbourne

ABBE Artists Book & Print Fair
Queensland College of Art
Webb Centre
Griffith University
South Brisbane

WALKING URBAN GROUND By Doug Spowart

This book is about walking with Victoria Cooper in the place where we live.

While my walks with Vicky are for exercise, they are also an exploration of the streets, homes and spaces of my suburb.

During these walks I witness the changing seasons, varied architectural forms, garden features and the idiosyncratic things that homeowners create in their suburban environments.

In this photobook I explore, through visual play using the juxtaposition of selected image fragments, the creation of a joyful representation of where I live.

Photographed on Bpangerang Country in regional Victoria. The book was realised and printed on Gumbaynggirr Country, Wooli, NSW, Australia.

EXHIBITIONS

H-O-M-E Collaborative exhibition
Gallery on Ovens, Wangaratta

ABBE Artists Book & Print Fair
Queensland College of Art
Webb Centre
Griffith University
South Brisbane



BOOK DESCRIPTION

Concept & Design: Doug Spowart

Images and words: Doug Spowart

Printing & assembly: Doug Spowart

Date: May 2022

Media: Archival inks on Epson Matte paper

Book Format: Codex

Page Number: unpaginated

This Edition: Artists proof

Dimensions (cm): 20.0 x 14.5 x .5

This Edition: Artists Proof

VISUAL FIELD NOTES: Trees & Grasses of the North East By Victoria Cooper

We arrived in Benalla during one of the long Covid 19 lockdowns of Victoria. We emerged from our mandatory two-week home quarantine to find ourselves under a state wide travel restriction to residents of only 5kms from their homes. So walking became our way of exploring our new locality.

On these walks, and later on longer journeys, I was captivated by the remnants of natural environment at the edge of the suburban spaces, roadsides and bushland. Here in the North East the trees tower like epic monuments to a pre-colonial history, the grasses cover the ground in a visual chaos of light and texture.

The Visual Field Notes are momentary glimpses and spatial fragments of these explorations. The making of this book begins a process that over time creates a deeper knowledge and knowing of and connection to Place. This and future Visual Fields Notes will form a record where I contemplate and question my place in the philosophical context of Being-in-the-world.



BOOK DESCRIPTION

Concept & Design: Victoria Cooper

Images and words: Victoria Cooper

Printing & assembly: Cooper+Spowart

Date: May 2022

Media: Archival inks on Epson Matte paper

Book Format: Codex

Page Number: unpaginated

This Edition: Artists proof

Dimensions (cm): 20.0 x 14.5 x .5

This Edition: Artists Proof

EXHIBITIONS

H-O-M-E Collaborative exhibition
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Griffith University
South Brisbane



THE CENTRE FOR REGIONAL ARTS PRACTICE* and C.R.A.P.

For around 25 years we have operated an art practice in regional Australia. Previously we lived and worked in Brisbane – a place that in many ways could also be considered in a ‘regional’ context.

During a residency at the Bundanon Trust in 2007, we had the time to consider our place as regional artists. Our conversations around these issues inspired us to establish the Centre for Regional Arts Practice, (acronym C.R.A.P.) and, as artists’ book makers, we saw the opportunity to produce a democratic multiple to present our perspective on the regional artist experience and to develop C.R.A.P. manifestoes.



*EXCERPT PUBLISHED FROM: <https://remix.org.au/>

We produced little handmade books in the form of a survey that asked the reader to identify with the issues of being a regional artist. The Artists Surveys are produced in A5 sized codex format mainly in editions of 25 with 5 artist’s proofs.

The C.R.A.P. books were initially made with hand-set rubber letter texts onto art papers sourced from the seconds or damaged sale tables in local art supply shops. Later editions utilised digital output or desktop inkjet printing technologies and recycled or repurposed materials from other sources.

The books draw upon humour and irony of the prosaic routines and events encountered in the life of a regional artist.

Each Survey book was made in response to different concerns or events, for example: Swine Flu; Global Financial Crisis; Extractive Mining Industries; ant infestations of art studio; flood events and collaborative productions with a regional artist living in Thailand, a group of regional artists in Northern NSW and one of an event with Toowoomba artists.

Over the last fifteen years, C.R.A.P. and its Artists Survey books have become a vehicle for highlighting, critiquing and questioning many issues both local and global affecting regional artists.

Victoria Cooper + Doug Spowart
Founders: Centre for Regional Arts Practice

COLLECTIONS

Many public collections including:
State Library of Queensland
State Library of Victoria
National Library of Australia
Fryer Library, University of Queensland
Southern Cross University Library

Numerous private collections

Around 400 copies of the 23 editions are currently in circulation in Australia and overseas.

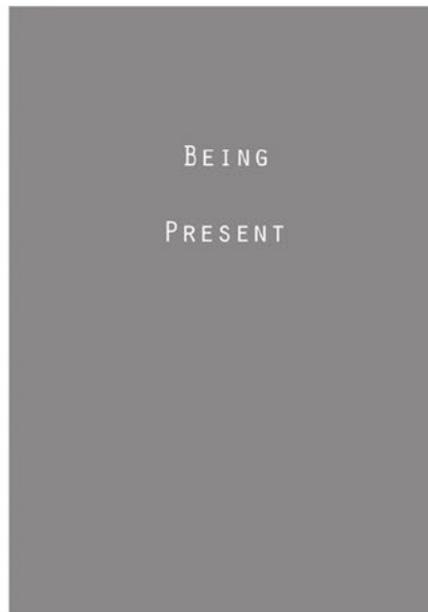
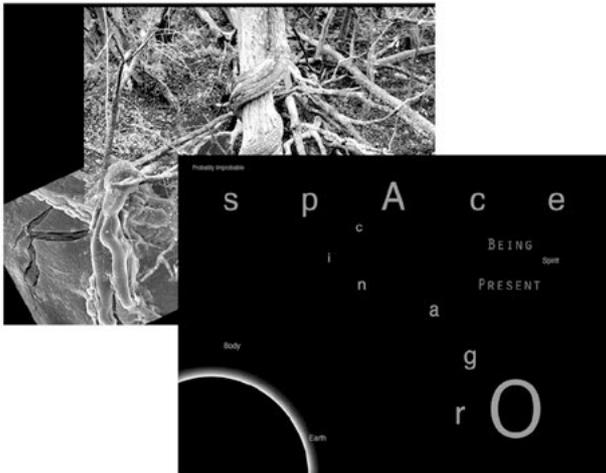
Many Editions are SOLD OUT and few copies remain of other Artists Survey books.



www.regionalartspractice.com

C.R.A.P. TITLES / TOPICS 2007 – 2022

- #1 How do you know you are a regional artist?
- #2 How do you operate a regional arts business?
- #3 The inland regional artist & the beach (with Felicity Rea)
- #4 The regional artist & climate change
- #5 The regional artist & the global financial crisis
- #6 Swine flu & the regional artist
- #7 Air travel & the regional artist
- #8 Flooding in your studio
- #9 Summer lethargy
- #10 The New Zealand regional artist
- #11 Vote 1: Election Survey for R.A.G.E.
- #12 Checklist of the signs that extractive mining has taken over your regional community?
- #13 The Regional Artist & the Artists Run Initiative (with Toowoomba artists)
- #14 The Lonely Artist Guide to Living in the City
- #15 NOMAD: Journeying for art (with Grafton and interstate artists)
- #16 Being in LIMBO (with Felicity Rea)
- #17 The Regional Artists Document (Miles & region artists)
- #18 Regional Artists Business Contacts
- #19 Australia/Thailand Exchange (with Elysha Rei)
- #20 Selling up your studio (In production)
- #21 Maps and Ode to the Toyota Tarago
- #22 What regional artists talk about (with Jo Kambourian+Darren Bryant)
- #23 Artists in Pandemic Isolation



BEING PRESENT

A Zine by Victoria Cooper

Being Present has its physical origins from an artist-in-residence undertaken at the Bundanon Trust on the Shoalhaven River near Nowra in southern NSW. In this book I traverse the microscopic and human experience of land and space. The visual/text narrative refers to my life long awareness of the living earth: land/air/water and the short moment of deep time of human habitation.

The electron microscopic images come from unexplored work made during an earlier Bundanon artists-in-residence in 2007 of collected detritus from the Shoalhaven River. The montages were constructed with these microscopic images as interventions into a riparian environment near the property.

The book is informed by the work of notable writers, thinkers and philosophers, Martin Heidegger and Rachel Carson.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Concept & Design: Victoria Cooper

Images and words: Victoria Cooper

Printing & assembly: Commercial printer

Date: May 2019

Media: Digital press stock

Book Format: Zine

Page Number: unpaginated

Dimensions (cm): 20.0 x 14.5 x .5

COLLECTION, EXHIBITION AND AWARDS

H-O-M-E Collaborative exhibition 2022
Gallery on Ovens, Wangaratta

MELBOURNE ART BOOK FAIR 2019
National Gallery in Victoria

THE SPECIAL EDITION

The culmination of this book project was a unique state handmade edition printed and bound by us on fine art Awagami papers and is held by the State Library of Queensland.

The Special Edition was a FINALIST in the 2020 LIBRIS AWARDS at Artspace Mackay and was the recipient of a major prize in the 2020 Martin Hansen Memorial Art Awards for works on paper at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery.





abbe 2022 artist books & prints fair

Victoria **COOPER**

Doug **SPOWART**

Photographers | Artists

Social Media | Indie Researchers

Photobooks | Mentors

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A BLOG ABOUT ALL THINGS: www.wotwedid.com

INSTAGRAM: @wotwesaw (Victoria) @woteyesaw (Doug)

PHOTOBOOKS: www.theantipodeanphotobook.com

@antipodeanphotobooks

VIDEOS: www.youtube.com/user/CooperandSpowart/videos

We live and work on Bpangerang County

"Always WAS / Always WILL BE" Aboriginal Land

