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Dr Catherine Bell is a multi-disciplinary artist, Senior Lecturer in visual art, National Course Director (BVAD) in the School of Arts and Sciences (VIC) at the Australian Catholic University, Melbourne and ACU Gallery Coordinator. Her emerging research in art and health complements her art practice that forefronts art on the margins, art activism, community engagement and feminist perspectives. Catherine Bell is represented by Sutton Gallery, Melbourne and her video work can be viewed at the Australian Video Art Archive www.videoartchive.org.au

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Images

Catherine Bell

The Gathering (2013)

Ink, salt

44 One Channel Digital Video

Duration: 13.12 minutes

Catherine Bell

Heavy Petal - Detail (2012)

Flower petals, conservation medium, acrylic band

26.9 x 20

Catherine Bell

Garden Drum Basket (12 nov 6 x 6 cm) (2011–13)

Ink on paper

14 x 9 cm

Catherine Bell

Bouquet (2012–13)

Ink on paper

19 x 18.5 cm

Catherine Bell

Mountains of Mourne 1 (2012–13)

Oasis floral foam

14 x 8 x 8 cm

Catherine Bell

Mountains of Mourne 2 (2012–13)

Oasis floral foam

14 x 11x 18 cm

Catherine Bell

Crematorium vessel (2012)

Oasis floral foam

7.5 x 4 x 3.5 cm

Catherine Bell

Flower Tower - Detail (2012–13)

Community Art Project Caritas Day Hospice

Handmade paper flowers, florist wire, florist tape, paint, polystyrene column

430 x 60 cm

For Catalogue

Flower Scene - Detail (2017–18)

Community Art Project Cornelia De Souza Day Hospice

Handmade paper flowers, foam, wire, floral, petals, polyester batting

630 x 65 cm
The Gathering
Exhibition titles, like epitaphs, can symbolise death and a ‘spatial acting out of place.’

As Julia Kristeva, a writer who has explored the practice of everyday life, notes, ‘...beauty emerges as the beautiful object the one that tirelessly and hence from mourning? Or else is the beauty inseparable from the act of disappearing leaves a ghostly trace of the one that was done by, that we are all fighting cancer, where it was done and by what people it was done for.’

I think when you finish it, you have to put it somewhere where it was created was made explicit, as an unexpected outcome - a sharing of death as an integral part of sharing creativity. The following quote by one of the participants reflects the desire of all individuals to leave something behind, to make it live.

‘...I thought immediately about the hospice, I think immediately about a welcoming space, where people from different backgrounds come together to share food and hence from mourning? Or else is the beauty inseparable from the act of disappearing leaves a ghostly trace of the one that was done by, that we are all fighting cancer, where it was done and by what people it was done for.’

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