



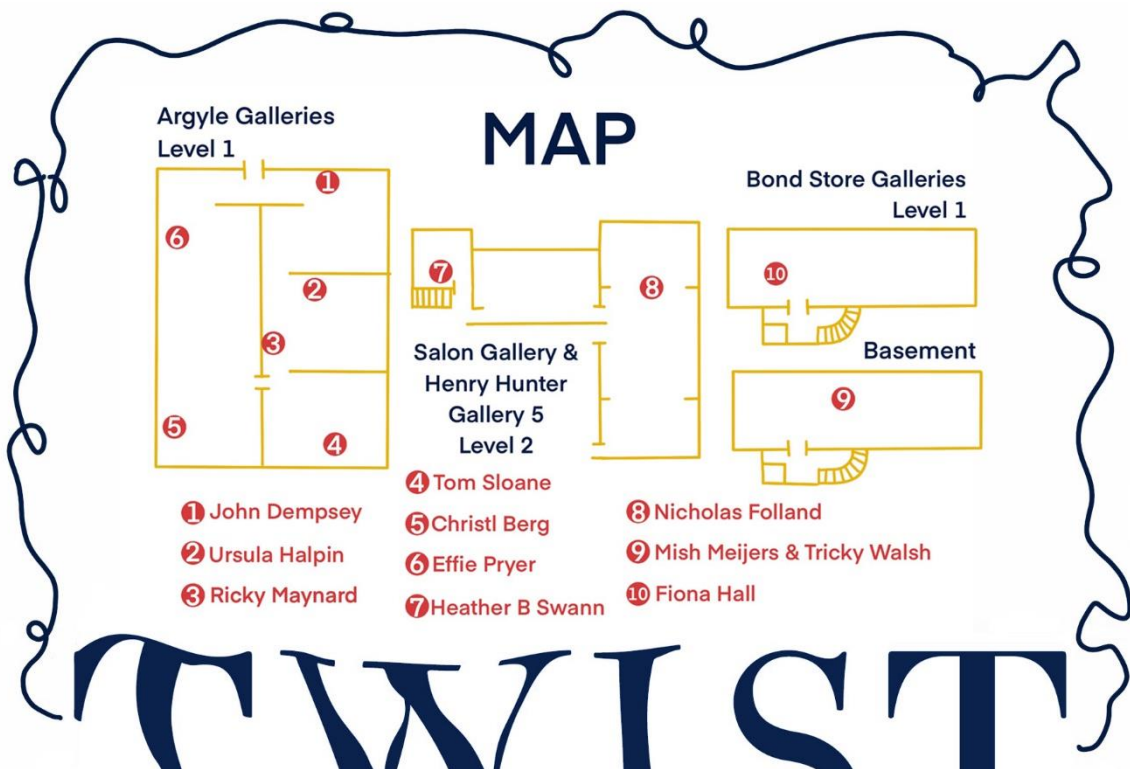
About the exhibition

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) enchanted readers with irrepressible characters while exploring issues such as crime and punishment, the dire impact of poverty on women and children and the grim conditions in public institutions such as orphanages, prisons and workhouses. He was as fascinated by the people and social interactions in the far-flung colonies as he was in those of the dirty streets of London. Many of his characters were transported or immigrated to Australia.

This exhibition brings together artwork by exceptional Australian and Irish artists to engage with Dickensian themes – with a contemporary and quirky twist.

Curator: Dr Mary Knights, Senior Curator of Art, TMAG

TWIST



How to use this resource

Find the artwork by finding the number on the question card with the location on the map.

Use these questions to stimulate a group discussion or to delve deeper into the experience of looking at and interpreting art works – there are no wrong answers!

The friendly Visitor Services Officers are always nearby, please ask if you need some help finding an artwork or would like some further information.

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1

John Dempsey
Watercolour Portraits, 1823 - 1825
Argyle Gallery 1

Look through all the portraits and choose one that stands out. What do you think this person's story is? What clues can you find in the way that they dress, their expression, where they are, and what they're holding that can help you to form this story?

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2

Ursula Halpin

*Displaced, Mary mother of Hope, blesses art thou
amongst women and blesses is fruit of thy womb,*

2022/2023

Argyle Gallery 2

Ursula uses glass to create her 'crocheted lace' pieces. Think about the differences between glass and yarn. What does the difference in material suggest about what is happening in this work?

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3

Ricky Maynard
*Broken Heart and The Healing Garden, from the series
Portrait of a Distinct Land, 2005/8*
Argyle Gallery 2

Look at these two photographic prints by Tasmanian Aboriginal artist Ricky Maynard. How do these photographs make you feel? Is it the same feeling for both photographs?

Can you imagine a story that connects these two works together?

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4

Tom Sloane
Merman, 2023
Argyle Gallery 3

This 'merman' is created using a model of the torso and head of a Mamoset (monkey) and a Redfin Perch (fish) tail. Read through the quote at the back of the case.

Why do you think the Merman has been placed in a cabinet with the taxidermied platypus?

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5

Christl Berg
Untitled, from the Polymorphosis exhibition, 1991
Argyle Gallery 4

What do these photographs remind you of? And why?

What information about the objects in the picture do you think has been left out through the image cropping process?

TWTST



6

Effie Pryer
Baptism, 2023
Argyle Gallery 4

Using the mirror to the right of the painting, can you replicate the pose and facial expression of the woman in Effie's portrait?

Can you tell that this painting was not painted by a colonial artist? If so, how?

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7

Heather B. Swann
Do not forgive me, 2023
Salon Gallery

Why do you think the artist has chosen to use monochrome colours in all the pieces in this room?

What questions would you ask this artist about the works?

TWIST



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8

Nicholas Folland

Omen 1: The shape of this place, 2023

Henry Hunter Gallery 5

To fly your own nation's flag upside-down is sign of warning. What do you think the artists intention was in having the British flag being both flown upside-down and without its traditional red, blue and white colours?

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9

Mish Meijers and Tricky Walsh

Transhumance, 2023

Bond Store Basement

Mish and Tricky have collaged everyday items together to create something new. What is the most obscure or unexpected item you can find in the room? What purpose does it play in the sculpture?

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10

Fiona Hall

Hunger for Power / Power for Hunger, 2023

Bond Store Level 1

Think about the title of this artwork. What parts of the many pieces of artworks throughout this gallery can you find that relate to the themes of power and hunger?

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