

BY THE BOOK: AN UNCONVENTIONAL WAY TO APPRECIATE THE ART AND LIFE OF WILLIAM ROBINSON



***By the Book* opens at the William Robinson Gallery on 2 July and draws upon best-selling author Nick Earls' non-fiction novella, *A New Perspective*, to present a quirky new exhibition experience.**

We often see books appearing in digital, audio and braille forms alongside print editions, and adapted for the stage and screen, but this might be the first time a book has been adapted into seven rooms of art, images, sound and objects that tell the story of a long creative life.

For *William Robinson: By the Book*, guest curator Nick Earls has taken his book *William Robinson: A New Perspective* and turned it into the roadmap for a new take on the artist's work and milieu. It's an exhibition, but it's also a visual narrative about the evolution of Robinson's art across his life, and it's a unique new version of the reading experience, opening up the possibility of being led through the art by the text of the book, in either print or audio form. Audiences will be surprised by some of the works in the show and it will literally give a new perspective of this revered artist.

The exhibition features works across Robinson's life as an artist, often placing them in the context of the sketches and studies that preceded them, and the media coverage once they were revealed to the public. Beyond that, it includes archival still and moving images, catalogues of exhibitions that influenced the artist and items as diverse – and yet surprisingly relevant – as a raincoat and a coffee mug.

The exhibition also offers experiences for other senses, featuring a 3D-printed tactile rendering of one of Robinson's major landscapes, and soundscapes created by Brisbane based artist, composer and QUT alumnus Lawrence English. The soundscapes were specially created by English from recordings of Robinson playing piano, along with field recordings of the environments that inspired Robinson's landscapes.

Author Nick Earls comments, 'It's exciting to have the chance to work with the William Robinson Gallery team to merge the concepts of the book and the exhibition in a way that might not have been achieved before, and to do it to cast new light on the processes and work of one of our most important living artists. For Bill's many fans, I hope this will give new insights into his work, while also, for others, being an inviting way to encounter it for the first time. It's an exhibition visitors can dip into, but also one they can immerse themselves in, for a movie-length experience if they follow it by the book. I want this to offer a gallery experience no one has had before. And a reading experience no one has had before.'

William Robinson: By the Book showcases work by this major artist, while at the same time reaching behind and beyond the art to explore what has made Robinson the artist he has become.

For immediate release
11 March 2020

William Robinson: By the Book

Exhibition 2 July 2020 to June 2021

William Robinson Gallery
Old Government House
QUT Gardens Point campus
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A commercial exhibition of works by William Robinson opens at Philip Bacon Galleries on 23 June 2020. For more information visit www.philipbacongalleries.com.au.

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*Author Nick Earls and Vanessa Van Ooyen (Gallery Director, William Robinson Gallery) available for phone interviews by prior arrangement.

**Selection of high-res images available.

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William ROBINSON
Drinkers and reflections 2017, oil on linen.
QUT Art Collection, purchased 2018.



William Robinson at his Beechmont property.



William ROBINSON, *Farmyard with William and Shirley* 1984, pencil.
QUT Art Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by William Robinson, 2009.