

Artist: **Carolyn Craig**

Exhibition: *The Spectral Scape* 5 May to 3 June 2023



*who gets the rose: holding the line (act 1)*, 2023, photographs on glass, welded steel frame, 155 x 75 x 65cm (frame) 75 x 45cm (print)

### About

The artists in *The Spectral Scape* use photographic processes to represent Australian identity by using an idea, coined by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida, called **hauntology**. This idea suggests that the past continues to haunt the present, considering ways in which history, memory and identity are all intertwined and in a constant state of flux.

### The Artist

Carolyn Craig is an interdisciplinary artist who photographs her body in a performative way to explore her ideas. In *who gets the rose* she attempts to re-narrate place through emotional traces of the body and its pain. The place is Grafton Prison, the memory is the pain of incarceration. The rose was grown by an ex-prison guard, now prison gardener, who repeatedly said the rose from the garden just outside the prison fence was 'his'.

### Studying

Research Performance art: Watch the video *An Introduction to Performance Art* from The Tate Modern in London <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Z-YZ3A4mdk> (3:41 mins) Make notes about what you have seen considering the role of the artist and the audience.

### Making

Work in small groups to create your own performance art photograph that responds to one of these words:

- escape
- detention
- ownership
- power
- fear

Take a photograph of your performance and print the image/s. Your performance may comprise a small series of photographs. Show your image/s to others and see if they can identify the word you have selected to perform.

Craig's works are exhibited printed on glass and placed in metal structures. Consider the impact of presentation on your work.

