

# CCA Speaker Series #17

## Marsha Meskimmon

*WACK! and Beyond: the contingent constant  
of feminist interventions in curating*

Thursday, 20 August 2015, 4.30 pm

Opening note by Svea Josephy  
Anatomy Lecture Theatre

Centre for Curating the Archive  
Level 3, Old Medical School  
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31 – 37 Orange Street  
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Arguably, over the past decade, feminist interventions in the arts have taken what might be called a 'curatorial turn', a deliberate move to examine and evaluate the significance of feminism to exhibition-making and curatorial thought. This presentation explores feminism's 'curatorial turn', suggesting that it might be understood as a *contingent constant* of feminist interventions into art's histories, theories, institutions and practices, simultaneously characterised by a long-term, embedded relationship between feminism and curating (*constancy*) while remaining open to the emergent potential of feminism as a process of continual change (*contingency*).

Positioning a feminist 'curatorial turn' as a contingent constant argues for the power of its provisional, sometimes momentary, effects. To ask what the feminist curatorial turn *is* suggests that it might be understood as a fixed object; to position feminism's curatorial turn as a process of continued meaning-generation is to ask what it can *do*. This presentation argues that it can do many things and, indeed, has an important strategic role to play in both feminist theory and activism.

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