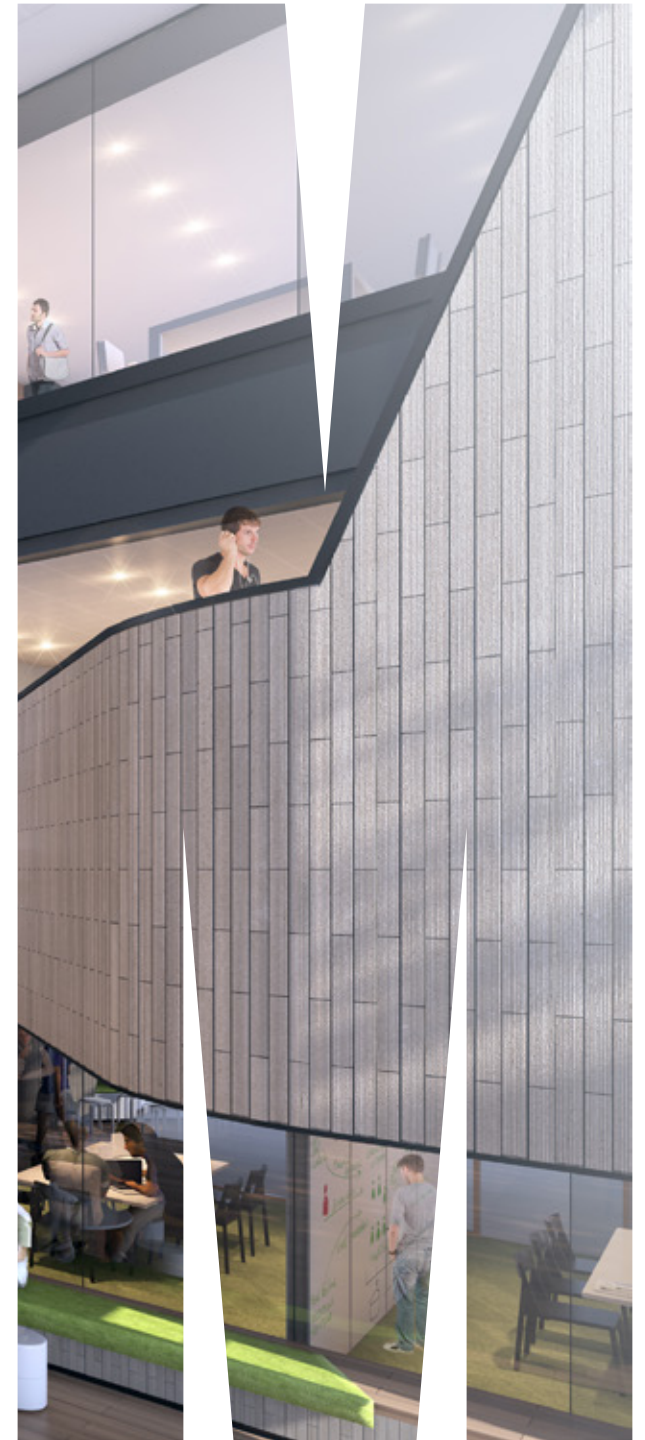




MONASH
University

CELEBRATING THE
SIR LOUIS
MATHESON
LIBRARY
TRANSFORMATION





COVER: A render of the atrium of the Matheson Library. Cox Architecture.

ONE OF THE FOREMOST HUMANITIES LIBRARIES IN AUSTRALIA, THE SIR LOUIS MATHESON LIBRARY IS A HUB OF LEARNING AND RESEARCH IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES, ARTS, EDUCATION, BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS AT THE CLAYTON CAMPUS.

WELCOME

The redevelopment of the Sir Louis Matheson Library (the Matheson Library) marks a major milestone in Monash University's commitment to create engaging, compelling and stimulating learning and research environments.

Situated at a key point of the campus, the Matheson Library includes one of the four original buildings at Clayton, and its redevelopment enhances the precinct around the new Forum courtyard, which includes neighbouring Alexander Theatre and the adjoining proposed Sound Gallery and Jazz Club.

The Matheson Library is refreshingly contemporary, with modern architectural details that complement the original features from the 1960s, including the hanging central staircase. An internal street unifies the Library's three buildings and a three-storey void serves as its centrepiece, accentuated by curved tiled atolls. At closer inspection, the tiles can be recognised as a subtle representation of the pages of a closed book.

Among the vibrant hues, contemporary design, and conducive study spaces, there is much to admire about the Matheson Library. Perhaps the most pleasing is the incorporation of floor-to-ceiling atoll display cases showcasing artwork and the Special Collections. Selected items from the Rare Books, Asian and Music collections adorn the atoll display cases, located along key navigation paths.

Adding depth to the experience of using the Library is a substantial amount of artwork from the University's collection. The pieces on display throughout the Matheson Library all represent the theme, Narrative, reflecting the Library's primary role in the arts and humanities disciplines.

Redeveloping the Library took many years of planning, design research and project management under the leadership of Cathrine Harboe-Ree (University Librarian 2002-2017). The result is a modern, innovative, and truly inspiring learning space for both the University and the wider community to enjoy.

ORIGINS OF THE LIBRARY

It could be said that Monash University Library began in the Vice-Chancellor's home in 1958, when Clayton campus was just a muddy field. Slowly but steadily the collection grew, and graduated to a Volkswagen factory on Dandenong road under the leadership of University Librarian Ernest Clark. Here, the collection grew rapidly, and was moved to the ground floor of the science block in time for the start of classes in 1961. Of course, the collection just kept growing and growing, as did the student intakes each year, and in April 1964 the Main Library was officially opened to operate alongside three other smaller libraries on campus for law, biomedicine, and science and technology.

The Main Library proudly housed around 200,000 books and provided seating for 1,000 readers, and quickly became regarded as one of the leading humanities and social science libraries in Australia. It was also the location for the Library's administration and management offices. Several times in the past the Main Library was upgraded and extended in anticipation of rapidly growing enrolment and the high volume of student traffic. On September 21 1994 it was renamed the Sir Louis Matheson Library after the first Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Today, the Matheson Library is one of seven libraries on the Australian campuses. Over half of the physical collection, including several special collections, is held here, and over 8,000 visitors per day come through its doors during semester.



Photographed by David Taft. Monash University Archives



Photographed by Herve Alleaume. Monash University Archives.

A MODERN LIBRARY FOR A NEW GENERATION

Monash University Library contributes to the University's goals of being an excellent, international, enterprising and inclusive university. Rapid advancements in technology have led to a preference for electronic resources, higher demand for computer access and Wi-Fi, and increased need for facilities for collaborative group work. The Matheson Library has been transformed for a new generation of scholars, providing open, technology-rich and adaptive learning spaces to cater for a broad range of learning styles and research needs.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

THE MATHESON LIBRARY IS PROUD TO MAINTAIN A NUMBER OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

These collections have been established through gifts and donations and as part of ongoing acquisitions in support of the University research and education. The new Special Collections Reading Room provides a quiet space to enjoy items from the collections, and for the supervised handling of rare and delicate items. The Gallery hosts exhibitions, functions and special events to truly showcase and celebrate community engagement, while the year-round atoll displays enable the Library to share a wide variety of rare items with scholars, students and the general public.



Johannes Marchesinus, *Mammotrectus super Bibliam* (Venetiis: Per Franciscum de Hailbrun et Nicholaum de Frankfordia, 1476).
Richard Doyle, *In Fairyland: a series of pictures from the Elf-World* (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1875), 2nd ed.



Girls' New Year Games (1890). Hand-tinted photograph from a lacquer-bound photographic album produced for the Japanese tourist trade.
Musique et Chansons de S.A.R. le Prince Norodom Sihanouk du Cambodge (1975). This album cover comes from a boxed set of four 10 inch phonographic records, part of a large donation from His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, former King of Cambodia.



The cover of *Le coq d'or conte-fable: opera en trois actes* (New York: Schirmer, 1907), a score from the Russian composer Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov.
Khamsing Srinawk Lao Kham Hom: Phleng Thai doem amata [Classic Thai Royal Traditional Songs], Diao [solo] Nam doi [presented by] Luang Phairo siangso (Thailand: Crown Brand, 1967). This recording comes from a collection of Thai music donated by the ABC.

RARE BOOKS

The Rare Books Collection began in 1961 with the purchase of David Woolley's library of Jonathan Swift related books. In recognition, the café is called Swift's and graphics used throughout the Library are from an early edition of Gulliver's travels. In addition to the early works of Swift, the collection contained many works of the 18th century. It has now grown to 170,000 items to provide researchers with primary sources and contemporary materials. These items are considered rare because of their age, value, or vulnerability.

The collection is particularly strong in literature, history, early medicine, cookbooks, women's studies, travel, art, and politics. In recent times, it has expanded to include less traditional material in early comics, science fiction, and ephemera.

ASIAN COLLECTIONS

The Asian Collections together form a leading research facility for Asian studies in Australia. The collections primarily consist of Asian language materials, focusing on Indonesia and South East Asia, China and Korea, with the Japanese material forming the Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education (MCJLE) Collection. English language resources complement the Asian language collections, and there are important research resources in Dutch and French relating to the study of colonial Indonesia and Indochina.

Rare and archival materials from various collections, including extensive print, electronic, and multimedia items, can be accessed via the Special Collections Reading Room.

MUSIC AND MULTIMEDIA

The Music and Multimedia Collection boasts a large collection of resources spanning a range of formats. From music scores and vinyl records to microfilm and DVDs, the collection includes over 78,000 items.

Of particular note is the ethnomusicology collection, holding over 3,000 vinyl recordings, 78rpm, cassettes and DVDs. The collection has a strong emphasis on Southeast Asian, Indian and Indigenous Australian music. While many items can be viewed and heard within the Library using the available multimedia equipment, many rare and fragile items within the specialist archives are held in the Rare Books Collection and can only be accessed via the Special Collections Reading Room, equipped with a listening booth.

ART IN THE LIBRARY

ART PLAYS MANY ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY. IT CAN EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, INTRIGUE, ENTERTAIN AND ENRICH – MUCH LIKE A 21ST-CENTURY LIBRARY.

A thread that runs through much of the art on display in the Matheson Library is that of narrative. These works, from the Monash University Collection, tell stories. Some of the stories are true; others are not. Some of them are overt; others are concealed. Many leave a space for the viewer, providing opportunities for personalised stories that connect individual experience with the images displayed.

The work of Indigenous artists has a strong presence throughout the Library. This ranges from art that continues traditional practices through to new work in digital photography. *Kulata Tjuta* 2012-2014 is a major installation acquired especially for the Library. The title translates to 'spears in flight', and the work comprises 277 hand-carved spears made by a group of senior men working with young men from the Tjala Arts Centre in the community of Amata in South Australia and with Jonathan Jones, a Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist based in Sydney.

Matheson Library, Lower Ground foyer with Maree Clarke
On the banks of the Murray 2017 lenticular photographic prints, LED lightboxes
Monash University Collection
Monash University Commission, 2017



Maree Clarke, *Thung-ung Coorang (kangaroo teeth necklace)* 2013, kangaroo teeth, leather, sinew, earth pigment, 130.0 x 8.0 cm (irreg.), Monash University Collection, Purchased by Monash University Library 2016.



Kate Beynon, *Australian graffiti* 2000, Type C photograph from digital file, 84.0 x 117.5 cm, Monash University Collection, Purchased 2002.



Tracey Moffatt, *Up in the sky #12* 1997, off-set print, 61.0 x 75.5 cm (image), Monash University Collection, Purchased 1998.



David McDiarmid, *Don't forget to remember* 1994, from the series *Rainbow aphorisms*, inkjet print on paper, 117.5 x 88.5 cm (sheet), Monash University Collection, Purchased 2015.

Maree Clarke's *Thung-ung Coorang (kangaroo teeth necklace)* 2013 revives a cultural tradition that had not been practised for more than a century. Clarke was inspired after seeing a historic photograph of a Koorie woman wearing a kangaroo tooth necklace. The work combines women's and men's business, Clarke working in collaboration with Rocky and Len Tregonning. At the other end of the artistic spectrum, Clarke's newly commissioned large lenticular photographic prints use contemporary technology to evoke

stories of country, family and history through images of her birthplace at the Balranald mission on Mutti Mutti country in New South Wales. Tasmanian Trawlwoolway artist, Vicki West, also maintains culture through her art practice. She has learned from elders to make vessels from bull kelp (kalikina), a traditional practice that is unique to Tasmania and therefore asserts and celebrates cultural survival. Photographs by Bindi Cole Chocka, Ricky Maynard, James Tylor and Fiona Foley also convey stories of place, identity, history

and culture. Other works on display engage with issues of gender identity, sexuality and masculinity. David McDiarmid's *Rainbow aphorisms* 1994 seem, at surface level, to be seductive and amusing pop art. But at a second look, their 'rainbow flag' colours and statements such as 'Don't forget to remember' and 'I want a future that lives up to my past' are acerbic plays on McDiarmid's own experience of the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 90s. Tracey Moffatt's works suggest narratives but evade easy reading.

Her *Scarred for life* 1994 photographs re-enact memories of humiliation and trauma experienced by children and teens in suburban Australia, while her *Up in the sky* 1997 series draws on documentary photography as well as modernist Italian cinema to evoke a drama set in outback Australia. Kate Beynon and Simryn Gill explore ideas of identity at the intersections of Asian and Western culture. All invite further investigation, interpretation and personal response from us, the viewer.

Clare Williamson
Curator



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