



RETHINKING RIGHTS-BASED MENTAL HEALTH LAWS

EDITED BY
BERNADETTE MCSHERRY
AND PENELOPE WELLER

Rethinking Rights-Based Mental Health Laws

Edited by
Bernadette McSherry
and
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Cover Image

Donna Lawrence (1973–)
Triple Ouch, 2006
oil and encaustic on canvas
91.2 x 65 cm
Cunningham Dax Collection
www.daxcollection.org.au

Artist's statement about this painting:

'The title here says volumes about the suggested reading of the artwork. It speaks of the emotional pain of mental illness, sometimes physical pain and the social pain placed upon us by society at odds with understanding.

I have heavily cropped the figure to give a sense of anonymity and depicted the vehicle to demonstrate a more formal side of mental illness.'

Artist Profile

Donna is an award winning practising artist who has exhibited regularly over the past 15 years and has been involved in a wide variety of community arts festivals and projects.

Artist's Statement

'I believe visual artwork can be aesthetically pleasing as well as politically motivated or intellectual. I aim for both of these elements in my work.

I believe artwork can be empowering in its shared meaning as opposed to simply its aesthetic qualities. It can allow some people to feel a significant adherence to a group of similar minded/experienced people, and lead others to experience empathy and gain knowledge, concerning the occurrences of others. Similarly, I hope that my work will reach people who have experienced mental illness, and people who have not. It is ultimately an issue that affects us all.'

About the Cunningham Dax Collection

The Cunningham Dax Collection, amassed over a 60 year period, consists of over 15,000 works on paper, paintings, ceramics & textiles created by people with an experience of mental illness and/or psychological trauma. The Collection's mission is:

To promote widely a greater understanding of people who experience mental illness and/or psychological trauma, and to foster an appreciation of their creativity through the preservation and ethical presentation of their original works.

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