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## New Matter: Exhibition challenges traditional ideas of photography

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3 minutes

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The definition of photography is being constantly pushed and provoked. *New Matter: Recent Forms of Photography* is an exhibition of contemporary works that does exactly this, by interrogating the preconceptions of photography and challenging the boundaries of the medium.

The Art Gallery of NSW exhibition, which features a collection of photographs by 14 Australian and international artists, explores cutting edge digital technologies as well as traditional processes used in photography, and poses the question: what are we looking at when we look at a photograph? It questions the established visual languages used by photographers, exploring the nature of time, light and dimension.



Dive #3, 2013, type C photograph, Art Gallery of New South Wales Viktoria Marinov Bequest Fund 2014. Part of New Matter, a photography exhibition at Art Gallery of New South Wales. *Credit: Zoe Croggon*

Art Gallery of NSW assistant curator of photographs, Isobel Parker Philip, said the works "proposed new ways of reading a photograph".

"They direct attention away from pictorial content by camouflaging the subject or rendering it illegible and by embracing non-representation and the abstraction of form," she said. "Introducing tactility into the flat surface of the print and complicating the assumption that a photograph is born with the click of the shutter, these artists shatter a conventional understanding of the photographic gesture. .

"In the digital age, we are bombarded by images that exist across multiple platforms simultaneously ... Our experience of an image's material presence is undergoing a profound shift. Insisting on a definition of the

photograph that acknowledges its existence as both material and immaterial, these artists recognise the importance of examining the mutability of the medium with renewed urgency and criticality."

Featured artists include Jacqueline Ball, Walead Beshty, Matthew Brandt, Danica Chappell, Zoë Croggon, Christopher Day, Charles Dennington, Cherine Fahd, Deb Mansfield, Todd McMillan, Luke Parker, Kate Robertson, James Tylor and Justine Varga.

***New Matter: Recent Forms of Photography*** is on until February 2017 at the Art Gallery of NSW. The gallery will host a [series of floor talks](#) on the exhibition, featuring curator Isobel Parker Philip and artists Luke Parker, Deb Mansfield, Todd McMillan, Justine Varga and Cherine Fahd. In November, Professor Geoffrey Batchen will present a lecture [Generation X: photography and materialism](#) as part of the exhibition.