

Way Out West we're Mining our Collections




**[Museums]
[Australia]**

Western Australia

About this talk

- **Background**
- **Case Study 1 – A textile artist meets a historical society**
- **Case Study 2 – A sound and light artist explores a telecommunications museum**
- **Case Study 3 - Fashion designers makeover the state collection**
- **Outcomes and recommendations**



“Tensions that exist between the expectations of the artist and those of the museum community, and the difficulties experienced in reconciling divergent interests have made for some challenging and ultimately stimulating exhibitions.”

Jo Darbyshire, 2003 “The Gay Museum Project”

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Background

- 2007 Museums Policy Reference Group Report
- Collections Sector Action Plan
- Dept of Culture and the Arts Short-Term Artist-in-Residence program
- Reviewed at end of 2009
- Relaunch imminent (announcement by Minister on 20th August, 2010)

Case Study 1

A textile artist meets a
historical society



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Image © Wendy Lugg 2010

The textile artist



Images © Wendy Lugg

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The Residency

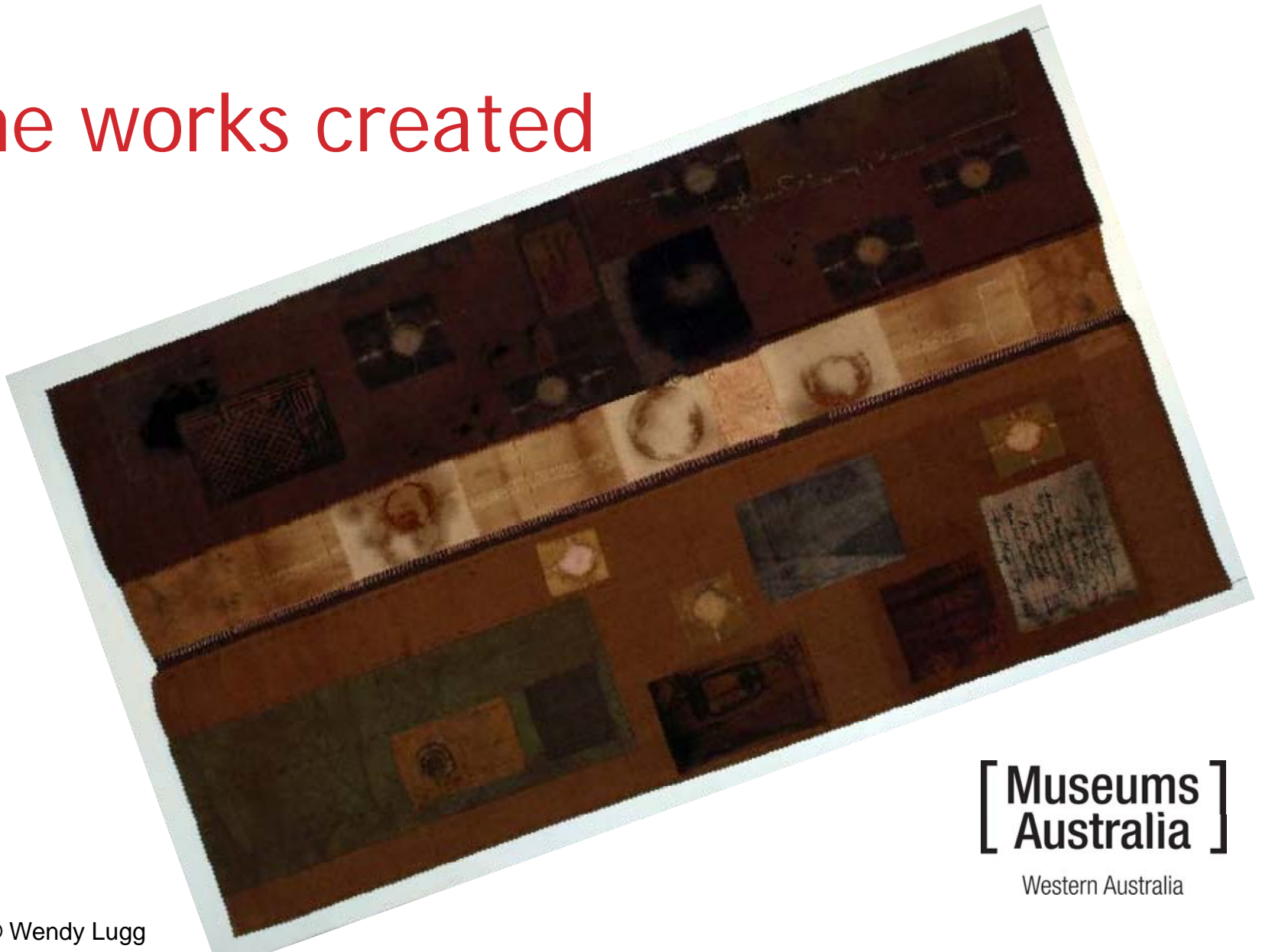


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The works created



Images © Wendy Lugg

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Case Study 2

A sound and light artist explores a telecommunications museum



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The museum

- Wireless Hill
- Collection
- Volunteers



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The Residency

“When I walked into the museum for the first time, and saw all this simple old technology, I was really excited. The whole idea behind the museum and the technology and the objects themselves fits my way of thinking and working.”



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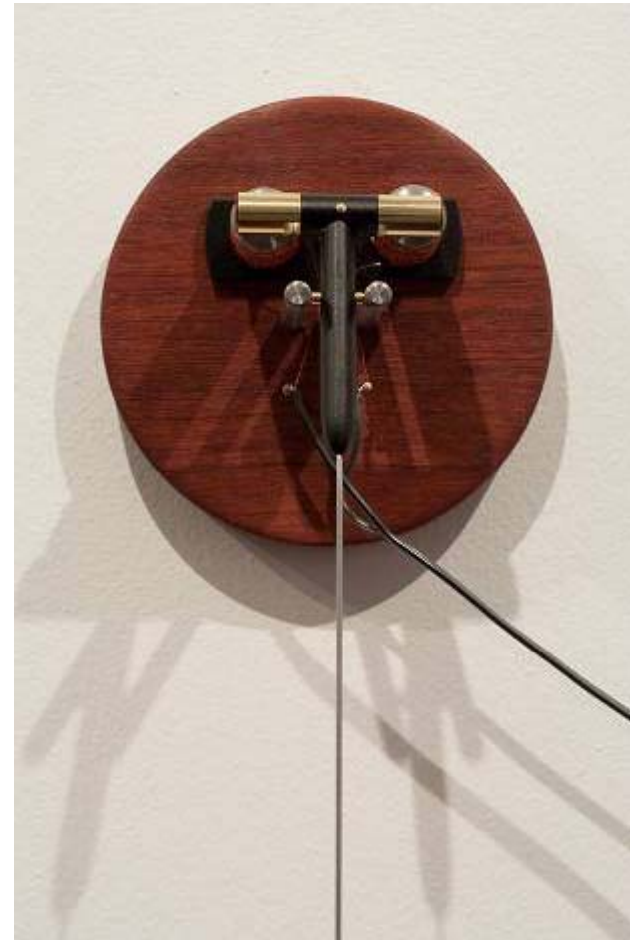
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The works created



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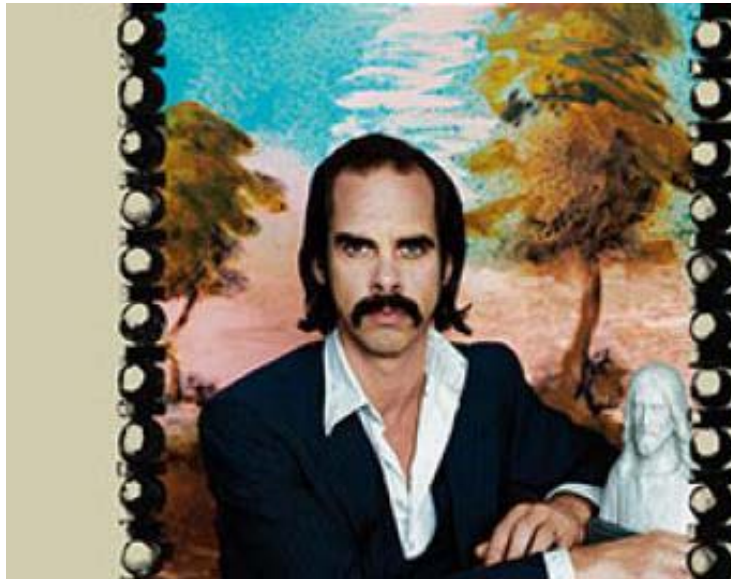


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Case Study 3

- The Western Australian Museum and ericaamerica



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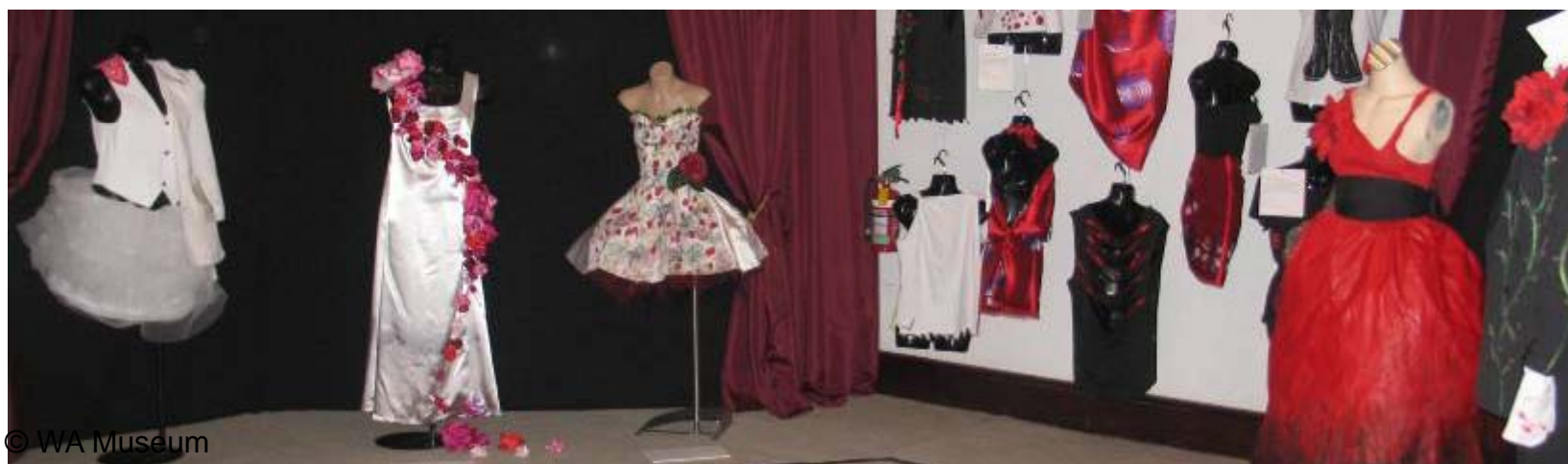
The fashion designers



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The Residency



The works created

- **The Cave of Wonders:**
- “We wanted to really demonstrate the work put in behind the scenes by the Museum’s curators and researchers who are conservators of a collection of some four million pieces of valuable history,”



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Outcomes



Our recommendations

- Needs a catalyst/introducer
- Curator needs to understand way artist work
- Lengthy courtship
- Can't be too fixed on the outcome
- Takes time....
- Artist needs to be patient
- Artist needs to be prepared to work with the museum /collection staff and volunteers
- Ideally a public program outcome

But its all worth it.....

- Future projects:
- Phil Gamblen – Aviation Museum
- Wendy Lugg – State Library
- Helena Bogucki – City of Perth
- Olga Cironis – Fremantle Arts Centre