

A SITE OF CONVERGENCE

Celebrating 10 Years of the Monash University Prato Centre

Cynthia Troup with Jo-Anne Duggan

The Monash University Prato Centre, located in the heart of Tuscany, is housed in a landmark eighteenth century mansion—the Palazzo Vaj. This commemorative publication highlights the elegant spaces of the Palazzo Vaj as the context for exhilarating encounters with the city and people of Prato, art and artists, researchers and experts, teachers and students from around the world.

A Site of Convergence is the result of collaboration between writer and editor Cynthia Troup, and the late Jo-Anne Duggan, the Centre's first artist in residence. It is a tribute to the humanist vision that shaped the development of the Centre, and a celebration of Jo-Anne Duggan's photographic art.



Interweaving narrative, vignettes and splendid images, A Site of Convergence tells a fascinating and beautifully illustrated story of the fulfillment of an audacious dream to establish an Australian cultural and scholarly home in Italy, a home which has become, over the last ten years, a vibrant crossroad for cultural and intellectual exchange, as well as a significant site in its local Italian community.

Professor Ros Pesman, The University of Sydney

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cynthia Troup is a writer, historian and academic editor with a background in Italian Studies. Her publications include articles on the cultural history of late medieval and Renaissance Italy, short fiction and plays, as well as numerous essays and interviews in the fields of contemporary art and music. With Bill Kent and Ros Pesman she edited the collection *Australians in Italy: Contemporary Lives and Impressions*, published by Monash University ePress in 2008, and reissued by Monash University Publishing in 2010.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jo-Anne Duggan was a photomedia artist who investigated site-specificity, the complexity of the museum and the pasts that collide in the context of viewing art and historical materials. Her work has been widely exhibited in Australia and Italy. It was created in the spaces of international cultural institutions such as the Galleria degli Uffizi, the Galleria Doria Pamphilj and Mantua's Palazzo Ducale, where she examined the effects of time and memory on cultural tourism, cultural conservation, and cultural identity. Duggan received numerous grants, including three from the Australia Council; in Italy she undertook residencies in Milan, Florence and Prato.



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