

FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

ROSS COULTER
AUDIENCE

ARTWORK LABELS

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Ross Coulter: Audience

Audience is a photographic series by Melbourne artist Ross Coulter that documents members of the local arts community in more than ninety galleries in and around Melbourne between 2013 and 2016. In each photograph, a gathering of people stands in a gallery space as they are instructed to imagine viewing a performance art event. Participants were required to stand in an empty gallery, in which there was no art, and black-and-white photographs were taken of them. While listening to a narrative, the subjects were asked to direct their gaze to different parts of the gallery space.

Drawing on the visual language of 1970s performance art documentation, Coulter aimed to construct a photographic archive of an audience witnessing a number of (non) performances or (non) events in and around Melbourne. At the same time, the project records artists and others associated with particular spaces, and is a document of Melbourne and its art community at a specific time. This series plays with Australian artist and art historian Charles Green's observation that 'through documentation (of performance art happenings or events), the exemplary "truthfulness" of performance deteriorates'.

Ross Coulter

born Australia 1972

Audience

2013–16

gelatin silver photographs

Collection of the artist