

CULTURES, HISTORIES, IDENTITIES IN VISUAL STUDIES — RESEARCH NETWORK

April 9, 2025

Room F209, F Block, Otago Polytechnic/Te Kura Matatini ki Otago
Forth Street, Dunedin: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

THE GUINEA PIG PROBLEM: TOWARDS A CRITIC'S HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY ART IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Ed Hanfling



Image: Joanna Braithwaite, *All Sorts*—Goya, 2006

The first part of the seminar will describe the reasons for writing a book about New Zealand art of the period 2000–2025 and approaching it in the manner of both an art historian and a critic. The second part will be an excerpt or excerpts from the draft text of the book.

Ed Hanfling is an art historian and art critic but usually tries not to be both at the same time. He has published books on New Zealand artists such as Milan Mrkusich and Ian Scott and he is a co-author (with Gil Docking and Michael Dunn) of *250 Years of New Zealand Painting* (David Bateman, 2020). He has published articles in journals such as the *Burlington Magazine* and *Third Text*. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, he has written short critical reviews for *Art New Zealand* and, believing these to be his best work, has decided to write something more substantial—a book on the most recent 25-year period of New Zealand art history—that captures something of the flavour of the reviews. Ed teaches at the Dunedin School of Art and is the editor and co-editor respectively of two journals, *Scope: Art & Design* and *Junctures: The Journal for Thematic Dialogue*.

Dunedin School of Art and University of Otago (Languages and Cultures)