

BRIGITA OZOLINS

Why pay attention?

Brigita Ozolins is the creator of *Kryptos*, a work commissioned by the Museum of Old and New Art's **David Walsh**. This crypt-like installation, built into the walls of Walsh's subterranean gallery/museum, is lined with binary code translations of the ancient Epic of Gilgamesh and has been spooking visitors to MONA since its opening in January 2011. Ozolins has also made works for other institutions in Tasmania, where she lives, as well as Latvia, her parents' homeland. She was a recipient of the 2008 Qantas Inaugural Contemporary Art Award, an Australian Council New Work grant and a Soros Foundation commission. She has had residencies in New York, Paris, London and Riga and has featured in group exhibitions across Australia.

What does she do?

Ozolins makes installations, usually in the form of rooms, which explore written language, books and the act of reading. Sometimes she performs in her works, obsessively writing out lines of prose. Her first solo commercial exhibition at Hobart's Bett Gallery, *Unity*, will feature wooden panels embedded with metal binary code and large digital prints interweaving quotes in English with binary encrypted words.

What's going on?

Ozolins works speak to the beauty and opacity of language and writing and investigates our relationships to these methods of communication, how they change and evolve and how they are recorded over time.

The artist says...

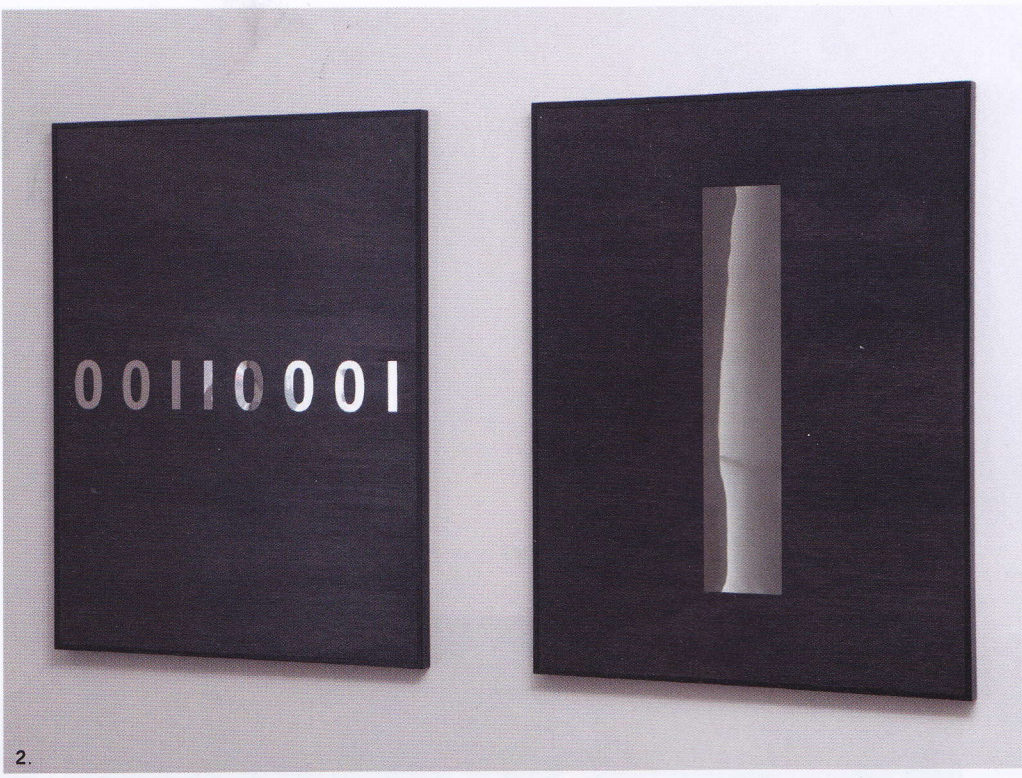
"I am interested in our relationship to language. That language, on one hand, is an amazing tool but at the same time, there's a mystery about the emergence of language and the words and systems we have for recording ourselves and the world."

You can see it at...

Unity exhibits at Bett Gallery, Hobart, from 29 April to 16 May 2016. Ozolins also shows in a group exhibition titled *Unhoused* at the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Art in the State Library of Tasmania from 10 June to 14 October 2016.

Gabrielle Rish





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MONICA ROHAN

Why pay attention?
 The last, exquisitely detailed self-portraits by young Brisbane painter Monica Rohan have struck a chord.

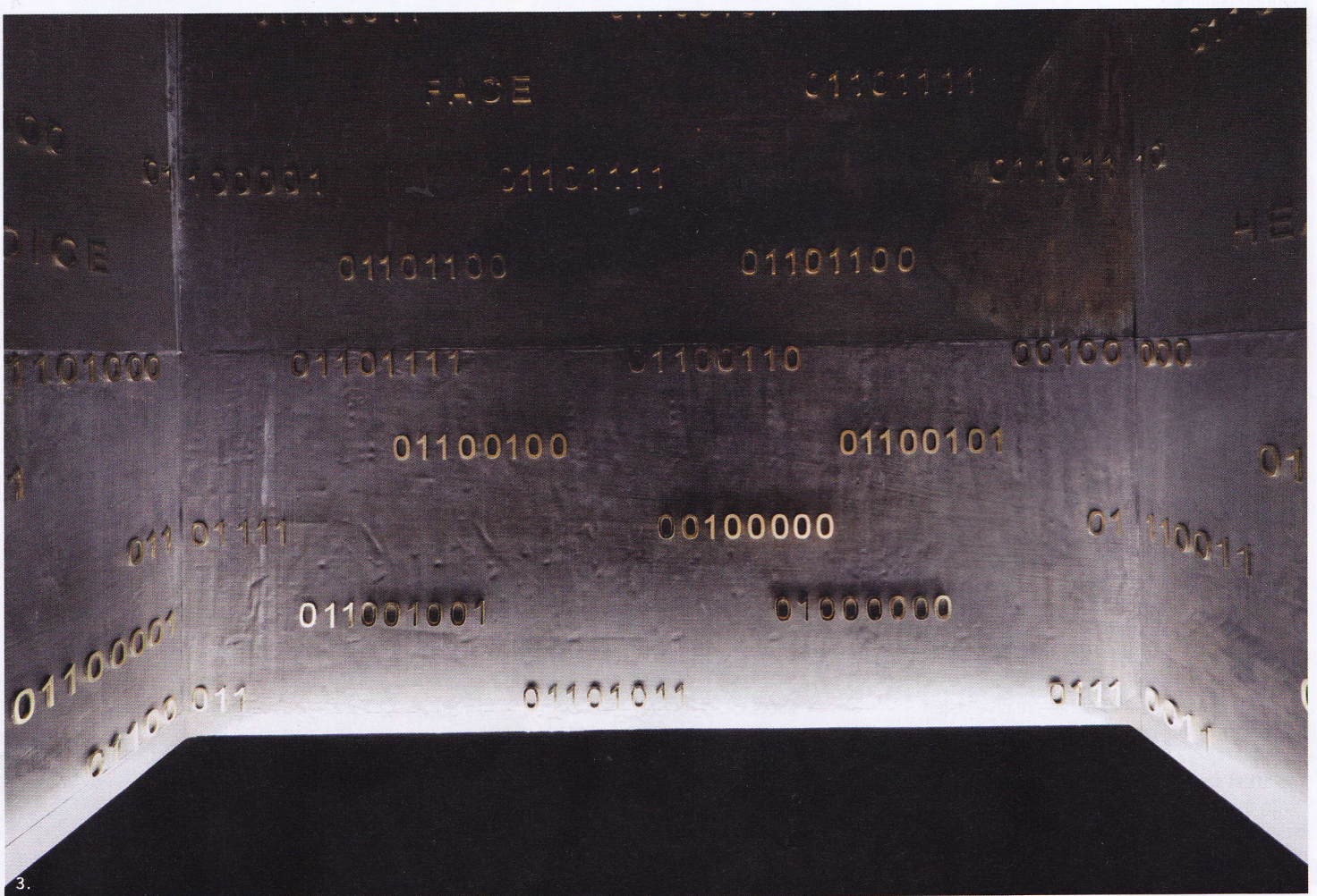
1. // Brigita Ozolins, *Love*, 2015. Inkjet print on Hahnemuhle paper, 140 x 90cm.

2. // From left, Brigita Ozolins, *Zero 02*, *Zero 01* and *One 01*, *One 02*, 2016. Stained, varnished marine ply and stainless steel, framed, each 103 x 80cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND BETT GALLERY, HOBART

3. // Brigita Ozolins, *Kryptos*, 2011, detail, installation view, MONA, Tasmania.

PHOTO: BRETT BOARDMAN.
 COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND MONA, HOBART



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