

The Fine Art of Vision Loss



The Vegemite Jar, 2016, Pigment and Oil on Canvas, H8 x W 10 inch

Can you imagine what it would be like to see through the eyes of someone with vision loss? If you know someone with vision loss, do you *really* know how they see the world?



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Dr Erica Tandori is a painter, animator, digital media artist and researcher exploring vision loss through her own experience of macular degeneration.

Her PhD research reveals how blindness looks by using the very visual language of art to show where the impact of vision loss is felt most – in the visual field, and in the activities of everyday life.

Her work shows the brain plays a big part in what we *think* we see, even in cases of vision loss.

As an artist who is legally blind, Erica discovered that she is not alone. Even artists like Claude Monet, Edvard Munch and Edgar Degas suffered with eye conditions and near blindness, and many artists today continue to work despite vision loss.

Erica also discovered the power of art as a research method. It was amazing to find that despite so much investigation into the eye and its diseases, no instrument on earth could authentically depict how vision loss looks from the patient perspective ... except an artist examining her own vision impaired perceptions, and translating these into pixels, paint and paper.

Imagine how this powerful, visual, research tool could be harnessed in health care, medical research, brain science, technology, and even the built environment, to help find new understandings, new ways of seeing, and new ways to tell compelling stories that affect everyone.



Now that's a transformative vision that goes way beyond the retina.

PhD: Into The Void: Exploring the experience of vision loss through Visual Art, University of Melbourne , 2016

The Disappearing Mona Lisa, 2016, Digital Work

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