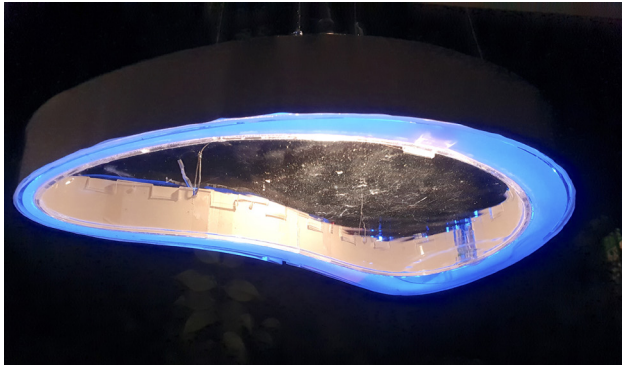


**GERARD
RUTTEN**

I am a designer and maker of physical objects as diverse as furniture, lighting, sculpture, jewellery, and interactive wearables. My goal is to integrate my technical experiences with those of modern design practices and aesthetics to create beautiful, functional and interesting pieces. I find I am drawn to simplifying complexity and to creating objects that respond to the physical environment to which they are a part.



WAVE LIGHT

2018

This piece explores the interaction between waves and light to create an ambience of movement and fluidity in space. In a similar way to how a wind chime creates sound in response to an increase in the breeze, this piece responds to an increase in noise levels with an increase in wave activity.

The result is a light installation that empathises with the environment that it illuminates - the more exuberant the conversation or activities below, the more the light piece will respond.

Exhibited at Createworld 2018



RUMINATE

2019

This piece addresses the term, "Repetition" by symbolising the tendency of us as humans to ruminate over thoughts, having the same thought repeat over and over again, spinning around in circles as we revisit the past or grow anxious about the future. It serves as a reminder to focus on the present and not waste our energy thinking repetitive, unconstructive thoughts.

Placed at the symbolic location of the mind, an aluminium fan spins in the heated updraught generated by the tealight candle below.





CONCENTRIC CHAIR

2019

This chair aims to challenge what can be created with flat timber. By cutting the plywood in concentric forms, not only is the timber used efficiently, but it also allows a curvaceous shape to be created simply by offsetting each leaf a little from the last. Being cut from the same sheet of timber also allows the natural texture and character of the timber to flow from one leaf to the next, connecting the pieces visually while they remain separated physically.

The weighted elliptical form provides a semi-enclosed capsule to sink into. One might choose to sit traditionally, or to curl up with a cushion or two, utilising the wrap-around sides for support. It may be adjusted to sit quite high and upright, or low and reclined and can be folded completely flat when not in use.



REED LIGHTS

2019

Inspired by water reeds, this lighting piece casts an intricate pattern of light through the interlocked timber construction while the flexibility of the laminated veneer stems provides a reference to the physicality of their inspiration.

Standing at 1400mm in height, this piece is intended to integrate into a living space complementing existing furniture and providing ambience through soft and warm filtered light.





SOLAR DESALINATOR

2018

This design looks at a way to use the power of the sun to extract clean water from brackish or salt water by improving on the common solar still to make it more efficient and more portable.

It incorporates an origami inspired construction method to allow for compact storage and economical transport to areas of need. It also integrates recent research into using a thin absorbent black layer as the evaporative surface, said to double the efficiency. This layer is interleaved around inflated floatation chambers that provide buoyancy and thermal insulation whilst still allowing the wicking action to draw water up to the evaporation surface.

Shortlisted for Lexus Design Award 2019

EXHIBITIONS

- February 2020 **Figure No Figure** (Collaborator)
Closed Box Exhibition
Grey Street Gallery, Queensland College of Art,
Griffith University.
- October 2019 **QCA Graduate exhibition**
Webb Centre, Queensland College of Art, Griffith University.
- October 2019 **Intersections of Tradition and Technology**
Collaborations on several pieces with students from SUAD
(Shandong, China), SAFA (Shanghai, China) and QCA
Project Gallery, Queensland College of Art,
Griffith University.
- November 2018 **Wave Light**
Createworld 2018
Queensland College of Art, Griffith University.
- April 2018 **Waving Back** (Assisted David Harris)
Botanica
Brisbane Botanic Gardens.

