



## Chess moves into weird world of art

Koren Helbig

THE art of chess has been redrawn as weird and wonderful human-animal hybrids, literary characters and enormous spotted pumpkin sculptures.

Beer bottles and coasters set up to play on a rickety Australian picnic table also feature among two chess-themed exhibitions at the University of Queensland Art Museum until April 24.

Curator Tansy Curtin said chess was traditionally seen as a subdued and introspective hobby, but when redrawn by contemporary artists, it took on a new dimension.

"Chess acquires a new visual persona – beauty and drama alongside intrigue and threat," she said.

Fifteen international artists contributed to The Art of Chess exhibition, which is now touring Australia exclusively.

It is showing at the St Lucia museum, alongside a second



**YOUR MOVE:** Tansy Curtin with Yayoi Kusama's pumpkin chess set; and Sebastian Di Mauro's *Homeland Rule*. Pictures: Jeff Camden

exhibition commissioned by the Bendigo Art Gallery and featuring 13 Australian artists.

Chess fans can also show off their prowess, with the university's chess club battling it out daily with members of the public.

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