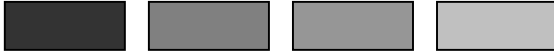




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Inter-Arts Office

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
1 May 2005

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 30 AUGUST 2005



ABOUT THIS REPORT

After the reorganisation of the Australia Council the New Media Arts Board (NMAB) was dissolved and from 2006 most new media art applications will be funded through the Visual Arts and Craft Board and the Music Board. Hybrid art practice will be supported through the new Inter-Arts Office.

From June, the Inter-Arts Office is managing the assessment of applications received to the 2005 closing dates of the NMAB. This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted on 1 May 2005. It details statistical analysis of the grants round and more general comments made by the Inter-Arts Office Assessment Panel during the assessment of the applications at its meeting held on 3-5 August 2005.

New media arts grants categories support collaborative arts practices that do not fall within conventional, single artform areas. The grants approved in this round cover work in the two broad areas of interdisciplinary art and new media art (please see *2005 Australia Council Support for the Arts Handbook* for further detail).

ATTENDANCE

The Inter-Arts Office Assessment Panel comprises peers advisers who assess the applications and recommend to the Council which grants should be approved.

The following peer advisers attended the meeting:

Zoe Butt	QLD	Curator working in the Department of Contemporary Asian Art at the Queensland Art Gallery.
Marcus Canning	WA	Former NMAB board member and artistic director of the Artrage Festival in Perth
Ryk Goddard	TAS	Artistic director of is theatre ltd, with a special interest in hybrid performance, performance improvisation, physical acting and theatre making.
Nigel Helyer	NSW	Former NMAB board member, sculptor and sound artist with an international reputation for large-scale sonic installations, environmental sculpture works and new media projects.
Helen Omand	SA	Freelance performer and choreographer as well as artistic director of Helen Omand & Co- a project based company creating performance/video works.
Christian Thompson	VIC	Melbourne-based photographer, installation artist and free-lance curator.
Mari Velonaki	NSW	Artist working in the field of interactive installation art, and currently an artist/researcher at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics, an ARC Centre of Excellence in Autonomous Systems, Sydney.

The following Inter-Arts Office staff were in attendance;

Andrew Donovan, Director	Geoffrey Taylor, Program Officer
Nina Stromqvist, Assistant Prog Officer	Skye O'Meara, Administrative Assistant
Linda Goodman, Administrative Assistant	



ASSESSMENT PANEL COMMENTS

This was the first meeting under a new, more flexible assessment process being trialed by the Inter-Arts Office. All panel members agreed that the meeting was productive, with funding recommendations that covered a broad spectrum of new media and hybrid art practice.

There was not enough funding to support the full range of projects the panel felt worthy, however those that were recommended for support represent a high standard of expertise and practice.

At this first meeting of the Inter-Arts Office Assessment Panel there was a mixture of panel members with NMAB experience, previous experience as guest peers, and those for whom this was the first time assessing Australia Council applications.

All panel members commented that the standard of applications was high, even though quantity of applications was a little down on previous NMAB rounds. The panel commented that, among the applications in this round, there was a great sense of the depth of practice in the new media and hybrid fields as well as a connection with the history of the practice.

You will see later in this report concerns raised by the panel members related to support material applicants were submitting with their applications. In many cases the panel did not feel this material accurately represented the project or the past work of the applicant. Please see the 'Feedback' section of this report for further detail.

Over the next few months the Inter-Arts Office will be working to develop a number of key processes that it will implement in 2006. This includes a clear description of a 'referral' process and some clearer definition of the responsibility that the Visual Arts/Craft Board and Music Board will take for supporting new media art practice into the future.

A scoping study into new media art in Australia has recently been put to tender and will be underway by late October. Its findings will be used to develop longer term strategies for new media and hybrid art practice from 2007. These strategies will be developed as part of a visioning process to take place in the first half of 2006. Please visit <www.ozco.gov.au> for further details on the progress of the scoping study.

With support from the Australia Council the School of Creative Media at RMIT has programmed Vital Signs, a national new media and hybrid art conference to take place at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne from 7-9 September 2005. The conference will be an important gathering of new media and hybrid artists from around Australia. It will form an important first opportunity to register the range of new media and hybrid art practice in Australia and provide ideas for its sustainability into the future. I hope to see you there.

The next closing date for the Inter-Arts Office is 1 November 2005, for the assessment of the NMAB grants categories of New Work, New Work (R&D), Residencies and Run_Way Young and Emerging Artists Initiative. Please contact staff of the Inter-Arts Office for further details on 02 9215 9116 or visit <http://www.ozco.gov.au/boards/new_media_arts/>.

Andrew Donovan
Director, Inter-Arts
on behalf of the Assessment Panel



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
FELLOWSHIPS	14	3	21.4%	\$1,120,000	\$240,000
NEW WORK R&D	26	5	19.2%	\$255,406	\$50,000
NEW WORK GENERAL	44	8	18.2%	\$871,060	\$233,584
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION	12	3	25.0%	\$183,693	\$75,458
SKILLS & ARTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS	3	2	66.7%	\$68,179	\$47,864
KEY ORGANISATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAM GRANTS	7	4	57.1%	\$299,000	\$170,000
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS	9	5	55.6%	\$166,468	\$93,732
Total	115	30		\$2,963,806	\$910,638

The following out-of-time grant applications were recommended for funding at the meeting:

Skills and Arts Development (Individuals and Groups)

Richards, Kate (NSW) \$7,199

Undertake travel to north America to attend conferences in Canada.

New Work - General

Stein, Jeffrey (NSW) \$23,980

Travel to Italy for third stage development of a performance installation entitled the "Il ya Project".

Presentation and Promotion

Transmute Collective (QLD) \$19,590

Presentation of an interactive installation "Intimate Transactions" at the Ars Electronica Festival.

In addition to the project grants approved at this meeting, the Inter-Arts Office is currently funding the following Organisations through its Key Organisations grants category:

Triennial 2004-2006

- Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT), SA.
- The Performance Space, NSW.
- Open City (RealTime), NSW.



- given there will be a higher rotation of peers on the Inter-Arts Office assessment panels, the panel members stressed that applicants need to take into account the use of terminology and jargon in their written applications. Some unsuccessful applicants did not clearly communicate their proposal in **plain English**, and did not strongly locate their practice in the **context** of the broader field—this is important for peers who may not be familiar with your work.
- applications to the **New Work** category were not considered by the panel to be of a high standard. The panel sensed a lack of originality in some of the works. They also felt that some of the support material submitted with the applications did not reflect the calibre of artists that were applying to the round.
- panel members stressed that **Fellowship** applicants need to be realistic about the level of work they can reasonably complete in the fellowship period—some applications were unrealistically ambitious.
- **New Work R&D** applicants are encouraged to approach their proposals with a more rigorous research methodology—they need to show the benefit of the new knowledge or skills they seek, and be able to argue why such benefits are important to the broader field.
- **support material** represents the project in the application and is the main opportunity to demonstrate the calibre of artists proposed to participate in a project. Because some peers need to become familiarised with work through support material, applicants are encouraged to submit support material of the highest viewing quality possible.
- applicants should consider their material from the perspective that what a peer **sees first** is important, particularly in relation to video support material where the first images and soundtrack need to draw the viewer into the work
- panel members also felt it was important for sound artists to include some visual imagery of their projects including **footage of site specific works** in situ or documentation of the techniques used to create the work
- applicants submitting URL or DVD material were not providing enough detail on the **navigational path** panel members should follow to lead them through the work.
- the composition of the assessment panel is varied and all applicants should remember that each member may not be familiar with their work. It is therefore important that applicants avoid submitting basic documentation of their previous work and rather use their support material to **tell a story** about their work, and complement the written application.



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

In July 2005, **Time Place Space** (TPS), the Inter-Arts Office's hybrid performance laboratory held its fourth annual workshop over two weeks in Adelaide. This year's event, by all accounts, has been extremely successful and we look forward to seeing the fruits of the networking, creative development and research outcomes of TPS over the next few years as new collaborations and projects are developed in the hybrid performance arena.

There is one final year of Time Place Space to be offered in 2006. Please contact The Performance Space for further details.

In March 2005, the NMAB agreed to support a consortium of organisations working to explore opportunities and develop an understanding of how artists can engage and develop work for the rapidly emerging wireless technology arena.

The **Mobile Journeys** exhibition of artists commissioned to create discrete and site specific art works for mobile devices was held as part of dLux media arts D>Art.05 event at the Sydney Opera House.

Consortium partners include Aust Interactive Media Industry Association, dLux Media Arts, Aust Network for Art & Technology, m.Net, ABC New Media & Digital Services and Samsung Mobile.

For further information contact:
<www.dlux.org.au/mobilejourneys/contact.html>

Synapse is an initiative of the Inter-Arts Office which aims to encourage creative and experimental collaborations between scientists and artists. Through **Synapse** the Australia Council aims to maximise and promote the benefits of these creative collaborations.

The IAO has recently funded an **international conference** as part of Synapse to take place in 2006 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. For further details about *New Constellations: Art, Science & Society* please visit <www.mca.com.au>.

The Australian Network for Art & Technology will be offering another round of **Synapse Residencies** with a range of science organisations in 2006. Please visit <www.anat.org.au> for further details.

The Inter-Arts Office is pleased to announce that **Run_Way** will be offered again this year at its 1 November 2005 closing date.

Run_Way is a program designed to extend and enliven your experience and understanding of hybrid arts practice. The initiative is for young and emerging artists/artworkers under 30 years of age.

It provides opportunities for young and emerging artists/artworkers to travel, learn and develop new skills and/or understanding of hybrid art practice. You can determine and implement a unique professional development scenario suitable to your own individual needs.

For further information please contact Nina Stromqvist on 02 9215 9132 or email <n.stromqvist@ozco.gov.au>.



STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff check eligibility and register applications on Council's computer database. You will receive a letter acknowledging your application with an application number and staff contact for your reference. Staff analyse the statistical information provided by applicants to help Council measure the effectiveness of its grant programs. Staff prepare applications and support material for the panel assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to panel members. Panel members are invited to participate at the meeting bring expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that panel members may have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the panel as required (see below *).

AT THE MEETING

ASSESSMENT

Panel members assess your application against the published selection criteria. Panel members may examine support material at the meeting or by prior arrangement.

Panel members may also take into account information from other sources such as:

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from other panel members or individuals from the Register of Peers who may be asked to provide formal assessments of designated works;
- reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other material;
- any previous Australia Council grant acquittal reports and performance agreements you may have had; and
- communication with State and Territory agencies.

The assessment panel may decide not to recommend funding for the application at the level requested. While your application may meet the stated selection criteria, this does not guarantee you a grant. The Australia Council receives many more applications than it can support. The success of your application must rest ultimately on the merits of your proposal against published criteria and in competition with all the other applications considered for funding.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

All applicants will be notified of the Inter-Arts Office decision by mail during the month indicated in the Handbook and the application forms. Information about grant decisions will not be released over the phone.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of agreement offering you a grant. This letter outlines the terms and conditions of the offer. Payment of a grant will not be made until you have accepted the conditions by signing and returning the letter of agreement.

ACQUITTAL OF GRANTS

Acquittals are the artistic and financial reports that you must provide after completing your project. Acquittal reports enable the Council to fulfil its obligations of accountability as well as allowing us to learn about the success or otherwise of your project. These reports are a valuable way for you to contribute to the policy development work at the Australia Council.

**Inter-Arts staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs to enable a simple, fair and efficient assessment of applications.*



GRANTS LIST

Inter-Arts Office
 NEW WORK R&D
 Round Id: 14444 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Carclew Youth Arts Centre	Research for '42LTU', an interdisciplinary project for contemporary young artists & scientists	SA	\$10,000.00
McDonald Crowley, Amanda	Develop thematic workshops in Asia and a master class in Australia on new media practice	SA	\$10,000.00
Outram, Michelle	Research and develop a sound/hybrid performance work using the speaking voice as a starting point	NSW	\$10,000.00
Prion	'It's Alive' - research and development project using gene technology to make living artworks	WA	\$10,000.00
Troy Innocent	Hybrid[s]-prototype art work blending sculpture, installation, public art, locative & visual media	VIC	\$10,000.00
Grants this Round: 5		Amount Approved:	\$50,000.00

Inter-Arts Office
 PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION
 Round Id: 14446 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Big West Festival	Presentation of 'Local Migration' during the 2005 Big West Festival	VIC	\$15,845.00
Straight Out Of Brisbane Inc	Presentation of new media and hybrid arts program at Straight out of Brisbane Festival	QLD	\$24,613.00
dLux media arts Inc	'Retroscreen' presentation of exhibitions documenting the history of dLux Media Arts	NSW	\$35,000.00
Grants this Round: 3		Amount Approved:	\$75,458.00



GRANTS LIST

Inter-Arts Office
SKILLS & ARTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS
Round Id: 14450 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW Octapod Association Inc	Regional Laboratories - new media art master class for people working in regional Electrofringe 2005, a festival of digital, electronic and media based art	NSW NSW	\$10,864.00 \$37,000.00
Grants this Round: 2		Amount Approved:	\$47,864.00

Inter-Arts Office
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS
Round Id: 14449 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Donovan, Adam	Self-initiated residency in Nuremberg to work with Palindrome Intermedia Performance group	QLD	\$22,754.00
Davidson, Jason	Develop skills to combine traditional boomerang making with new media and communication technology	NT	\$24,000.00
Raw Space Residencies	Host a pilot series of 12 group residencies	QLD	\$20,700.00
Rose, Jodi	Research recording techniques and develop analysis of sounds, attend residency and festival	NSW	\$18,500.00
Schacher, Alan	Attend the Ephemera conference, exploring multi-disciplinary approaches to performance installation	NSW	\$7,778.00
Grants this Round: 5		Amount Approved:	\$93,732.00



GRANTS LIST

Inter-Arts Office
KEY ORGANISATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAM GRANTS
Round Id: 14451 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Experimenta Media Arts Inc	Program grant 2006 - research and development, national touring and emerging artist commissions	VIC	\$40,000.00
Multimedia Art Asia Pacific Inc	Program grant 2006 - towards infrastructure costs of running the organisation and festival	QLD	\$50,000.00
Octapod Association Inc	Program grant 2006 - 5 day 2006 Electrofringe Festival and a series of events & workshops	NSW	\$40,000.00
dLux media arts Inc	Program grant 2006 - FutureScreen, Retroscreen, TourdLux and d>Art06	NSW	\$40,000.00
Grants this Round: 4		Amount Approved:	\$170,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Inter-Arts Office
 NEW WORK GENERAL
 Round Id: 14443 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Czarnecki, Gina	Contagion - development of a large scale, generative, screen-based interactive public art work	VIC	\$35,000.00
Frumpus	Development of a multi-disciplinary performance dealing with the monsterisation of women killers	NSW	\$22,459.00
Gonsalves, Tina	Research, development, and production of Tryst, a responsive video 3G mobile phone art project	QLD	\$35,000.00
Henschke, Christopher	Creation of 'Observatory' an interactive visualisation of a ten dimensional space	VIC	\$14,000.00
Lost Garden Found Project	Creation of hybrid-media artworks for 3 artificial gardens as part of 'Lost Garden Found'	VIC	\$10,000.00
Next Wave Festival Inc	Development and presentation of a range of new media/hybrid projects by young Australian artists	VIC	\$30,000.00
PVI Collective	Development of a new performance work entitled 'The Future belongs to Crowds'	WA	\$37,775.00
SymbioticA (UWA Dept of Anatomy & Human Biology)	Further development of 'MEART - the Semi Living Artist' by SymbioticA Research Group	WA	\$49,350.00
Grants this Round: 8		Amount Approved:	\$233,584.00



GRANTS LIST

Inter-Arts Office
FELLOWSHIPS
Round Id: 14452 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Armstrong, Keith	A two year transitional program of new work, critical theory and business planning	QLD	\$80,000.00
Rose, Jon	Creation of a set of audio-visual interactive compositions	NSW	\$80,000.00
rea	Research into interactivity, develop new skills and create diorama projections and PDA animations	NSW	\$80,000.00
Grants this Round: 3		Amount Approved:	\$240,000.00
Total Grants: 30		Total Amount Approved:	\$910,638.00

