



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



NEW MEDIA ARTS BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
1 November 2003

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL **31 MARCH 2003**



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the New Media Arts Board on 1 November 2003. It details statistical analysis of the grants round and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of the applications at its meeting held on 23-25 February 2004.

The New Media Arts Board supports collaborative arts practices that do not fall within conventional, single artform areas. The Board supports work in the two broad areas of interdisciplinary art and new media art (please see *2004 Australia Council Support for the Arts Handbook* for further detail)

ATTENDANCE

The membership of the New Media Arts Board is as follows:

Michael Snelling (Chair) is based in Brisbane (Qld) and is the Director of the Institute for Modern Art (IMA), Brisbane.

Marcus Canning (WA) is Artistic Director of the Artrage Festival in Perth.

Jenny Fraser (QLD) is an indigenous digital artist and curator based on the Gold Coast.

Peter Hennessey (VIC) is a multi-media artist, interactive designer and programmer. He is the director of Drome Pty Ltd and consultant to Cinemedia at Federation Square.

Jonathon Mills (VIC) is a composer and artistic director. He is also adjunct professor in Environmental Design at RMIT.

Alicia Talbot (NSW) is the Artistic Director of Urban Theatre Projects and is a performance practitioner based in Sydney.

Note: Peter Hennessey and Jonathon Mills were unable to attend this Assessment Meeting.

In addition to the Board members, Kathy Cleland (NSW), a freelance curator and lecturer at the University of Sydney, Andrew Garton (VIC), an artist working through Toy Satellite and Mayu Kanamori (NSW), an artist.

The following New Media Arts Board Staff were in attendance:

Andrew Donovan	Manager
Geoffrey Taylor	Program Officer
Reed Everingham	Assistant Program Officer
David Symonds	Acting Administrator
Nina Stromqvist	Administrative Assistant



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The February meeting was the second assessment meeting for New Work and New Work (R&D) since the Board's change to one closing date per year for these categories. Given our concerns about the long gap between applications for new media artists with only a single closing date for most grant categories, I'm pleased to announce the Board has agreed that two closing dates will be offered for New Work applications in 2004. Both New Work and New Work (R&D) will be available at 1 May and 1 November this year. Other grant categories are not affected by this change.

The February round was significant in that the grant amounts requested for the successful applications was greater than in previous years. Last year, 153 applicants allowed for 36 New Work grants; in this round of 143 New Work applications, the Board provided 25 grants.

Adding to the competitiveness of the round was the generally high standard of applications received by the Board. In this context, I urge all applicants to consider the general feedback in this report and contact staff for further information about your application. Applications supported in this round represent a diverse mix of hybrid arts and new media practice. The Board believes this group of applications, and many others in this round that were not able to be supported, demonstrate a vibrant and conceptually imaginative field in Australia.

In 2004, there are some changes to the National Residencies being offered by the Board. As in 2003, the Board will be offering some new residences that do not appear in the *2004 Support for the Arts Handbook*. Later this year, the Board will call for applications for a Hybrid Performance Residency to take place at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts in 2005. A further Hybrid Performance Residency will subsequently be offered at the Performance Space in Sydney. For information as it becomes available, please regularly check the Australia Council's updated website <www.ozco.gov.au>.

Applicants familiar with the Board's long standing residency at *The Listening Room* at ABC Radio will be aware that this program is no longer going to air. The Board has re-negotiated the arrangements and, in 2004, will offer the ABC Radio National Radiophonic Residency.

The next closing date for the Board is 1 May 2004, with applicants notified of decisions in August 2004. The following categories will be offered at the 1 May closing date:

- New Work (General and R&D)
- Presentation and Promotion
- Skills and Arts Development (Organisations, Individuals and Groups)
- Skills and Arts Development Residencies
- Key Organisations—Program Grants
- Fellowships
- Run_Way Young and Emerging Artists Initiative

If you have any questions in regard to this funding round or submitting an application to the next round please do not hesitate to contact Board staff on 02 9215 9116 or <nma@ozco.gov.au>.

Michael Snelling
February 2004



OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
NEW WORK	97	15	15%	\$2,581,238	\$514,942
NEW WORK R&D	46	10	22%	\$430,727	\$91,972
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT International Residency Banff	4	1	25%	\$18,000	\$4,500
TOTAL	143	26	18%	\$3,029,965.00	\$611,414
Out-of-Time Assessed as part of the Meeting	1	0	0%	\$60,000	\$0
Out-of-time assessed between July 2003 Meeting & February 2004 Meeting	2	1	50%	\$9,697	\$7,197

In addition to the project grants approved at this meeting, the NMAB 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 (for the production of REALTIME), NSW.

Program 2004

- dLux Media Arts, NSW
- Experimenta Media Arts, VIC
- Multimedia Art Asia Pacific, QLD

A full list of approved grants from this meeting is attached.



FEEDBACK

- support material is the main opportunity to demonstrate the quality of the work by artists proposed to participate in a project. Applicants are encouraged to submit support material of the highest viewing quality possible. Support material is crucial to the selection process however too many applicants submit support material of little apparent relevance to their applications. The application form includes a section where the relationship between the support material submitted and the proposed project can be explained. The Board urges applicants to use this opportunity to explain *why* particular support material was chosen and elaborate on its context in relation to the proposed project. Where a URL (web address) is supplied as evidence of previous work, applicants must ensure that the work remains online until the date of the assessment meeting. Submitting a URL that doesn't work can significantly disadvantage your application. The Board strongly encourages the provision of a specific navigable path through URLs, DVDs and CDROMs, otherwise the members will only consider the material as they find it.
- the Board was concerned at the low proposed level of cofunding from other sources in some applications. The Board encourages applicants to consider all avenues of support for their projects. The category description of New Work in the Australia Council's *Support for the Arts Handbook* states that seeking such funding is a means to demonstrate the viability of a proposal.
- the Board continues to be pleased with the high quality of the applications to the New Work (R&D) category, which results in a very competitive round. However, some R&D applications seem to be small New Work applications. It is important to note that this category is only for small R&D applications. Large R&D applications, and *any* applications involved in the production and presentation phases of a project, must be submitted to the New Work category.
- the Board encourages applicants to undertake a broad research element in the preparation of their applications. Applicants need to ensure that they have knowledge of similar developments both locally and overseas. Potential collaborations with artists working in similar territory are encouraged. Applicants can choose to work in isolation but must demonstrate an awareness of their field and provide a sound rationale for any re-examination of the same ground.
- the Board encourages applicants to clearly articulate in what sense they believe their application is appropriate for funding through the New Media Arts Board. In some instances the Board felt that applicants did not clearly argue what elements and processes in their practice made it strongly hybrid or new media in nature. Applicants must make a compelling case as to why the New Media Arts Board should support their project.
- the language in some applications was too dense or overly theoretical. The Board encourages applicants to use plain English principles when describing their proposals



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The New Media Arts Board is currently working on a number of initiatives for implementation in 2004:

In the second half of 2004, the third **National Indigenous School for New Media Arts (NISNMA)** will take place in Brisbane. As a priority of the Board's Indigenous New Media Arts strategy, it creates an intensive learning experience in a range of digitally based media. Artists with a variety of artistic experience are brought together for a unique professional development and networking opportunity.

As part of its International Marketing Strategy, the Board has provided support for travel support for both Australian and international participants to Asialink's **Asian New Media Art Forum** in Melbourne. The forum on new media art in the Asia Pacific region will take place in July.

The Board's **Time Place Space** initiative is continuing into its next iteration in 2004. To take place at AIT Arts, Adelaide in July, this intensive laboratory aims to challenge, invigorate and strengthen the areas of hybrid arts practice in Australia, with an emphasis on performance. The Board appreciates the level of support that this initiative has received from various other parts of the Australia Council: the Music Board, the Theatre Board, the Dance Board and the Visual Arts/Craft Board.

For details on the above or other Board Initiatives please contact Andrew Donovan, Manager of NMAB on 02 9215 9124 or email a.donovan@ozco.gov.au for further details.

SYNAPSE is an initiative of the New Media Arts Board (NMAB) 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.

As part of **SYNAPSE** in 2004, the Australian Network for Art & Technology (ANAT) is co-ordinating, on behalf of the NMAB, a new 3-month residency program for artists working in science organisations. The program will create new opportunities for artists and forge links with CSIRO Marine Research, Hobart; Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra and the e-World Lab, University of SA. For further information, see www.anat.org.au.

The Board is pleased to announce that **RUN_WAY** will be offered at the 1 May 2004 closing date.

RUN_WAY is a program designed to extend and enliven your experience and understanding of interdisciplinary/new media arts practice. The initiative is for young and emerging artists/artswomen under 30 years of age.

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

For further information please contact Geoffrey Taylor on 02 9215 9110 or email g.taylor@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 Board assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to Board members. Peers are invited to participate as advisers to the Board at the meeting bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that Board members and peers have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the Board as required (see below *).

AT THE MEETING

ASSESSMENT

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

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

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from members of 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.

Boards may decide not to fund 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 Board's 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.

**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

NEW MEDIA ARTS BOARD APPROVED GRANTS LIST – CLOSING DATE: 1 NOVEMBER 2003

NEW WORK – GENERAL

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATE	AMOUNT
Alchemy	'Alchemy' a multi-arts production with seven Brisbane artists and skadada	QLD	\$35,266
Cicada	Creation of an immersive audio-visual live performance exploring the notion of a crowd as a discrete organism	VIC	\$32,500
Couros, Panagiotis	'Omphalos - Oracle #7', a multi-speaker sound installation	NSW	\$29,550
Erceg, Linda	Creation of interactive components for "The Searchers"—a sound and video installation	VIC	\$20,000
Experimenta Media Arts Inc	Presentation of new works at 'Optical Illusions', an interactive art exhibition	VIC	\$40,000
Gravity Feed Incorporated	Develop, rehearse and showcase interactive performance work, 'Monstrous Body'	NSW	\$39,750
IMG	Development of a 3-D motion capture and animation protocol that enhances the sense of immersion in art installations	WA	\$34,545
Josephine Wilson & Vikki Wilson	Development of the short story, 'Kittenhood', into a three-dimensional installation	WA	\$23,160
LifeBoat	Production of 'LifeBoat', an art+science collaboration in the form of a mobile laboratory	WA	\$60,250
Liquid Architecture	Commission new works for a sound arts festival featuring Australian and international artists	VIC	\$15,000
Marrugeku	Second stage development of a new large scale intercultural and interdisciplinary work	NSW	\$65,000
Medlin, Margie	Project exploring the relationship between live performance & real time motion control	VIC	\$39,920



Norrie, Susan	'Interlude', an investigation into the immersive space of video installation	NSW	\$10,000
PVI Collective	'tts: australia project', a site-specific public performance artwork for 4 Australian cities	WA	\$50,000
Stuart, Caleb	'impermanant audio', a series of sound art performances, an exhibition and a tour	NSW	\$20,000

NEW WORK – RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATE	AMOUNT
BioKino	Exploration of the possibilities of projecting nano-movies through a microscope onto a living screen	WA	\$9,950
Casey, Karen	Development of interactive installation using functional brain scan imaging and data	VIC	\$10,000
Crooks, Daniel	Experimentation and research with high speed digital video capture.	VIC	\$9,875
Dennis, Rosie	Exploration of the nexus between language, light and sound placement in public spaces.	NSW	\$9,977
English, Lawrence	Research of the intersections between environmental mapping and new media installation art.	QLD	\$8,000
Gazzola, Paul	Research and development of a solo performance 'SIT:04', exploring the body in installation.	WA	\$6,550
Law, Joanne	Research the emerging standard of mpeg4 in the development of screen works	WA	\$8,480
Mott, Iain	Develop speech analysis software for use in installations plus incorporate database techniques	VIC	\$10,000
Mowson, Bruce	Research and development of an experimental media art performance, 'INFRA-CINEMA'	VIC	\$10,000
Walton, Judith	Creation of a collaborative and interactive, projected landscape through foot pressure sensors	VIC	\$9,140

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY – BANFF

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATE	AMOUNT
Shea, Phillipa	A web-based work exploring xenophobia, sexuality, identity and morality within Australia	VIC	\$4,500

