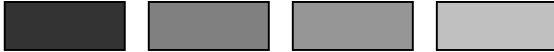




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



New Media Arts Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
1 November 2004

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 31 MARCH 2005



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the New Media Arts Board on 1 November 2004. 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 2 - 4 March 2005.

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:

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

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

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

Bronte Adams (VIC) is based in Melbourne and is a principal at Dandolo Partners. She is a director of Melbourne University Publishing, and formerly executive director of Multimedia Victoria.

Chair - Vacant

Note: There are currently two other vacancies on the Board.

In addition to the above members the Board was joined by four participating peer advisors: Julianne Pierce (SA) is a director of the Australian Network for Art & Technology; Jason Davidson (NT) is a new media artist based in Darwin; Gail Priest (NSW) is a sound artist based in Sydney, and Brian Fuata (NSW) a performance artist based in Sydney.

Jonathan Mills was not able to attend this meeting. With no current appointed Chair in attendance, the Board elected Bronte Adams as Acting Chair for the meeting.

The following New Media Arts Board Staff were in attendance:

Andrew Donovan	Manager
Geoffrey Taylor	Program Officer
Nina Stromqvist	Acting Assistant Program Officer
Susan Parker	Administrator
Christian Taylor	Administrative Assistant



ACTING CHAIR'S COMMENTS

This Board meeting was held at an important time for new media arts and hybrid arts practice in Australia. With the recently announced changes to the structure of the Australia Council, all board members were acutely aware that this meeting may well be the last for the New Media Arts Board.

On the first morning of the Board meeting, we were joined by the Chairman of the Australia Council, David Gonski, the Future Planning Taskforce Convener and Deputy Chairman of the Council, Terrey Arcus, and CEO, Jennifer Bott, to discuss the implications of the proposed structural changes for the new media art and hybrid art field.

The Board stated clearly its concern that the identity of new media practice and hybrid practice not be lost in the changes. We expressed our concern that the evaluation and monitoring of the restructure should be well-resourced and transparent to demonstrate to the field that the changes will not have significant impact on the funding of new media and hybrid art. The Board asked that the review process of the restructure work toward a continuing and growing dialogue between the field and the Council about the support of new media and hybrid art across the organisation.

The Board also stressed the need for an education and development process for other boards to augment their knowledge and understanding of new media art practices.

While Board members and staff were saddened by the realisation that the New Media Arts Board may be dissolved, there was acknowledgement that the proposed new structure offers opportunities and new resources to integrate the support for new media art and hybrid art practice across all of the Australia Council.

The Board acknowledged the strength and unity of the field response to the Council over the changes, and believes this demonstrates a healthy and dynamic field that has the maturity and determination to work through any challenges the new funding structure will present.

The strength and purpose of the field was also demonstrated in the applications to this round, representing what is a vibrant and conceptually imaginative field in Australia. The March meeting continued the Board's trend toward an increase in competition for grants and in this context I urge all applicants to consider the general feedback in this report and contact staff for further information about your application.

I would also like to thank our participating peer advisors at this meeting, whose contributions were equally valued and acknowledged by the Board.

We were pleased with the range of practice represented in the applications to this round, contributing to a good balance between hybrid and new media art. While most states and territories were represented among the range of successful applications, representation remained strongest by artists from NSW and Victoria.

The Board believes that the applications to this round also represented a healthy range of cross artform and cross media collaborations between artists. The Board stated their desire to see this work continue to be funded by the Australia Council.

It was the Board's view that the range of practices supported by NMAB over the years will find a home in the new structure, and we look forward to all boards



ACTING CHAIR'S COMMENTS

engaging with cross-artform and new media practice, and in particular the role the Inter-Arts Office will play in promoting this work across the organisation.

The next closing date for the Board is 1 May 2005, with applicants notified of decisions in August 2005. The following categories will be offered at the 1 May closing date:

New Work (General and R&D)

- Presentation & Promotion
- Skills & Arts Development (Individuals & Groups)
- Skills & Arts Development (Organisations)
- Key Organisations - Program Grants
- Fellowships

For further details please see a copy of the 2005 Australia Council Support for the Arts Handbook or visit http://www.ozco.gov.au/boards/new_media_arts/.

In light of proposed changes to the Australia Council, applications submitted to the above grant categories may not be assessed by the New Media Arts Board. In such cases applications will be assessed by peers drawn from the Australia Council Register of Peers who have relevant new media art and/or hybrid art expertise, using the selection criteria as published for that category.

Please regularly check the Australia Council website or talk with staff throughout the year to keep up to date with the progress of the reorganisation and its implications for our grant programs for the second half of 2005.

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.

The meeting closed with a note of thanks and acclaim to all of the past New Media Arts Board (and Hybrid Arts Committee) chairs and members for supporting and fostering a stunning range of artists and their innovative and experimental practice over the last decade. We leave the field in a much stronger position than it was ten years ago, with new media art established as a legitimate and growing endeavour across the full range of artforms.

The Board also thanked staff, past and present, for their hard work and commitment in developing the practice, and we look forward to the current New Media Arts Board teams' continued support for new media and hybrid art practices in their future positions within the Council.

Bronte Adams
March 2005



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
NEW WORK R&D	29	5	17.2%	\$267,644	\$48,550
NEW WORK GENERAL	63	8	12.7%	\$1,538,424	\$240,336
INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY - BANFF	9	TBA*	-	\$40,500	-
NATIONAL RESIDENCY - SYMBIOTICA	4	1	25.0%	\$104,349	\$29,816
RUN_WAY - YOUNG & EMERGING ARTISTS INITIATIVE	20	10	50.0%	\$95,230	\$49,860
Total	125	24		\$2,046,147	\$368,562

*Please note: Four artists were short-listed. This list is forwarded to Banff before a final decision on the grant recipient is made.



- the Board noted that applicants to the **Banff International Residency** were not responding strongly to the thematic provided by Banff. There was a sense that applicants were trying to fit existing projects into the thematic rather than responding to the opportunities of the thematic itself.
 - this round of **New Work (R&D)** grants was strong, although the Board noted that the successful applications were more aligned to new media practice than hybrid. We encourage more hybrid practitioners to consider applying for R&D projects.
 - **New Work** applications to this round were also of a high quality and competition was strong. The Board felt there was a good mix of new media and hybrid works among those funded, and they were pleased organisations were supported for some larger budget hybrid performance works. They did note however that this made it difficult for individuals in the round.
 - the level of innovation was excellent in the round, with an overall sense that creative collaborative processes were promoting a healthy dialogue between artists working in across different artforms and media.
 - the Board noted that there was a strong hybrid performance orientation in the final list of approved grants, which balanced the strong showing of new media practice in recent rounds.
 - applications to the **Symbiotica Residency** were of high quality, however the Board encourages more artists to consider making applications to take advantage of this opportunity.
- the **Run_Way Young and Emerging Artist Initiative** grants were not as competitive as recent years. Those that were successful presented a coherent and structured program of activities that clearly demonstrated the applicant was taking advantage of established opportunities through existing contacts and the skills and knowledge they can bring to bear to the project.
 - all of the Board's existing residencies and special categories (e.g., Run_Way) will be offered in the new structure and artists are advised to check the Australia Council website in the coming months for updates on how to make applications.
 - support material is the main opportunity to demonstrate the calibre of 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 and 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. 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.



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

In July 2005, **Time Place Space** (TPS), the Board's hybrid performance laboratory will hold its fourth annual workshop over two weeks in Adelaide. This year's event follows on from last year's extremely successful workshop 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.

This project is managed by the Performance Space for further information please contact:
<tps@performancespace.com.au>

In August/September 2004 Indigenous new media artists gathered for the third national **Indigenous Media Lab** in Brisbane. The two-week lab introduced emerging and established Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander new media artists to a range of new experiences and expert tutors designed to further develop their practice and understanding of new media art in an Indigenous context.

As part of its partnership with Audience & Market Development to implement an International Strategy for new media art, the Board agreed to support a UK tour of Breathing Space Australia in late 2005. This hybrid performance program will be co-ordinated by the Performance Space and held as part of the biennial Inbetween Time Festival of Live Art and Intrigue at Arnolfini in Bristol. The works will then tour to Glasgow and Manchester.

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.

For further details on this program please visit:
<http://www.ozco.gov.au/grants/other_support_new_media_arts/synapse>

The Synapse Database is managed through the Australian Network for Art & Technology. Please visit:
<www.synapse.net.au>

For further details please email:
<synapse@ozco.gov.au>

The NMAB has 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. **Mobile Journeys** will see artists commissioned to create discrete and site specific art works for mobile devices.

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

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



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.

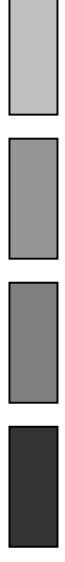
**Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs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



GRANTS LIST

New Media Arts Board
 RUN_WAY - YOUNG & EMERGING ARTISTS INITIATIVE
 Round Id: 14237 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Airstrip	Presentation at Dorkbot Ghent in Belgium & attendance at ARS Electronica in Austria	VIC	\$5,000.00
Barling, Bianca	Collaboration with 'Blast Theory' in London in 2005	SA	\$5,000.00
Frost	Residency & mentorship in Iceland with artist Valgeir Sigurdsson	VIC	\$5,000.00
Last, Sarah	Internship with variable Media network, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA	NSW	\$5,000.00
Murray, Phillipa	Attendance at the Digital Art Festival, Tokyo & visit new media galleries, organisations and studios	VIC	\$4,940.00
Osbourne, Janet	Participation in a Residency at Symbiotica, Perth WA	WA	\$4,940.00
Sowerwine, Vanessa	Attendance at Ars Electronica and research automata and mechanical movement in Paris	QLD	\$5,000.00
Stewart, Emma	Attendance at the Thailand New Media Arts Festival 2006 & ICECA Artist Residency	NSW	\$5,000.00
Voorendt, Ingrid	A period of observation, dialogue & participation with performing Arts Co 'Victoria'	VIC	\$5,000.00
Zile, Emile	Attendance at the European Media Art Festivals VIPER in Switzerland & IMPACT in the Netherlands	VIC	\$4,980.00
Grants this Round: 10			\$49,860.00



GRANTS LIST

New Media Arts Board
NEW WORK R&D
Round Id: 14236 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Bridgeman Law Merton	Researching conceptual models of screen works that utilise algorithms as their construction agent	WA	\$9,800.00
Cicada	Development of an interactive projection based artwork	VIC	\$9,750.00
Fox, Robin	Research and Development of an installation work that maps sound and light electricity	VIC	\$9,000.00
Metraform	Designing an interface for multi-modal interaction with complex temporal & spatial narrative systems	VIC	\$10,000.00
Rose, Jodi	Investigating the technical requirements for creating 'Global Bridge Symphony Nordic Stream'		\$10,000.00
Grants this Round: 5			\$48,550.00



GRANTS LIST

New Media Arts Board
NEW WORK GENERAL
Round Id: 14235 Closing Date: 01-NOV-2004

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Aphids Events Inc	Production of 'Origami Koen', a robotic origami garden installation	VIC	\$15,000.00
Back to Back Theatre Inc	Development and presentation of 'Small Metal Objects', a multi-disciplinary theatrical event	VIC	\$47,000.00
Jeffrey Stein	Development of the 2nd stage of 'Il Ya', a performance installation	NSW	\$24,410.00
Khut, George	Development of an artwork allowing audiences to explore aspects of their own breathing patterns	NSW	\$25,482.00
Rock 'n' Roll Circus Inc	Production of 'Departures I-IV', a series of collaborations involving new forms of circus language	QLD	\$36,000.00
Stalker Stilt Theatre Inc	Development for the third in four stages of 'Burning Daylight', an intercultural performance work	NSW	\$52,000.00
Stuart, Caleb	Production of 'impermanent audio', a series sound performances and installations	NSW	\$20,000.00
Uniikup Productions Ltd	Creation of 'Boxing Art - the dual/duel canvas', a new media art installation	QLD	\$20,444.00

Grants this Round: 8

Amount Approved:

\$240,336.00



