

Visual Arts - assessment meeting report-September 2011

Key Organisations Multi-year closing date July 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Visual Arts Board met over two days on 12 and 13 September to assess applications to the category of Key Organisations Multi-year as part of a limited review of the category. The Visual Arts Board had not assessed their Key Organisations for eight years and as a result of this meeting, agreed that it would work towards a full review of this portfolio over the next four years, in order to address key issues around sustainability and growth of the sector.

This limited review process was an important task as we invest approximately two-thirds of our budget into a group of organisations that provide crucial support for the visual arts sector. However, it was also a difficult task as the Visual Arts Board had to consider not only applications from organisations currently receiving Key Organisations funding, but also two new candidates that had been invited to apply after an Expressions of Interest process in late 2010. All currently funded organisations were advised of this process at that point and were provided with formal notice that their Visual Arts Board funding was not guaranteed after 2011.

The Visual Arts Board and the staff of the Visual Arts and Key Organisations sections undertook extensive planning in advance of this meeting. The Key Organisations Client Manager also provided considerable support services for applicants, particularly in the area of business planning with a workshop being held in February this year to assist interested organisations develop their business plans.

The Visual Arts Board's assessment of Key Organisations was made using the following selection criteria:

- A vital contribution to the development of high quality contemporary art practice as shown by activity relevant to context. For example: service, touring, regional etc.
- the organisation's artistic and professional skills appropriate to the activity
- the ways in which your organisation engages with the public or membership as shown by audience development strategies and outcomes
- quality and Innovation in the organisation's ongoing program of local and national and/or international activities; and
- Sustainable planning, governance and management as shown by effective use of resources, including appropriate budgeting and remuneration of artists and staff

The Visual Arts Board's broader policy for the sector is also articulated in our sector plan which is available on the [Australia Council's website](#).

Within the Multi-year category the Visual Arts Board only reduces or discontinues an organisation's funding if it has concerns about operational or artistic matters. These decisions are not taken lightly. At this meeting we made changes to the funding of four organisations that had received Multi-year investment for extended periods. We also welcomed two new organisations to Multi-year Key Organisations who were invited to submit their business plans after the Expression of Interest process mentioned above.

We received some highly competitive applications from organisations that have a national impact, attract national and international audiences, profile Australian artists

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internationally and demonstrate best practice in what they deliver. They are the most significant visual arts organizations in Australia and it is clear that they have greater needs and require additional resources, beyond the capacity of the Visual Arts Board. The Board was unable to respond to their requests. Therefore, the Board discussed the possibility of a new, three-tiered structure of funding for visual arts organisations: first tier [being](#) the major flagship organisations; second tier [the](#) organisations of national significance; and third tier organisations of local, state significance.

By viewing the visual arts sector through such a new model we are hoping to create a road map for the future which would be tested by a full consultation and review over the coming four year period. This model would allow the board to clearly view the visual arts landscape and provides a point by which funding discussions can be initiated with different levels of government. It also illustrates the scales of impact and scales of need whilst providing a mechanism for organizations to move forward and be aspirational. The Board has committed to advocating for such a model through the current National Cultural Policy submissions.

As a response to the decisions it made, the Board agreed to develop two new initiatives: a National Craft Strategic Initiative with a total budget of \$400,000 over four years that will build advocacy and strategic opportunities for the Australian craft sector; and a four year National Media Arts Strategic Initiative to give new direction and strategic opportunities for the Australian media arts sector with a total investment of \$340,000 over the next four years.

I am very happy to welcome two new Visual Arts Board members – Sean Kelly and Kate Daw. Their details are available on the [Australia Council's website](#) and they each bring valuable knowledge and experience to the Visual Arts Board. At this meeting, these new members were joined by two peers Rée Izett and Max Delany who both assisted the Board with their expertise and experience.

The Minister for the Arts released the discussion paper on the National Cultural Policy on 11 August. The Visual Arts Board will be contributing to the Australia Council's response to the paper and I also urge all key organisations to engage with the debate. Further details are available via this link - [National Cultural Policy](#).

Ted Snell
Chair Visual Arts Board

FEEDBACK ON THE ROUND

General Feedback

Key Organisations

This was a significant meeting for the Visual Arts Board's Key Organisations. It was the first review of the category since 2003.

- As a result, this year's round was very competitive and the Key Organisations Multi-year round saw two new organisations successfully achieve multiyear status

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for the first time. The Visual Arts Board welcomes these new organisations into the category and looks forward to working with them over the next four years.

- The Board decided to offer four year funding to organisations to align with the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy (VACS) funding that many of the organisations also receive.

Overall, the Visual Arts Board observed the following in the applications assessed in this round:

- A trend of extensive activity often not aligned with current resources.
- Commendable inclusion of artistic vibrancy and artistic self-evaluation processes but these are not always fully incorporated in planning and programming.
- A number of organisations have ongoing issues with rising rents and the availability of suitable premises.
- Some organisations struggle to demonstrate diversity in their work and operations.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Key Organisations Multi-Year Category 13 July 2011

24HR Art – NT \$77,938 p.a.

Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art - NSW \$80,000 p.a.

Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Art Gallery of South Australia (Adelaide Biennial) - SA \$43,534 p.a.

Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Art Monthly Australia - ACT \$57,896 p.a.

Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Art on the Move - WA \$67,801

Key Organisations One-Year 2012

Artback NT Arts Development and Touring – NT \$67,917

Key Organisations One-Year 2012

Artlink Australia - SA \$61,238 p.a.

Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Artspace Visual Art Centre Ltd – NSW \$128,340 p.a.

Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art - Vic \$100,204 p.a.

Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

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Australian Experimental Art Foundation - SA \$123,588
Key Organisations One-Year 2012

Australian Network for Art and Technology - SA \$250,000
Key Organisations One-Year 2012

Biennale of Sydney – NSW \$221,428 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Canberra Contemporary Art Space – ACT \$65,208 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Centre for Contemporary Photography – Vic \$27,834 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia – SA \$44,536 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Contemporary Art Services Tasmania – Tas \$161,442 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre – ACT \$44,536 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Craft Queensland (trading under Artisan) – Qld \$55,670 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Craft Victoria - Vic \$55,670 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Craftsouth: Centre for Contemporary Craft & Design – SA \$55,670 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Experimenta Media Arts - Vic \$43,534 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Eyeline Publishing Ltd – Qld \$30,664 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

FORM: Contemporary Craft and Design - WA \$55,670 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Gertrude Contemporary – Vic \$57,700 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Institute of Modern Art – Qld \$111,340 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

JamFactory Contemporary Craft and Design - SA \$33,402 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

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Museum and Gallery Services Queensland - Qld \$67,800 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Museum of Contemporary Art – NSW \$278,348 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Museums and Galleries NSW - NSW \$67,918 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

National Association for the Visual Arts – NSW \$239,278 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

NETS Victoria - Vic \$67,918 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Object: Australian Centre for Craft and Design – NSW \$ 298,348 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Perth Institute of Contemporary Art – WA \$136,340 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Queensland Art Gallery (Asia-Pacific Triennial) - Qld \$65,303 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

The Australian Centre for Photography - NSW \$122,474 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

Umbrella Studio – Qld \$22,268 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

West Space – Vic \$50,000 p.a.
Key Organisations Multi-Year 2012 - 2015

FUNDING STATISTICS

Key Organisations Multi-year

Applications received:	40
Applications funded:	37
92% success rate	
Amount requested:	\$7,609,150
Amount approved:	\$3,859,399

PANEL MEMBERS

The following Board members and peer advisers attended the meeting:

Board members

Prof Ted Snell AM, chair, WA
Dr Kate Daw, Vic
Prof Dennis Del Favero, NSW

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Dr Danie Mellor, NSW
Dr Victoria Reichelt, Qld
Ms Angela Valamanesh, SA
Richard Whiteley, NSW
Mr Seán Kelly, Tas

Peer Advisers

Mr Max Delany (Vic)
Ms Rée Izett (Vic)

The following staff members were present at the meeting:

Australia Council staff

Kon Gouriotis, Director Visual Arts
Atul Joshi, Director Key Organisations
Laura McLeod, Client Manager, Visual Arts Key Organisations
Kate Major, Program Manager Visual Arts
Rebecca Chan, Section Co-ordinator Visual Arts
Hannah Bradley, Administration Officer Visual Arts