

Australia Council Annual Report
2006-07

Image Story Harmony Vibrancy

Art is courage. Art is dignity.
Art is dangerous, irrational, authentic.
Art is enthusiasm. Art showcases our talents to the world. Art brings fresh life to values. Art is instinct, and skill. Art is seeing, and not believing everything we see. Art is our most secret self. Art asks too many questions, and surprises us with unexpected thoughts. Art is beyond understanding. Art is sublime.
Art keeps us together. Art is community, and personality.

In a single year, art breathes change into millions of Australian lives. It gives shape to random ideas, and creates new spaces for thinking about our future.
It rebuilds our emotions every day. It makes us happy, and reflective. It excites our imagination, and leaves us trembling with anger or joy, laughing or crying, and eager for more. Art is the enemy of monotony.
Art brings out the Australian in all of us.

Image. Shaping bold new terrains.

Australian artists have a knack for doing things differently.

Their innovative approaches to visual arts, theatre, contemporary dance, music and literature generate insights into Australian life that inspire followers around the country and around the world. They project a dynamic picture of 'being Australian' – their works are a prism through which others see us.

With Australia Council support, Australia's artists presented 3636 creative works in 2006-07 – entertaining, questioning, confronting and rewarding, an invigorating antidote to the conforming routines of everyday life.

Visionary new Australian works thrilled audiences throughout the year.

Once again, Australia's arts pushed innovation to the edge.

Daniel von Sturmer
The Object of Things 2007

Video installation in the Australian Pavilion
at the 2007 Venice Biennale.

Image courtesy of the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery.



Story. Exploring narratives about ourselves.

Australians have always been great storytellers.

From the legends of the Dreaming to rollicking goldfields ballads and modern performances, spinning a 'good yarn' has been central to defining who we are – on the stage, on the page and in the gallery.

Our stories, told in distinctively Australian voices, reveal a fabulous wealth of diversity. They form a narrative treasure that contributes to our unique literary, theatrical and artistic presence in the world.

With Australia Council support, Australia's artists created 4476 new works in 2006-07, enriching the nation with explorations of our turbulent past and powerful forays into the challenging issues of our times.

This year featured bold new works that captured Australia's imagination, showing that stories matter, now more than ever.



Yirra Yaakin
Windmill Baby

Rohanna Angus in Yirra Yaakin's
award-winning production *Windmill Baby*.
Image courtesy Yirra Yaakin. Photo Jon Green.



Harmony. Bringing our communities together.

Australians love getting together.

And nothing brings out their strong sense of community more than involvement with the arts, whether performing in a musical, arguing the point in reading groups, or painting landscapes in a local class.

Creating art is open to all Australians – so too is appreciation of the arts. The Australia Council supported around 9.3 million attendances at Australian arts events in 2006-07.

Importantly, the arts were not limited to our big cities, but ventured far.

In broadening our view of the world and ourselves, the arts helped create better communities.

Oz Opera ***Carmen***

Opera Australia toured the Oz Opera production of *Carmen* throughout regional south-eastern Australia.

Promotional image courtesy of Australia Post, principal sponsor of Oz Opera.



Vibrancy. Reflecting our dynamic society.

Australia's artists are integral to shaping a society open to new ideas.

Displaying muscular talent and unstoppable attitude, our artists explore the diversity of Australia's urban and rural landscapes, giving creative substance – in dance, theatre, writing, music and visual arts – to our dreams and aspirations.

The Australia Council provides multi-year funding for 174 organisations that generate approximately \$200 million in earned income, keeping alive the excitement and boldness of our creative endeavours.

Artistic events and initiatives continued to reflect the true spirit of Australia in 2006-07.

Yet again, great arts experiences added vibrancy to Australian lives.



Yumi Umiutare
DasSHOKU Hora!!

Yumi Umiutare with Matt Crosby
and Ben Rogan in the production
DasSHOKU Hora!!.

Image courtesy of the artist. Photo Jeff Busby.



Australia Council – what we do

Invest in the creativity of the nation's artists and opportunities for all Australians to enjoy their work.

Support Australian artists and arts organisations through funding programs.

Build the capacity of the arts sector by providing advice and operational resources.

Research the arts and culture to underpin our programs and develop arts policy.

Develop cultural policy and advise governments on issues relating to the arts.

Facilitate partnerships between artists, governments and business that build a stronger arts sector.

Promote the value of the arts and help build new audiences at home and overseas.

Advocate with governments and the community to increase the role of the arts in the lives of Australians.

Australian arts and culture – the big picture

\$16.9b

size of the arts and related industries

300,000

Australians employed in the arts and culture

2.9m

Australians do paid or unpaid work in the arts and culture

8m

adult Australians attend the performing arts each year

3.6m

adult Australians visit art galleries each year

Australia Council – year at a glance 2006-07

\$156m

total grant and project funding to artists and arts organisations

1799

Australia Council grants and projects

4476

new artistic works created with Australia Council support

3636

new artistic works presented with Australia Council support

9.3m

attendances at Australia Council-supported events

Year in review

Year in review 2006-07

- 19 From the CEO
- 20 Corporate highlights
- 22 Funding overview

Excellent and distinctive Australian art

- 27 Introduction
- 28 Visual arts
- 28 Literature
- 32 New artistic practices
- 33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts
- 33 Dance
- 34 Music
- 35 Theatre

Access for all Australians

- 39 Introduction
- 40 Community partnerships
- 41 Dance
- 42 Music
- 42 Theatre
- 44 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts
- 45 Literature
- 47 New artistic practices
- 48 Visual arts

A strong and vibrant arts sector

- 51 Introduction
- 52 Artists' earnings
- 53 Philanthropic support
- 54 Arts sector development

About the Australia Council

About the Australia Council

- 58 Introduction

Governance

- 61 The Council
- 62 Council members
- 64 Ministerial directions
- 64 Council directions
- 64 Committees and advisory bodies
- 67 Artform boards

Organisation

- 71 Corporate plan
- 71 Organisational structure
- 72 Staff profile
- 73 Executive team

Accountability

- 76 Service charter
- 76 Commonwealth disability strategy
- 77 Freedom of information
- 77 Decision-making and other powers
- 77 Arrangements for involving stakeholders
- 78 Risk management

Workplace

- 81 Certified agreement
- 81 Recruitment
- 81 Professional development
- 81 Health, safety and wellbeing
- 81 Pro bono legal services
- 81 Advertising
- 82 Ecologically sustainable development

Financial statements

- 84 Independent audit report
- 85 Statement
- 86 Financial statements
- 91 Notes to financial statements



Tanja Liedtke
Construct

Paul White performs in the late
Tanja Liedtke's work *Construct*, which
premiered in London in May 2007.

Image courtesy of the artist's family. Photo Chris Herzfeld.



Senator the Hon George Brandis SC

Minister for the Arts and Sport
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

5 September 2007

Dear Minister I present you with the annual report of the Australia Council for 2006-07.

Under Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, the members of the Council are responsible for the preparation and content of a Report of Operations in accordance with Orders issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration. The following Report of Operations was adopted by resolution of the Council on 5 September 2007.

We have given this annual report the theme of 'the arts for Australia' to express the vital contribution which our artists make to the nation. Australia's artists are our storytellers; they are our image-makers; they stimulate our communities; and reflect the vibrancy of our diverse society. Australia's artists do all this in a voice and style that is distinctively our own.

These qualities have infused the work of Australian artists at home and abroad throughout the year – from Oz Opera's innovative production of *Carmen* on small stages in regional NSW and Victoria to the cutting-edge artworks of the six Australian artists at the 2007 Venice Biennale.

They have also inspired Australians to engage with the arts – from the 8 million Australians who attend the performing arts each year to the 3.6 million who visit an art gallery; from the more than one in five Australians who do paid or unpaid work in the arts and culture; to the businesses and philanthropists who give so generously to the arts.

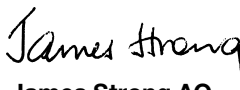
They are the hallmarks of an arts ecology that enriches the lives of all Australians.

None of this would be possible without the continuing support of the Australian Government, which strengthened its commitment to the arts through a package of new funding initiatives totalling more than \$88.7 million in the Budget in May this year. The government's renewal of the Australia Council's base funding – to the value of \$418 million over three years – was another clear demonstration of its support for the arts.

From this base, the Australia Council continued to provide financial and operational support to artists and arts organisations throughout the nation over the past year. The Australia Council's investment of \$156 million in artists and arts organisations through 1799 grants and projects in 2006-07 directly supported the creation of 4476 new works and the presentation of 3636 new creative works. Its support underwrote 9.3 million arts attendances during the year.

I would like to conclude with a tribute to your parliamentary colleague Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, who was Minister for the Arts and Sport until midway through 2006-07, and who championed the arts both as portfolio minister and personally with such generosity of spirit over his five-year term.

Yours faithfully



James Strong AO
Chairman



Lingalayam Dance Company

Saipriya Balasubramaniam and Jennifer White perform at the launch of the SCOPE strategic initiative in February 2007.

Photo Jumi Pak.

