



WHAT'S  
POSSIBLE

WHAT'S  
BELIEV-  
ABLE

WHAT'S  
DO-ABLE

WHAT'S  
DONE  
(SOMETIMES)

WHAT'S  
DONE  
(MOST OF  
THE TIME)

**ATC**

UNSW Student Life  
College of Fine Arts



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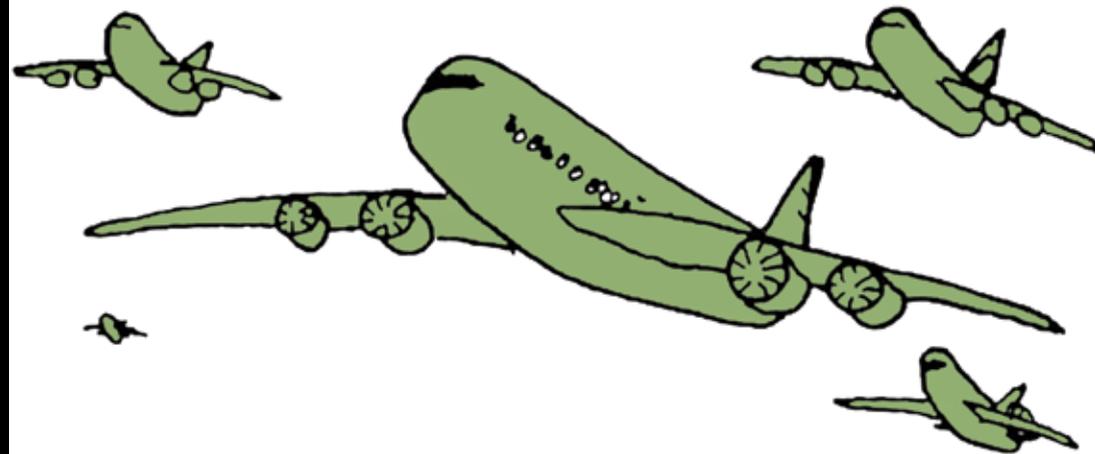
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## EDITORIAL

### Utopia at COFA

As the world celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first step on the moon, we take one giant step for student life at COFA.

Welcome to the new College of Fine Arts student mag - *COFAtopia*. After several discussions, workshops, meetings, it was agreed that whilst COFA is one of many UNSW Faculties sharing common input and access to the existing student publications, it is also in a league of its own. Own campus, own pace, own experiences, own stories, own community, own world, and to give credit, deserves its own voice, in print.

In this, the first issue of *COFAtopia*, we discover The Green House, a free artist research retreat for Arc members in far west NSW, and three COFA student clubs travel overseas to Venice, Berlin and Hong Kong to expand their practice.

For many, the campus of COFA is as close to utopia as we imagine we'll get. A beautiful place of creativity, collaboration and community that inspires a love in many students to stay on after they graduate to take on postgraduate study or even, for the lucky ones, employment (some people have been here longer than 30 years). Hundreds of students pass through here every year, amazing people, making, doing and seeing incredible things that largely go untold. Similarly, so many opportunities available to students here, missed. This new COFA student publication aims to capture and share some of these stories.

PB



**UNSW Student Life**  
College of Fine Arts



## GOING OUT THERE

The Green House as it is known “out there” is a purpose built studio initiated by the now defunct COFA Students’ Association, and completed by Arc @ UNSW post VSU. This giant shed is located at UNSW’s Fowlers Gap Research Station near Broken Hill in far western NSW and is run by Arc as a studio residency for COFA Postgrad students. Artist residencies, similar to this one, can be found all around the world and are highly prized opportunities in the art world. They are a chance for artists, designers & researchers to spend some quality time with their project. The Arc SSR (Student Studio Residency) program is also a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend time in the Australian outback, especially for Arc members as it is free! Rates for non-members are \$240/wk. Whilst built for PG Research students, the program does accept applications from both PG Coursework students as well as from Undergrads. All students can apply to have a residency for between one week up to a month.

The Arc SSR at The Green House is a joint initiative between Arc and ILIRI, COFA’s Imaging the Land International Research Institute. ILIRI was formed many years ago by a group of lecturers, artists and curators from COFA. They aim to encourage dialogue and opportunities for artists to experience the Australian desert and re-think their perceptions of the land.



Shawn Gladwell, an ex COFA kid, was chosen to represent Australia at the most recent Venice Biennale. One of his key works in the solo exhibition, *Maddest Maximus*, was filmed quite close to Broken Hill. Entitled *Apology To Roadkill* Gladwell's new single-channel video sees the 34-year-old artist clad head-to-toe in black leather motorcycle gear, moving slowly through the Broken Hill desert performing ritualistic apologies to roadkill he finds on his motorcycle. His powerful lone figure in the dusty landscape is just one of the many strong works made in this region, dealing with questions of land, nationality and loss. The performative drag quartet, *The Kingpins*, have also made works contributing to the town which has over thirty galleries and numerous resident artists. Some calculations say there are more artists per head of population in this town than anywhere else in the world. It's quite amazing when you think this place is a good 10 hour drive from COFA. There are a diverse number of art galleries located around town as well as Mutawintji Historic Reserve, which contains one of the best Aboriginal rock art collections in NSW.

A residency here with Arc is one of the best opportunities to take up at COFA. It is a free artist research retreat in one of the most distinct and incredible landscapes you can find. The house sleeps up to four people so you can even go and work on a collaborative project. This is an incredible opportunity to get out of Sydney and see Australia, art and your life from a whole new perspective. Get a change of scenery, clean up your headspace and re-boot your creativity on us, your student organisation, Arc.

**Wk2**

**Thursday**

**30 July**

**Vacant Paid Positions - COFA SRC**

Paid positions exist for COFA students who want to represent students at COFA and be an integral part of the COFA community. Very flexible hours in a job where you represent students, run campaigns and keep the COFA community up to date with international, national and local politics Please contact Bronwyn [b.baileycharteris@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:b.baileycharteris@arc.unsw.edu.au) in the Arc @ COFA office to become a part of the 2009 SRC @ COFA. We are looking for people to fill these PAID positions - Indigenous Officer, Education Officer, Students with Disability Officer, International Students Officer

**2pm Foundation Day**

We celebrate UNSW's 60th birthday with a big cake in the COFA courtyard

**3-5pm ARI tour**

MOP gallery and GBK

**Friday**

**31 July**

**Bundanon Trust 2010 Artist in Residence Program**

The Bundanon Trust offers an inspirational setting for creative thinkers, professional artists and groups, from all disciplines of the arts, to create, rejuvenate, explore ideas, embrace change, and exemplify excellence in contemporary arts practice. Residencies are available for the development of new work, research, and collaboration. The Artist in Residence program offers free accommodation and studio space for up to 5 weeks. Deadline today [www.bundanon.com.au/content/applications-now-open](http://www.bundanon.com.au/content/applications-now-open)

**Call for Entries - Screenplays**

Fantastic Planet is a Sydney based genre festival, dedicated to the promotion and exhibition of science fiction and fantasy cinema from around the globe. Founded by the team behind Australia's leading horror film event - A Night of Horror International Film Festival - Fantastic Planet will run for 5 days and nights in October 2009. The festival is calling for: Feature Films, Short Films, Short Animations, Screenplays Applications close 31 July [www.fantasticplanet-filmfestival.com](http://www.fantasticplanet-filmfestival.com)

**Until  
1 August**

Dislocation:  
Distance makes the heart grow fonder  
**Kudos Gallery**  
6 Napier St Paddington

**Wk3**

**Monday**

**3 August**

**CALL FOR ENTRIES for DISSONANCE:**

Entries close **Monday 3 August**  
Free entry! Annual womyn's exhibition held at Kudos Gallery in weeks 5-6. Works in any media accepted. Pick up your application form today at Arc office or email [cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au)

**Presentation and Promotion Grant**

Closing date: **3 August 2009**  
Projects supported by this category include exhibitions, publications and conferences, for arts organisations. [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/presentation\\_and\\_promotion\\_-\\_visual\\_arts](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/presentation_and_promotion_-_visual_arts)

**Skills and Art Development Studio Residencies**

Closing date: **3 August 2009**  
You can apply for:  
\$10,000 three-month residencies in Helsinki, Liverpool, Barcelona, London, New York, Paris, Rome or Tokyo or a \$20,000 six-month residencies in New York or \$35,000 or a 12-month residency in Berlin. [http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/skills\\_and\\_arts\\_development\\_-\\_general\\_-\\_visual\\_arts2](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/skills_and_arts_development_-_general_-_visual_arts2)

**Tuesday**

**4 August**

**11am Yoga**

Free yoga session for Arc members, \$5 for others, E105

**12.30pm - Vegetarian lunch**

Free for Arc members, \$2 for others COFA courtyard

**2pm-3pm - Bike Workshop**

Fixing a puncture - Please bring your bike Free for Arc members, \$5 for others

**4-6pm - Sketch Club**

Free life drawing for Arc members, \$5 for others, E105

**5-7.30pm - exhibition opening**

Urban Fragments & Narratives  
Joel Burrows, Tara Cook, Alex Kiers, George Nagel, Amy Thornett, Lucy Thornett  
**Kudos Gallery**  
6 Napier St Paddington

**Wednesday**

**5 August**

**2-4pm Stitch n Bitch**

COFA campus craftanoon in courtyard

**Das Superpaper - Writers Callout**

DSP encourages critical dialogue and promotes a cultural appreciation and critique of emerging artists. This month Das Superpaper is doing a callout for writers, curators & creatives to submit articles. We are looking for writing with edge and bite that addresses current issues in our art world. The next theme is A knife edge. Visit [www.dassuperpaper.com](http://www.dassuperpaper.com) to see all the issues online or email the editor at [contact@rococoproducts.com](mailto:contact@rococoproducts.com) for article proposals. Due by **5 August**.

**Wk4**

**Tuesday**

**11 August**

**11am Yoga**

Free yoga session for Arc members, \$5 for others, E105

**12.30pm - SRC luncheon**

Free for Arc members, \$2 for others COFA courtyard

**2-3pm - Bike Workshop**

Adjusting brakes - Please bring your bike Free for Arc members, \$5 for others

**4-6pm - Sketch Club**

Free life drawing for Arc members, \$5 for others, E105

**Wednesday**

**12 August**

**2-4pm Stitch n Bitch**

COFA campus craftanoon in courtyard

**Friday**

**14 August**

**Student Studio Residency**

Artist research retreat at Fowlers Gap, near Broken Hill free for Arc members, and can accommodate up to three or four people. Deadline for applications today.

**ADG (Art and Design Grants)**

The Arc @ COFA Art and Design Grants aim to support extracurricular arts practice and theory activities by our members, ranging from publicity and/or documentation of exhibitions, opening night expenses, registration fees for local or interstate conferences and seminars, to material, framing and lab costs. We give out up to \$2000 four times per year. Deadline today.

**Kudos Gallery**

Kudos is run by COFA students, for COFA students and funded by the Arc. The exhibition program is determined by a committee of student representatives from each school at COFA, and the Kudos Gallery Supervisor. All students from first year to PhD level are encouraged to submit proposals for solo, group or curated exhibitions. Deadline today.

**For information packs and application forms for any of the above three opportunities, drop into the Arc Office, D Block or go to [cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au](http://cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au)**



## Up Up & Away

Three COFA clubs won the lotto this year. Except it wasn't the regular lotto, your chances of winning aren't measured in just luck and thousands of other people didn't enter either, so statistically they did have very a very good chance. Basically, three COFA clubs won three hefty grants from Arc. Club grants are like the Big Mama of uni grants. It is where the big money is and where you can say things like 'I want to go to Berlin and speak at a Typography conference, but I can't afford the airfare', then wish granted, voila! Or 'We want to have a show in Hong Kong but we can't afford to eat while we are there' or 'We want to go to the Venice Biennale and work our butts off and then party really hard when it finally opens but we can't afford clothes to wear' well. Something like that. 3 of our 9 COFA Clubs; 'For the Love of Type', 'Bababa International' and 'And/Or Curators Artists Club' all received Off Campus Community Grants (OCCG) from Arc to fund overseas art travel shenanigans.

And/Or Curators Artists Club co-el presidentes Marcel Cooper and Bronwyn Bailey-Charteris (me!) were chosen with a few other lucky critters to attend the Venice Biennale as artist and curator assistants. It was an incredible learning curve. We worked for about four weeks altogether and most of that time we were building Claire Healy and Sean Corderio's newest installation, Lifespan. The work is based around 170,000 plus video tapes which build a monumental cube like structure in the space. My job was mainly to unwrap the covers of the tapes. This may sound easy! This may sound even silly! But I can tell you, working 10 hour days and unwrapping mouldy porn covers from wet tapes was pretty hard work! But the pay off was unbelievable. Firstly, just hanging out with Claire and Sean, Felicity, the

other students (there was 5 of us all together) and the other artists was wonderful. We formed a close bond and excellent working relationship and to top it all off we would often finish the day with a Spritz. A lovely Venetian drink made with cheap champagne, campari and an olive.

Living in Venice was an incredible experience, the city is a magical place. I was unsure before I left Aus what all the fuss was about, but when I got there and after a few days of walking through little lanes, over tiny bridges, over big bridges, into plazas full of bars and cafes I was enamoured. The city is human sized. No cars, no trucks, no roads. You walk, everyone does, and in walking everywhere you get lost, you go somewhere you never meant to go and you keep discovering beautiful new places all the time. Once the Biennale opened our work was done and it was time to unpack the party dresses and throw away our stinky work clothes! We literally finished at about 12pm on the Tuesday and started partying at about 4pm. I personally shed a few tears, I had finished this mammoth project and then sat down with my pals to enjoy the next 10 days of international art exposure, free drinks, free parties and summer.

The funding Marcel and I received from Arc and UNSW in the form of a Club Community Grant (\$2400 in total) helped us to really experience Venice. It meant when we finished working we could go and visit the museums, travel around to see the sites, and see a lot more of the Biennale than what we had been stuck in for the first month. We appreciate that we were able to grab this opportunity by the horns and really enjoy it, learn a lot and squeeze every moment out of it. We will be presenting some talks on our experiences soon, so stay tuned.



## FOR THE LOVE OF TYPE

Gemma O'Brien was asked to attend an international Typography conference in July of this year. As president of the 'For the Love of Type' she spoke about typography in Australia as well as doing a performance art piece at the conferences opening. She also has a very rad blog, where I found this great poem and just had to share –

Roses are red,  
Violets are blue

I think you're boring, overused  
and cold

Like Courier New.



Bababa International have kindly written a letter about their experiences to share with you all. I won't attempt to paraphrase their wordsmith-penship here, it would do them little justice. However, I will say the Bababa boys were as always making a challenging, humorous installation which pushes art boundaries, questions our own situations and makes nails (those strange body add-ons) a little prettier.

Overseas art travel can be one of those 'life changing' events we all aspire too. And thanks to Arc and UNSW you too can get a grant to help cover costs, so you can get on with the important stuff, like unwrapping porn, drawing on yourself or painting strangers nails. Deadlines for the next Off Campus Community Grant (the grant all these clubs got, which btw can be up to \$10,000 per club) is Week 6, Friday 28th August. This is an incredible opportunity just waiting to be taken up by a new keen bunch. You only need three people to start a club and an idea to apply for cash. Come to the Arc office to find out more, email us, phone us or check out [cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au](http://cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au) and you could be the next lotto winner.

BBC



Bababa International  
*Smooth Interpersonal Relationships*  
 Para/Site Art Space, Hong Kong



Dear interested reader,

Our idea was simple. We wanted to set up a compact yet highly functional nail salon within the Para/Site space. From the 24th - 28th of June, we operated this small nail salon, where any visitor was able to sit down, take their shoes off, and experience a pleasurable (albeit slightly humorous) adventure. Combining jostling functionality, novel design solutions, soothing sound and contextually relevant objects, the space developed into an aesthetically-unusual, ephemeral temple, dedicated to the maintenance and serious beautification of humanities most vital appendages (the hands and feet). After all, are our hands (with their opposable thumbs) not one of the most graceful genetic advantages that evolution has privileged us with? It is our fervent belief that they, along with their comrades the feet, should be treated as such.

Behind this initial intention was an initial idea; that, with a little honesty and a lot of effort, it is possible to make new and interesting connections between spaces, people, and concepts. However, within every simple idea there lies a complicated reality. This is the confused, hurried, and consequential world of society, culture and politics – the world that all action, no matter how naïve, inevitably finds itself thrown into. Although willingly cast into this participatory world, we have to be quick to make the point that participation in and of itself is not something to be celebrated. Rather, *Smooth Interpersonal Relationships* employs content (and good nails) to access the much-discussed and much-debated arena of relational projects. Our premise here was to make our idea into an event, so that those who experience them can have their own ideas and their own events.

Holding onto this sentiment might take us away from art itself, since the project failed to speak to as many people as we would have liked, especially the large community of migrant domestic workers living in Hong Kong. This disappointment can only re-constitute itself as fertilizer for a future project. We are thinking of re-adjusting the work for another space in Hong Kong (that might be in conjunction with the gallery but outside its walls). In many ways we feel it is sometimes necessary to leave the gallery in order to create new realities in unknown contexts. While such a point has been made by many mouths and in many ways, the question to land on here is how does a project gain visibility in the social networks of a foreign city or place? And then from this visibility, what is the projects contribution to these social networks? We have not had time to digest such questions ourselves, and thus leave them sitting in this letter for either you to ignore, ponder or answer. Either way, they must not be given a chair for too long, but re-applied to new ideas and new methods of action.

If we're going to speak about action then we must mention the women of the foreign domestic worker (FDW) community in Hong Kong. For each and every Sunday, the one-day off from work they are afforded within what is effectively a literal working week (they work all day every day), the women of the FDW community congregate within the concrete canyons and smooth corporate foyers of Hong Kong's central business district to socialize, pray, gamble, organize, sing and practice martial arts. In this way, via a heady mix of private and public activity, these women carve from the indifferent landscape of the global metropolis a place and a practice that is singularly and forcefully their own. We have spoken about 'creating new realities' but it is hard to imagine a creative project that goes anywhere close to the inventive vivaciousness of the social and political activity of the FDW's. To create a world is one thing, to do it all on a Sunday is another. Baruch Spinoza once stated that, "only free men are truly grateful to one another". Following this we would like to state our gratitude to the women of the foreign domestic worker community in Hong Kong, for giving us an invaluable lesson in the power of appearances.

Finally, we feel it is also necessary to mention some food we consumed in Hong Kong, which should not be underestimated nor left out of any account or reflection. There were of course dumplings: dumplings in soup, dumplings with noodles, desert dumplings, Ukraine dumplings. Hot Pot meals were also delightful, where many foods are placed in a collective broth boiling in the centre of the table. We ate various vegetables, chicken testicles (that as we were told are good for a man's health) and other meats from other animals such pig face salad. Such eating experiences reminded us that food is the ultimate human invention, and that while originating from necessity, finds its brilliance in creativity. Food is a palatable antidote to any claims built on solipsism.

Honest regards,

Bababa International

Training completed at Safir Nails, Sydney. Bababa International wears uniforms created by Emma Capps.

# 4x7

**4x7 the hard hitting drama inspired by the real life events that occur in the COFA Arc office.**

Dr Daley walks into the office unannounced.

A gasp is heard in unison.

**BBC:** Doctor Daley! What are you doing back so soon? I thought you'd gone to the Fowlers Gap studio residency to find the inner core of your outer life's artistic sensibility?

**Dr Daley:** BB, I got on the flight, ready to depart, and then I remembered..... My inner core is here – it was here all along – with the Arc office and the people who run it. This is my calling. This is the only place I wish to express myself truly and honestly through the medium of creative intent.

There is a pause whilst the office workers reel from Dr Daley's news.

**Mak:** But what about the fowlers gap residency? Didn't you know that you were chosen from hundreds of artists struggling to find the inner core of their outer lives artistic sensibilities? We have the residency so that people can escape the maze of wonder that is COFA and be inspired by outer stimuli.

**Dr Daley:** You Arc employees are the only stimuli I will ever need.

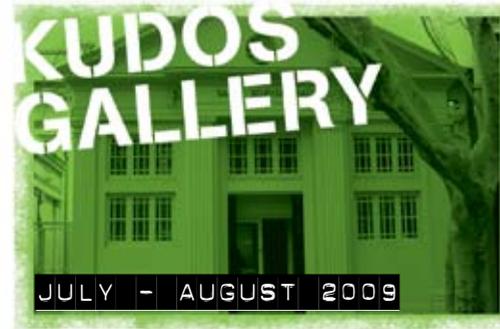
A sigh is heard, and it stretches far beyond the confines of the 4x7 Arc office. It reverberates through the courtyard, students look up from their laptops, pausing for a moment mid facebook status update.

**Black Widow:** Dr, thank you for your honesty. I understand the love you have, we all share it. A love for this university, what it creates, the nourishment it provides to the students to create what they create. I understand that this creation creates a yearning in your inner sanctum. Not many others understand this feeling. I will heed your cries Dr, I will allow you to join us one day per week.

**Dr Daley:** Oh hurrah! I can now dwell in the inner sanctum of the core of student life. What can I do to assist the development of student love and creativity? Do you think that perhaps I could do a bike worksho-

Suddenly there is a crash a sickening grinding and crack can be heard above the screams of desperate pain from the office and surrounds...

**What has happened to the office of 4x7? Will the bike workshop ever happen? Who will go to Fowlers Gap now that Dr Daley has found his calling? Stay tuned to 4x7 for the next instalment.**



JULY - AUGUST 2009

## KUDOS GALLERY 6 Napier St Paddington NSW 2021

Wed to Fri 11am - 6pm, Sat 11am - 4pm  
Mon + Tue by appointment only  
T: (02) 9326 0034  
cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au  
kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au

Kudos Gallery is run by COFA Students and funded by Arc @ UNSW Limited



## DISLOCATION: DISTANCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER

Local and International students at COFA come together in a culturally diverse exhibition exploring issues surrounding being away from home, long distance love, non comfort zones, financial troubles, and challenges faced in a foreign or unfamiliar situation, setting or place. Supported by Arc and SRC@COFA.

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 21 JULY  
CONTINUES TO 11 AUGUST 2009



## URBAN FRAGMENTS AND NARRATIVES: INTERDISCIPLINARY REPRESENTATIONS OF IDENTITY AND PLACE IN A CITY ENVIRONMENT

'Urban Fragments and Narratives' refers to narratives both of the individual that inhabits a city and the narratives held in the urban environment itself. The exhibition explores the notion of the city as a place of converging identities, ideas and environments; reflected in the diversity of disciplines and ideas within the exhibition itself. A micro city is created; a semi-chaotic environment in which different ideas, forms, aesthetics and mediums coexist.

Joel Burrows, Tara Cook, Alex Kiers, George Nagel, Amy Thornett, Lucy Thornett

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 4 AUGUST  
CONTINUES TO 15 AUGUST 2009



## DISSONANCE: SHOW US YOUR KUNST

CALL FOR ENTRIES: Open to all womyn-identifying COFA students across all mediums for this annual exhibition that challenges, questions, and opens new dialogue around identity, experience and expression.

Application forms available from the Arc Office @ COFA, D Block. Deadline 5pm Monday 3 August.

Supported by Arc and SRC@COFA.

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 18 AUGUST  
CONTINUES TO 29 AUGUST 2009

# Call for artists, writers, designers

The next theme for *COFAtopia* is Handy Hints  
DIY, artist initiatives, finding support and realising your ideas

Deadline for expressions of interest is Friday 7 August  
Deadline for images and articles is Monday 10 August

Contact [cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au) or drop into the Arc Office @ COFA

**Arc  
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SESSION 2  
ONLY \$69**

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is funded by Arc @ UNSW Ltd