

C O F A  
O P A





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## EDITORIAL

A sense of the tactile, the handmade, fused with the political in this issue of *COFAtopia*.

The COFA Womyn’s Officers chat to Bronwyn about their experience in running into the stereotypes of “feminist art” inspired by curating this year’s annual Dissonance exhibition.

Arc announce a call for entries for a student to design the 2010 UNSW Student Diary. This is the first year Arc have opened this amazing opportunity for creative input and mass exposure to students in this format. The deadline is the end of week 7, and the prize is a whopping \$1,000 so get busy!!

We have our annual Artsweek festival in week 5 with a bunch of creative happenings across the COFA and Kensington campuses, including visual arts, sound and music, literature, film and theatre. A major part of Artsweek here is Handy Hints: a program of forums, talks and workshops for artists, designers and arts workers.

The Queer Dept of the COFA SRC take us to a mass “illegal” wedding ceremony, donned with handmade veils, banners, and costumes under the sunshine.

COFA’s Stitch n Bitch group take us on a quick crafty tour of Sydney as we get ready for Spring.

And Sian introduces new characters and maybe a love affair to the Arc@COFA Office’s hardhitting drama series; 4x7.

PB

# Dissonance



Dissonance means a lack of agreement, consistency, or harmony. In the case of the Kudos Gallery show *Dissonance* is a direct investigation into Feminist art practices. It is an exhibition that has been running for over 10 years funded by the student organisation. Over the years there have been many different approaches to this exhibition, some investigate feminism, contemporary female artists, the role of female artists, their treatment in the art world, feminism and its backlash. *Dissonance* has a rich political history and is an important annual event in the Kudos Gallery calendar. This year, the show is being curated by the COFA SRC Co-Womyn's officers Rivka Abdilla-Schembri and Natasha Nolan. Their curatorial focus is on exhibiting contemporary female artists who are linked through their gender but not necessarily the themes of their work. I met with them to find out about the show and their curatorial practice.

## **What were your expectations when you began curating the *Dissonance* show?**

Curating this exhibition is something that we discussed (and argued about!) together, before we even took on the role as Womyn's Officers. While we both consider ourselves to be committed feminists, we have very different ideas about what this means. After much discussion, what we determined is that all this discussing of what constitutes a "feminist

position" seems to do a very nice job of maintaining the patriarchal status quo where we situate ourselves as the "other," as has been done throughout history perpetuating the binary position. Trying to come up with a unifying voice, we often miss the opportunity of having a platform to express ourselves as individuals and accepting that identifying as a woman biologically or psychologically already has inherent political ramifications.

## **How do you feel about contemporary feminist discourse?**

Asking women to constantly respond to the theme of contemporary feminist discourse has the potential to keep us locked in a constant cycle of self referencing which can be limiting, alienating and distracting. We were surprised when discussing this exhibition with people just how entrenched in our psyche the idea of feminist art was.

## **What responses have you had to the exhibition?**

I had responses from students such as "I'll enter something, I always put vaginas in my work" to one of my well respected lecturers saying "you have to put \_\_\_ work in, she's making flying vaginas....." Really? Is this what we think constitutes a feminist position?

## **In terms of the title of the show what where you referencing with the by-line SHOW US YOUR KUNST?**

By replacing the word 'c\*\*t' with 'art' ('kunst' is german for art) in this aggressive title we are acknowledging the potential violence that can be caused by the constant expectation that women will reference their vaginas in their work.

## **What do you feel is the most important role of *Dissonance* 2009?**

Providing a space where only women can show their work IS a feminist and political position. It seems to us that giving us a "room of one's own" and then mandating what we have to talk about is giving us a voice and cutting out our tongues. We want to see what interesting things women have to say about existence, life, politics, art, sport...about anything! And in doing this trust in the fact that women artists are responsible to claim their own idea of what constitutes contemporary feminism without us having to collectively agree on it or veto it.

Bronwyn Bailey-Charteris

image: Harriet Body, film still

## **DISSONANCE: SHOW US YOUR KUNST**

**Opens 5-7.30pm  
Tuesday 18 August Week 5**





**Kudos Gallery  
6 Napier St, Paddington**

**Exhibition continues to  
Saturday 29 August 2009**

# \$1000 PRIZE FOR UNSW STUDENT DIARY COVER COMPETITION

Arc are looking for a student design to make the cover for the 2010 Arc Student Diary. We can work with a current design or artwork, or help develop a new one specifically for this purpose. It must include Arc logo in the bottom right corner, and the title of the publication somewhere in the design. The successful entrant will receive \$1000 prize for their work and receive full credit in the diary which can be used for their own CV.

This year we want to connect with students on an equal playing field, student to student. Arc wants to proudly show that we are a student organisation who is student focused in all that we achieve. The design for the diary will reflect this through these key elements;

-  Fun, dynamic, connected
-  Playfulness
-  DIY
-  Environmentally conscious

For a full design brief contact: Arc @ COFA office, D Block or email [cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Deadline: Week 7, Friday 4 September 2009



& Handy Hints

17 - 21 August 2009

In Week 5, Arc host their annual Artsweek Festival full of happenings, events, and interactions on both campuses. The program also features Handy Hints which emerged out of COFA about six years ago as a response to your typical Careers Expo. A career in the arts isn't as straight forward as some other professions.

For many artists and designers, careers are fluid. A project you're working on will take you here, someone you meet at an opening will take you there, knowing about this will get you to that. There are a lot of doors: galleries, organisations, institutions, funding bodies, companies... how do you know where to find the doors, and which one should you stick your foot it?

To answer all these questions and more, we have Handy Hints - presented by Arc featuring essential tips for students, artists, curators, designers, art educators and arts workers, this year with a focus on initiatives.

## MON

5-6 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GET TOGETHER

A chance to mingle and meet your fellow COFA international students. Very casual and fun. Hosted by the COFA SRC International Officers.

## TUES

12.30 ArtsWeek FREE LUNCH

With DJing by Anto from the Colour Parade, Giant Jenga and yummy veggie feast. COFA Courtyard

2-3 HANDY HINTS FORUM

Art Off the Walls

Find out about three interesting initiatives happening in Sydney right now, that take art off the walls, out of galleries and onto the street. Meet the producers of MATCHBOX PROJECTS, DAS SUPERPAPER and ART AND ABOUT. COFA Common Room. Discussion followed by Q&A.

2-4 GRAFFITTI WORKSHOP

As part of Artsweek you can attend a FREE graffiti workshop. Places are limited. RSVP to the Arc office ASAP. Outside the COFA Library.

2-4 BIKE WORKSHOP

Fixing Gears - bring your bike. Meet outside the COFA Library. FREE for Arc members, \$5 for others.

5-7.30 DISSONANCE OPENING

Annual exhibition of works by womyn identifying students that challenge, question, and open new dialogue around identity, experience and expression. Opening with live performances! Kudos Gallery 6 Napier St. Paddo

7-8 THE POD Sounds Project CD Launch, Club Bar, Roundhouse Kenso

## WED

12-3 iCinema Demonstration, Roundhouse Beergarden Kenso

2-3 STITCH n BITCH with Fabric Badgemaking

Learn and share skills in the knitting, crochet and craft department. COFA Courtyard

6-8 Band Competition Final, Roundhouse Kenso

## THURS

1-2 Pottery Workshop, Roundhouse Beergarden

3-5 ARI TOUR

Meet at the Arc office to visit some wonderful local galleries that are Artist Run Initiatives. We will visit MOP, ChalkHorse and FirstDraft Gallery.

5-7 UNSWeetented Literary Journal Launch - UNSW Bookshop Kenso

7-9 Jazz Soup Night, The Club Bar, Roundhouse Kenso

8-10 FilmSoc Movie Night, Studio 1, UNSW Kenso

## FRI

1-2 Circus Workshop, Roundhouse Beergarden

5-6 ARTIST TALKS at DISSONANCE

Join the curators and some of the artists to discuss the ideas in this year DISSONANCE and share some drinks while viewing the annual Women's exhibition funded by Arc.

9-1030 NUTS Dark Show, Studio 1, UNSW Kenso

[www.arc.unsw.edu.au/Artsweek](http://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/Artsweek)



## Wk5

### Monday

#### 17 August

##### 5-6pm INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GET TOGETHER

A chance to mingle and meet your fellow COFA international students. Very casual and fun. Hosted by the COFA SRC International Officers, Katie and Purmina. Common Room.

### Tuesday

#### 18 August

##### 11am Yoga

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

##### 12.30pm ArtsWeek FREE LUNCH

With DJing by Anto from the Colour Parade, Giant Jenga and yummy veggie feast.

##### 1pm SOCCER

meet at Moore Park, all levels welcome

##### 2-3 HANDY HINTS FORUM – Art Off the Walls

Find out about three interesting initiatives happening in Sydney right now, that take art off the walls, out of galleries and onto the street. Meet the producers of MATCHBOX PROJECTS, DAS SUPERPAPER and ART AND ABOUT. Common Room. Discussion followed by Q&A.

##### 2-3pm – Bike Workshop

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

##### 2-4pm GRAFFITTI WORKSHOP

As part of Artsweek you can attend a FREE graffiti workshop. Learn how to create a design and then put your unique image onto board. Places are limited. RSVP to the Arc office ASAP. Outside the Library.

##### 4-6pm SKETCH CLUB

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

##### 5-7.30pm DISSONANCE OPENING

Annual Women's Show opens at Kudos Gallery. Live performances!  
6 Napier St Paddington

### Wednesday

#### 19 August

##### 2-3 STITCH n BITCH with Fabric Badgemaking

Learn and share skills in the knitting, crochet and craft department.

### Thursday

#### 20 August

##### 3-5 ARI TOUR

Meet at the Arc office to visit some wonderful local galleries that are Artist Run Initiatives. We will visit MOP, ChalkHorse and FirstDraft Gallery.

### Friday

#### 21 August

##### 5-6 ARTIST TALKS at DISSONANCE

Join the curators and some of the artists to discuss the ideas in this year DISSONANCE and share some drinks while viewing the annual Women's exhibition funded by Arc. Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St Paddington

### Sunday

#### 23 August

##### Marrickville Contemporary Art Prize 09 deadline for entries

Open Award \$2000, Student Award \$1000, People's Choice 2 x \$250  
Entry Fee \$25/\$20 per artwork  
info@atthevanishingpoint.com.au

## Wk6

### Monday

#### 24 August

##### CALL OUT FOR ART / WRITINGS / DESIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FOR WOMEN'S EDITION OF THARUNKA

The UNSW Women's Collective are currently seeking a designer and contributions for this publication. Articles (this could be about your experiences... political issues... a review of an exhibition/film/book... other...), artworks (to feature in the magazine and also for the front and back covers), design work, all welcome! Great opportunity to get your work and your ideas out there! Contact UNSW Women's Officer Lucy Geddes: l.geddes@arc.unsw.edu.au

### Tuesday

#### 25 August

##### 11am Yoga

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

##### 1pm SOCCER

meet at Moore Park, all levels welcome

##### 2-3pm – Bike Workshop

Cleaning and Maintenance  
- Please bring your bike  
Free for Arc members, \$5 for others

### Wednesday

#### 26 August

##### 2-4pm Stitch n Bitch

COFA campus craftanoon in courtyard

## Wk7

### Tuesday

#### 1 September

##### 11am Yoga

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

##### 1pm SOCCER

meet at Moore Park, all levels welcome

### Wednesday

#### 2 September

##### 2-4pm Stitch n Bitch

COFA campus craftanoon in courtyard

### Thursday

#### 3 September

##### 6-9pm SAVE FIRSTDRAFT fundraiser art auction

Works have been generously donated by artists and galleries such as: Del Kathryn Barton, Mike Parr, Lauren Brincat, Sarah Goffman, Simon Kennedy, Brett East, Tom Polo, Agatha Gothe-Snape, Michaela Gleave, Mikala Dwyer, Helen Hyatt-Johnston, Jake Walker, Jessica Maurer, Rachel Scott, Newell Harry, Mitch Cairns, Penelope Benton, Jess Oliveri, Sonny Day, Rod Jacka, Lionel Bawden, Jumaadi, Will French, Kate Scardifield, Shane Haseman, Gallery9, Breenspace and Damien Minton gallery, plus more. Firstdraft gallery  
116-118 Chalmers St, Surry Hills

### Friday

#### 4 September

##### Asialink Arts Residency Applications for 2010 close today

Residencies are available in the following art form areas:  
Arts Management  
Literature  
Performing Arts  
Visual Arts  
[www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au)



# Rally Reportback

The COFA SRC spent Saturday 1 August at the National Day of Action for Same Sex Marriage Rights. It was a wonderful day, both positive and powerful. There was over 1000 people there to support gay marriage rights. We were protesting the Labour Government's support of the homophobic anti-gay marriage legislation brought in under Howard in 2004. The protest took place outside of the Town Hall where we heard from Clover Moore, Lee Rhiannon a Greens Parliamentarian and Rachel Evans from the Community Action Against Homophobia. There was a passionate and strong community feeling at the rally with a wonderful eclectic mix of young and old. We marched down to Darling Harbour chanting and singing (where stunned picnickers looked on!) to protest outside the Annual Labour Conference. Here began the mass 'illegal' marriage ceremony. It was a moving ceremony involving over 80 couples who read vows to each other and exchanged personal love mementos. I have to say it was a very moving moment, led by Carl Hand, a queer wedding celebrant. There was so much love in the air!

The Labour Conference disappointingly didn't vote to overturn the whole Marriage Act. We will just have to keep fighting to create a community that supports equal love and equal rights.

If you want to be involved in the COFA Queer Collective they have a weekly meeting WED 4-6 in the Common Room. Meet Genesis, our COFA Queer Officer and students from the UNSW Queer Collective. This is a great chance to meet some wonderful like-minded people on campus and get involved in queer issues from the local to the global.



# Craft

This winter inspired a heap of new craft groups, exhibitions, events and activities. We had our very own Stitch n Bitch group get together and start knitting, baking, and creating every week. Other groups started to emerge all over Sydney. As we now head toward Spring, it's the perfect opportunity to get ready for craft stalls, and dig out your pocket money for the count down to the dozens of Spring festivals drawing crafters out from their warm lounge rooms of creation...

## Stitch n Bitch

### COFA

Our local campus crafters offer us a little lesson in making pom poms this week, perfect handmade nik-naks to add joy to conversation during a half-hour chit chat session with your mates.

The COFA Stitch n Bitch group meet Wednesdays at 2pm in the courtyard or in the event of rain, on the D Block balcony. Bring something you're working on, or just turn up and the ladies will be sure to show you a thing or two. Free for Arc members, \$2 for others.

### TUTU

A Monday night queer crafting group at 22 Enmore Rd, for socializing, pattern-swapping, skill-sharing, group projects and spreading the craft revolution.

### COURTHOUSE

Every Sunday at the Courthouse Hotel Newtown 1:30pm

### SYDNEY GOTH

A group of crafty dark alternative peoples who meet up every so often to knit, crochet, sew, cross-stitch, embroider, draw and exchange tips - anything creative is welcome! Meeting times vary <http://community.livejournal.com/sydneygothsnb/>

### MISS DEATH

A monthly crafty get-together at the Mu Meson Archives. Anyone is welcome as long as you bring some knitting or other handicraft, and a plate of food or something to drink. Usually we do a lot of talking, a lot of eating, and at least some knitting. [www.mumeson.org](http://www.mumeson.org)

## WORKSHOPS

### Felting Workshop

Learn the traditional method of feltmaking to create contemporary textile pieces and small objects. The workshop covers all the basic techniques you need to felt, learning the properties of different fibres, proper layout techniques, several different approaches to felting and fulling (or shaping) felt and of course, approaches to fixing mistakes. Saturday 29 August [www.cofa.unsw.edu.au/futurestudents/continuingeducation/shortcourses](http://www.cofa.unsw.edu.au/futurestudents/continuingeducation/shortcourses)

## Cut + Paste

The Red Rattler Theatre are hosting three free crafty workshops supported by Reverse Garbage and Marrickville Council in the lead up to new sustainable craft fest: Cut + Paste.

### 3pm Sunday 23 August Market your craft

Artist and designer-maker of Wife. sustainable products, Nicole Barakat will share her experience and knowledge on making, selling, pricing, marketing and being a professional crafter! There will also be a question and answer opportunity.

### 3pm Sunday 30 August Upcycle your wardrobe

Bring a garment or two to transform into a new outfit or accessory, basic sewing skills required.

### 3pm Sunday 6 September Yarning

Crochet and Knitting Basics Introductory course.

### The Red Rattler

6 Faversham St Marrickville [cutpastecraftfest.blogspot.com](http://cutpastecraftfest.blogspot.com)

### workshop bookings:

[cut.paste.craft@gmail.com](mailto:cut.paste.craft@gmail.com)



First, cut two doughnut shapes from cardboard and place them on top of each other.



Choose some yarn that you like and wind a smaller ball of wool from it (one that will fit through the middle of the doughnut hole).



Tie a knot around the doughnut and start looping the wool through and around the doughnut.



Once the doughnut is super fat and covered with wool (so you can't fit anymore through the hole) turn it on its side and wedge some scissors through the wool.



Use the cardboard as a guide and cut all the way around the doughnut.



Your pom pom is nearly finished! Now get the original ball of yarn (a metre long is fine), wrap around the circumference of the doughnut and tie a knot through the centre of two bits of cardboard to secure the pom pom. Then tear off the cardboard and you're done!!

Yay for POM POMS!!!!

# 4 X 7

Last week Dr Daley was offered a position in the Arc office one day a week after finding his inner core and not going to Fowlers Gap. The search started for a new Fowlers Gap Studio Residency resident and the Bike Club was first conceived... before an almighty crash disturbed the glossy façade of the Arc office and changed everything...

**Dr Daley, Mak, BBC and Black Widow in unison:** WHAT WAS THAT??P!!!!

**Dr Daley:** Fear not ladies, I will voyage into the unknown to discover the object of that almighty disturbance. How dare something or someone interrupt me mid sentence!

But Heroic Harry was already on the scene, heeding the cries of COFA students and rushing to their aid.

**Heroic Harry:** Ladies and man it seems the cause of all that kufuffle was the Bad Ass Bandits. They roam the art school dressed in alternate wear and destroy everything they touch. This time, the pool queues in the Arc common room have felt their wrath.

**Black Widow:** No Harry no!! Those pool queues are supplied by Arc to let those with artistic sensibilities unwind, to let all the stress of life drawing and colour theory drip away from their little bodies.

**BBC:** Perhaps they could do Yoga instead? We have it every Tuesday at 11am you know....

**Mak:** But BB, this goes beyond relaxation for our stressed out creative's... those pool queues had special powers. They are the hidden staffs of art school past. They hold within them the spirit of creativity and

love of free wine that has been upheld for centuries. Without them COFA will be destroyed.

**Black Widow:** We must find the destroyers of the pool queues. They hold the secret.

As the words leave Black Widows lips there is a knock on the door

**Bikeclops:** Hi, my name is Bikeclops, I have come to run free bike fix it classes for Arc members. Is it Tuesday at 2pm isn't it?

**Mak:** Bikeclops, you're just who we need. We must go on a journey to find the lost art school spirit. I need you to come with me so that if my bike gets a puncture you can help me fix it.

**Dr Daley:** Mak, are you sure you are able to go? This could be a dangerous journey. There are many obstacles in your way.

**Mak:** I must do it. I cannot allow our precious COFA to be destroyed by the Bad Ass Bandits and their skinny jeans. With Bikeclops by my side I will be safe and well cared for. BB, take care of Stitch n Bitch for me, tell them I will always love them...

**As Mak & Bikeclops mount their steeds to search for the pool queues, the sun sets over the Arc office. Tomorrow is a new day. Tomorrow we will find an artist to reside in Fowlers Gap. Tomorrow we will give students grants and provide them with money for their artistic endeavours. But for now, we must defend the spirit of creativity and love of free wine that makes us who we are... art students.**



## 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



## THAUMATURGY (thaw-muh-tur-jee) meaning wonder making or magic

An exhibition featuring fifteen artists considering the notion of enchantment. In times of turmoil and disenchantment, how can we become re-enchanted with the world around us?

Works by Alice Amsel, Amy Craig, Anna Chase, Daniel Green, Katherine Corcoran, Kate Brown, Katherine Saunders, Louise Dibbens, Marian Tubbs, Peter Newman, Samuel Bruce, Sian McIntyre, Torunn Higgins, T.R.Carter, Zan Lockyer. Curated by Anastasia Freeman.

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER  
CONTINUES TO 12 SEPTEMBER 2009



## DISSONANCE: SHOW US YOUR KUNST

An annual exhibition of works by womyn identifying students that challenges, questions, and opens new dialogue around identity, experience and expression.

Supported by Arc and SRC@COFA.

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



## TIM OLSEN DRAWING PRIZE

A collaborative initiative, now in its ninth year, between the Tim Olsen Gallery and the Department of Drawing and Painting at COFA, with the intention of encouraging excellence in drawing.

Image: Kathy Yeh *Kurnell* (detail) 2008 1.3 cylindrical water tank, lights, stand, mirror ball.



OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER  
CONTINUES TO 28 SEPTEMBER 2009





*week*  
*2009*

*17-21 August*

**Artsweek Launch Party**

Sound Project CD Launch

**Dissonance Exhibition Opening**

*UNSW* Sweetened Journal Launch

**Film Soc Movie Night**

Jazz Soup Night

**NUTS Dark Show**

and lots more...

artsweek@arc.unsw.edu.au  
www.arc.unsw.edu.au



**ARC**

UNSW Student Life