



ATC

UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts



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EDITORIAL

The end of semester is fast approaching and like the bolt of horses through a racing gate COFA students are starting to run around with direction in their step, assignments to submit and major projects to complete. This issue of COFAtopia aims to be an oasis of sunny spring calm away from the rat race of Week 8 onwards.

We have some leisurely articles about the world of Super Cute Blogs and the enjoyable procrastination/inspiration tool they really can be. We also find out about the new Enviro Collective on campus and the future of the 2010 COFA SRC. And let's not forget our hard hitting office drama '4x7' a real life look at the goings on of the COFA Arc office.

This issue is a moment to stop, take a big deep breath and remember these simple rules; Don't forget to let spring into your heart and don't get too bogged down with the mass of assignments that are now due. Hopefully there is still time for a beer at 3 Weeds, free wine at the Kudos openings and a moment between tutes to smell the roses. BBC



WHY WE LOVE FEMINISM: DISSONANCE AND THE KUNST

In the recent feminist exhibition *DISSONANCE: SHOW US YOUR KUNST* at Kudos Gallery, Womyns officers Rivka Abdilla-Schembri and Natasha Nolan have curated a challenging exhibition of film, photography, sound, sculpture painting and installation.

As feminists (yes, boys can be feminists too!) we love the idea that women are out there speaking up loud and proud. But feminism is just so damn tricky. As long as gender inequality remains, we need to ask ourselves and each other two questions: "Why?" and "What are we doing about it?". So to what extent has the exhibition addressed these two questions?

At the outset, the curators have identified the historical – and ongoing – dilemma faced by contemporary feminist artists in seeking appropriate ways to simultaneously celebrate women's 'otherness' and to condemn the use of such 'otherness' as a wedge to perpetuate prejudice and inequality. By engaging in the former, feminists often risk giving voice to the latter and undermining the very causes they so rightly pursue.

By avoiding a singular, defined 'feminist position' to frame the content for their show, a pluralist approach has been embraced – an inclusive concept of feminism that acknowledges the virtue in allowing the works of contemporary women artists to speak for themselves.

In a 'room of one's own' style, the curators aim to create a safe space for female artists to express themselves. It's a good approach, but is threatened by heavy-handedness in dealing with the show's theme. When asked about the show's by-line (a clever subversion of a phrase women know all-too-well), the curators had this to say:

"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."

It's a curious statement for a number of reasons. As an opinion it is clearly debatable. Is there actually a "constant expectation" that women will reference their vaginas in their work? If so, whose expectation is it? And what is the nature of the "potential violence" that this expectation can give rise to?

Perhaps this particular statement was not meant to be analysed so intently, but it seems to function as a justification of the show's entire theme and so deserves some consideration. Because it focuses our attention on female genitalia in the way that it does, doesn't the above statement indicate the very opposite of what the curators want us to believe? In other words, despite the subversive nature of the show's title, doesn't this message add to the impression that women's art is preoccupied with the representation of female genitalia?

An overtly singular curatorial message can undermine the integrity of individual works in a show. While reclaiming language is one vital part of reclaiming power, has thematic blanketing in this instance worked? Has *SHOW US YOUR KUNST* shifted debate, or is feminism and femaleness still located solely between a woman's legs?

by **Virginia Mawer and Mike Barnard**

Image: Stella Rose McDonald



The world of (super cute) Blogs

So you are sitting at your desk and you know you are meant to be finishing that assignment or starting that assignment as the case may be. But then a curious link to a friend's blog perhaps Hello Sandwich!

hellosandwich.blogspot.com.

A collection of artist Ebony Bizys' gorgeous art and crafts crushes.

Or you might wonder by the Bakers Dozen. **bakersdozen.bigcartel.com**

A place to buy affordable adorable art and design pieces.

I would say perfect for little gifts and much better than supporting those mega chain stores. Then you might peruse **windydaysblog.blogspot.com/**

a softly spoken blog with a collection of nostalgic found images. You can pop into Sweden and visit Fine where

Elizabeth – photographer, designer and mum shows you snapshots of the Swedish forests she lives in.

finelittleday.blogspot.com

And then, if you are in the mood for super cute ceramics you can visit the studio of 'Violet' where gold leafing and cute characters on tea cups never looked so good.

studioviolet.blogspot.com

Then there is 'My Love For You is a Stampede of Horses'

myloveforyou.typepad.com

Well! This is less cutesy but still has a fun selection of emerging illustrators and designers. This is an art blog

curated by Meighan O'Toole and as she describes it 'Cataloguing low brow and contemporary art, My Love for You features Q&A's, studio visits and daily posts about artists from all over the world.'

From here I found the wonderful work of Coral Silverman and her show Real Life and Other Myths. This is when the internet really does out do itself.

Here's an emerging female artist living in California and I from Sydney (without leaving the comfort of my sturdy study chair) can enjoy her delicate grass books and her gouache paintings where mobile phones and unicorns co-exist. I mean really, I am starting to get what all the fuss is about with the world wide web.

There is a bit of a theme here. You might have noticed. Super cute blogs are heart felt, often crafty and nearly always cheer you up. A great in between assignments time waster for the F Block computer labs. You can even feel so inspired that you have to start your own super cute blog straight away and then you won't possibly be able to do those pesky assignments at all.

BBC

Wk8

Tuesday

15 September

10am Yoga

Free yoga session for Arc members, \$5 for others, Presented by COFA SRC E105

1-2pm Soccer at Moore Park

Bring friends and meet Alan Giddy for some serious soccer fun.

12.30pm - Vegetarian lunch

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

5-7.30pm - Exhibition opening

Tim Olsen Drawing Prize
Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St Paddington

Wednesday

19 September

2-4pm Stitch n Bitch

COFA campus craftanoon in courtyard

Saturday

19 September

10-4 COFA Spring Fair

A day for the whole family, with stalls, food and games. There are stalls from lots of talented COFA students selling their art and crafts.

Wk9

Tuesday

22 September

10am Yoga

Free yoga session for Arc members, \$5 for others, Presented by COFA SRC E105

1-2pm Soccer at Moore Park

Bring friends and meet Alan Giddy for soccer mania.

5-6 Post Grad Soiree

Come and meet your fellow post grads for an drinks and some friendly 'get to know you' soiree. COFA Courtyard

Wednesday

23 September

2-4pm Stitch n Bitch

Get your craft on in the courtyard. Beginners welcome.

Saturday

26 September

Spring Carnival

All the colour and style of a Carnival Night Race! Canter on down to the Red Rattler, Welcome in the Spring with your best hat and party frock. In appearance will be many a Mule, a Pinto, some Bavarian Warmbloods of course the Palaminos, the dreamy Mountain Pleasure horse. And a few Donkeys...With special special SHOWS by Pony, Fancy Piece, Vixen Noir, KK No Pants DJ Sveta DJ Gemma MC Celia Curtis will be calling the shots. This is a fundraiser for the Rattlers Solar Panel Array. \$20 \$15 8-2am Red Rattler Theatre

Wk10

Tuesday

28 September

10am Yoga

Free yoga session for Arc members, \$5 for others, Presented by COFA SRC E105

1-2pm Soccer at Moore Park

Bring friends and meet Alan Giddy for soccer mania.

12-12.30pm Queer Week Free Lunch

with launch of new Queer Zine Free for Arc members and \$2 for non-mebers. Courtyard

5-7.30 Caught in the Act Opens

Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St Paddington

Wednesday

30 September

2-4pm Stitch n Bitch

COFA campus craftanoon in courtyard

Thursday

2 October

DEADLINE to enter Annual KUDOS Award Fame and money could be yours! Every COFA student should enter this annual event which showcases the best of COFA talent. Download from cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au or pick up a hrad copy from Arc office. Major prize \$1500!

Last Chance for 2009 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. You can only stay at the residency till mid October so this is your last chance for 2009.

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 is coming up on October 9!

For information packs and application forms for any of the above opportunities, drop into the Arc Office, D Block or go to cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au

The Arc Annual Artist & Designer Award

**That which is heard of,
Renowned,
Famed for an exceptional act or achievement
.....KUDOS**

The stage is set.

Bright lights echo across polished boards, throwing sharp, magnified shapes across, over and upwards in a dramatic crescendo. One step forward, through the open window. Applause is waiting.

Now in its eighth year, Arc's Annual Emerging Artist and Designer Award, KUDOS, hosted by Arc at COFA and Kudos Gallery, fosters and rewards creative COFA endeavors. We aim to encourage experimentation and showcase COFA art and design to the broader community.

KUDOS, by definition and intention, extends well deserved praise to the significant achievements of emerging COFA Artists and Designers. Giving back to the creative student community at COFA, affording them the kudos they deserve, in their student gallery, Kudos.

The Arc Annual Award, KUDOS, provides students with momentous opportunities to win prizes and gain recognition as groundbreaking artists and designers.

KUDOS continues to be a platform for professional development, incentives and praise, providing exposure for emerging artists and designers at COFA, and garnering the attention of distinguished industry professionals through the judging panel.

Honour where honour is due. Take a bow and get ready for the show.

Entries are open now to ALL COFA students (undergrads, postgrads, local and international). FREE entry for all Arc members. Non-members fee \$10. Entries close Thurs 1 Oct. Download your application today from cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au or pick up from the Arc @ COFA office.

Finalists will be exhibited at Kudos Gallery 13-24 October, 2009. You are invited to submit an entry, maybe win \$1500 and attend the festive opening night event and awards presentation 5-7.30pm Tuesday 13 October.

IMPORTANT DATES

1 OCTOBER

Delivery of entries to the Arc office @ COFA in D Block 10am - 5pm. Entries will also be accepted on Wednesday 30 September 10am - 5pm.

6 OCTOBER

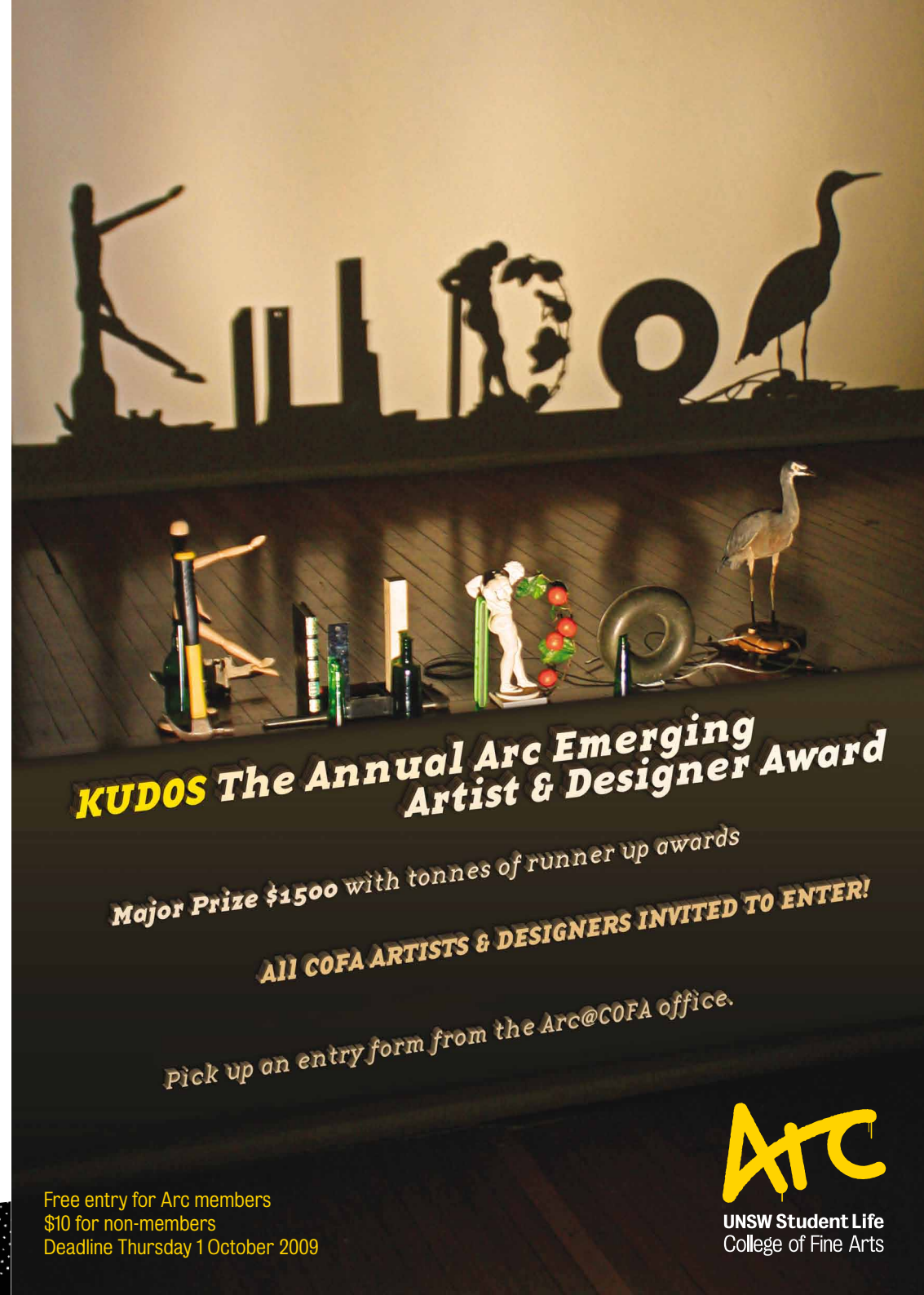
Finalists will be announced. Entrants not selected for final judging and exhibition will be required to collect their work from the Arc office before 9 October.

12 OCTOBER

Installation of finalists' works at Kudos Gallery.

13 OCTOBER

Judging of finalists at Kudos Gallery. Opening night of KUDOS exhibition at Kudos Gallery 5-7.30pm.



KUDOS The Annual Arc Emerging Artist & Designer Award

Major Prize \$1500 with tonnes of runner up awards

ALL COFA ARTISTS & DESIGNERS INVITED TO ENTER!

Pick up an entry form from the Arc@COFA office.

Free entry for Arc members
\$10 for non-members
Deadline Thursday 1 October 2009

Arc

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Green Week

The environment is not something that can be 'fixed' or 'understood' in a week. However, there is no harm in trying. Arc's Enviro Week run by the COFA and Kensington SRC aims to inform, discuss and celebrate the environment. During Week 8 there will be events about ethical food choices, lectures on direct action and the enviro movement and even a Food co-op crawl where green foodies from COFA and Kenso descend on the food oasis co-ops of Sydney. You might notice most of these events are happening over at Kenso...well there is something you can do to fix that! Join the COFA SRC Enviro Collective and partake in the green movement right here at COFA. In 2009 the Enviro Officer, Marcel Cooper, has begun a new collective on campus. I spoke to her in the sunny courtyard to hear all about the exciting future of the COFA SRC Enviro Collective.

What is a collective?

Collectives are groups of students who are interested in being specifically involved in different departments of the SRC eg the international officers run the International Student Collective and work as a team to make things better for international students on campus, social events etc. Here at COFA we have our own SRC, fully funded by Arc. The collectives are an important part of the SRC forming the mass of ideas, power and inspiration for the COFA SRC officers to do their jobs.

What makes a COFA Enviro collective special?

This is a new thing for COFA, having collectives run by the COFA SRC officers. They've been going for a little while over at main campus, but now that COFA has its very own SRC for the first time since VSU was implemented nationally, things are heating up on our campus and people are starting to become all keen to get involved and it's all very exciting.

What do you hope will happen with the COFA SRC Enviro Collective?

Our aim is to have our very own COFA Enviro Collective meetings/get-togethers/working bees here at COFA every week. I'm taking inspiration from the very active main campus collective. They hold weekly collective meetings, which are every Wednesday at 2pm. This is a group of about 15 students who sit in a circle in the sun on the grass and chat about enviro things they're up to, things coming up and plan for collective events and actions.

What exciting events are coming up?

Week 8 is Enviro Week on both campuses so check out the program below for the green week program. Outside of uni there is also the ReThreads: Clothes, Books and Music Exchange happening at Carriage Works in Redfern. What you do is bring your best cast-offs to CarriageWorks on Saturday 19 September and exchange them for new pieces to reinvigorate your wardrobe, music collection and bookshelf. All for Free! Amazing.

GREENIE WEEK PROGRAM

Tuesday 15 September

10-12

Seed Swap and Gardening Chat at Thoughtful Foods (back of the Roundhouse)

Sit over a cup of tea, swap your favourite seeds and share some gardening tales.

We might even sow some in the garden. Don't forget to bring a packet of seeds, so we can swap them.

12.30

COFA Veggie Feast

Join us for a veggie feast in the COFA courtyard. Free for Arc members, \$2 for non members.

1-2

Film and Lecture – A Time Comes

Central Lecture Theatre 4, Kensington

Discuss the environment movement, and why some people in it engage in direct action which could lead to arrest? Watch the film A Time Comes, about the landmark climate protests and court case in the UK, and hear speakers from Greenpeace and Climate Camp Australia.

Thursday 17 September

1-2

Forum on Mining and Local Communities

Central Lecture Theatre 4, Kensington

This forum will explore the direct impacts of Australia's coal habit on health, river systems and local economies. Hear first-hand stories from people fighting mines in their backyards.

5-9

Green Drinks

Roundhouse

Unwind on Thursday evening from 5-9 pm with Green Community Drinks at the Club

Bar in the Roundhouse with other environmentally conscious people to make new

friends and catch up with old ones.

Friday 18 September

9:30-4

Food Co-Op Crawl

Meet at the UNSW main gate, Anzac Pde

Come on a delicious adventure of Sydney's food co-operatives by bike or bus.

The COFA SRC is fully funded by the Arc.

Photo by Marcel Cooper.

4x7

This week at Arc@COFA a windy uncharming sky resides over the office. There is emotional turmoil, sleepiness, honours papers due, craft festivals and free yoga for Arc members....

BBC: Don't leave us Mac! I feel unsafe with all these strange currents in the air.

Mak: But who shall save us from the Bad Ass Bandits? I must live the life I was born to lead. I am Mac the Avenger!

BBC: I understand. Go. Don't worry, I'll write 4x7 this week! Even though I'm not a naturally funny person.

Suddenly Black Widow comes flying into the office covered in remnants of cutting and pasting festivities. Colour pieces of paper are flying every where, like a typhoon of rainbow coloured off-cuts.

Everyone: Wow! Black Widow! You are a craft typhoon!

Black Widow: Yes I am. And I proclaim this day the Annual Cut and Paste National Holiday. Don't let work get you down, don't go quietly into the night, cut and paste your way to world of COFA utopia. I am off to those of us who live far away from Sydney. I will drive 16 hours and I will not stop (except for 2 hourly Stop, Revive, Survive) until I reach Fowlers Gap.

Enter BikeClops and LuluYogaHead: (Speaking in unison) Hi everyone! We are here to help save COFA from the Bad Ass punks, from stressed out uni kids attacks and to bring peace, good will, flexibility and bike maintenance to this happy campus. AND while the others are away BBC we will help you write 4x7 as we can see you need it.

BBC: Thank god for that. Good bye Black Widow! Goodbye Mac! Safe returns and best wishes.

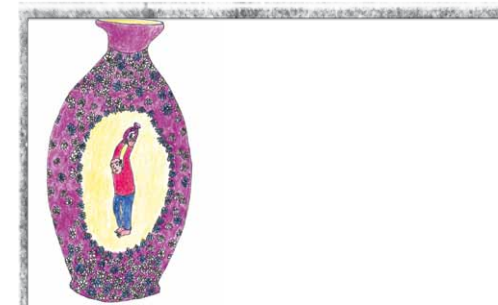
As Mac and Black Widow rode away on their camels the dark skys outside swelled and heaved with the mounting rain. Or was it rain? Or was it the ghosts of art school past showing their unhappiness at the state of this art school present...



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



CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Revealing the latest works by a new generation of promising young Sydney-based artists

Lachlan Anthony
Bronwyn Bailey-Charteris with Marcel Cooper
Chloe Hughes
Andrew Moran
Ivan Muñiz Reed
Taylor and Kirkwood
Giselle Stanborough et al

Curated by Sandra Di Palma
Illustration by Bababa International

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER
CONTINUES TO 10 OCTOBER 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 26 SEPTEMBER 2009



KUDOS Arc's ANNUAL EMERGING ARTIST & DESIGNER AWARD

The Arc Annual Award, KUDOS, provides students with momentous opportunities to win prizes and gain recognition as groundbreaking artists and designers.

\$1,500 major prize funded by Arc
Stacks of runner up prizes

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER
CONTINUES TO 24 OCTOBER 2009



PARTY OF FIVE

It won't be a Party of Five, but it will be a party.
DJs, Performers, Bands and Organisers needed for the Arc Annual After Party

See Bron in Arc Office @ COFA



is funded by Arc @ UNSW Ltd



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