



Arc@COFA
ISSUE #1 2011



Arc

UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts



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COFATOPIA #1 2011

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF COFATOPIA FOR 2011. THIS ISSUE FOCUSES ON THE MANY HATS THAT COFA STUDENTS WEAR, FROM BEING STUDENTS, ARTISTS, DESIGNERS, ADMINISTRATORS, ALUMNI, GALLERY COORDINATORS, CURATORS AND JUST ALL OVER INTERESTING GO GETTERS! IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES YOU WILL READ ABOUT THE TWO HOT NEW KUDOS GALLERY COORDINATORS, THE SYDNEY ART SCENE DIY STYLE AS WELL AS THE LATEST COFA ALUMNI EXHIBITION CURATED BY NICK VICKERS. THERE IS STILL OF COURSE THE COFATOPIA STAPLES RETURNING FOR 2011 OF 4X7, BE SURE TO CATCH UP ON ALL THE DRAMATIC GOSS! GOOD LUCK NAVIGATING IN THESE FIRST WEEKS OF SESSION WITH THE DEMOLITION OF COFA AND THE NEW AND EXCITING WOOLWORTHS CAMPUS AT TOWN HALL! STAY TUNED TO THE ARC^{AT} COFA WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION - FOR YOU, THE STUDENT PUBLIC. NOW GO FORTH AND HAVE YE A SESSION 1, 2011!

LOVE ARC^{AT} COFA



UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts

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ONLY \$69
ARC it's a student thing
UNSW Student Life
www.arc.unsw.edu.au



FRESH! NEW! NOW!

Interview with the new Kudos Gallery Coordinators

In 2011, current COFA kids Alex Clapham (currently completing a BFA) and Zoe Robinson (currently completing Honours in Sculpture) have handed the reigns to manage the infamous student run, Arc funded, Kudos Gallery. Established in 1998, Kudos has always been committed to providing an exhibition space for students to show their work and gain some experience before being thrown in the art world deep end. I recently caught up with Alex and Zoe...

As newly appointed caretakers, what is your vision for Kudos Gallery?

ALEX: To provide a platform for emerging artists, to help give students the opportunity to learn how to install and give them practice in writing applications and artists' statements

ZOE: As well as showcase what's going on in the COFA community and create a bit of excitement.

What do you think is most important about Kudos Gallery?

ALEX: Kudos has always been an amazing resource...

ZOE: Yeah, we're really lucky at COFA to have such a great place to exhibit. It is a huge space and for such little expense. It provides a fantastic opportunity to experiment...

ALEX: But in a professional environment, so students have the opportunity to get noticed while learning skills they can take with them as they go on as an artist.

Art openings: why is there always free booze?

ALEX: It's a way for the artist/s and every one else to relax and celebrate after install.

ZOE: Alex also said: "Who wouldn't want a free beer?" ...But she doesn't want me to write that...

ALEX: Thanks Zoe.

ZOE: I would also say that alcohol is served in order to facilitate debate, and in particular, to bring about ludicrous statements concerning art, statements that would never be made if one could not at the very least pretend that one was drunk at the time ...as a kind of retrospective caveat. But that might just be me... Kudos Gallery and we the co-ordinators, promote the responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

Of course! It is an interesting tradition that goes alongside the exhibition of art. What was the first ever exhibition that you both put on?

ALEX: Moment: Minus Them and Meaning, which I curated as part of my internship at Kudos with help from Andrew Haining and, of course, Zoë. We got some really great young artists together...



ZOE: "Of course, Zoë" now, it was a bit touch-and-go there for a minute... I tried to drop out of the show completely but then Andrew talked me back round. It's actually a lot harder to work with people who you respect because when you're passionate, you're both going to want what's best and you both have your own ideas about what that is. But when you stick it out and compromise it's always really rewarding.

Both exhibiting artists in your own right, how do you think your practice will influence the way you run Kudos?

ALEX: Alex: "Build, build, build"
Zoë: "Type, type, type"... I'll probably try to install every ones' work for them...

ZOE: The application forms will probably become a lot more pompous.

Hilarious! Alex you can install my shows anytime! That is the part I hate the most. Hey, how can other students get involved in the gallery?

ALEX: There are plenty of ways for students to get involved at Kudos. At the moment we're looking for people to join our management committee, which is responsible for choosing the exhibition program, the works for the Kudos Award as well as helping with promotional material. We are also looking for people to volunteer at openings, gallery minding, maintenance and some bigger installs. Details can be found at kudosgallery.wordpress.com or email us at kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au.



The next deadline for exhibition proposals for Kudos Gallery is Friday 25 March 2011. For application forms go to cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au

DIY – Getting Started in the ArtWorld

Janis Lander

So what is Underground Art these days? Does it actually exist these days? Is it possible to have an underground art movement when every concept filters through the internet while it's still a thought balloon coming out of someone's head?

Outsider Graffiti artists have matured and developed into co-operatives holding group exhibitions in galleries; Tattoo artists exhibit their work in the Sydney Tattoo and Body Art Expo (March 2010 at the Olympic Park); and the sub culture of graphic novels and comics are mined for storyboards for mainstream Hollywood dramatic films (Sin City; RED; Hulk etc). Emerging artists in every medium have the option to rent a gallery space in the city and show their work to a sympathetic peer group and a mixed crowd of curious art lovers, rather than wait for a high profile commercial gallery to notice them. At the same time they can promote their work on a personal web site with links to networking sites and You Tube. The opportunity to present new work has shifted from the international curatorial network back to the artists and artist-run events, and the art scene these days is as exciting as it was in the heyday of the Modernist era, in the coffee houses of European cities in the early 20th century. The opportunity to segue from

'emerging' to 'established' can happen very smoothly in such an environment. And the bottom line is always the desire to become commercially successful, while protecting an aesthetic and maintaining an independent vision.

In Sydney the October Fringe Festival, presenting an eclectic mix of established and emerging artists in music, theatre, video and performance art and the visual arts, has blurred the line between 'fringe' and established artists, so the term is no longer useful as a description. And while Urban Culture may be viewed as a subculture by the established Art world, it is, paradoxically, an international subculture, as cities become more like each other and we are all connected instantly via the Internet and the Media. Each 'underground' artist may have a huge international following of people identified loosely by shared interests in skateboarding, graphic novels, comics, horror films or body painting. Most importantly, IT networking and You Tube provide an instant opportunity for emerging artists to promote themselves to an international audience, thus by-passing the usual interface of dealers and gallery representation.

Pop-inspired artist Simon Lovelace is neither emerging nor fringe but Blank Space, the gallery space he runs, is a

bit 'underground', and is often used by emerging artists for their first solo show. It offers exhibitors a large display window onto Crown St, it is very affordable at \$100 per day, and any artist may hire it. Because the artists are not selected or promoted, the quality of the exhibitions varies, but some emerging artist will have his/her first success there, before being snapped up by an expensive commercial gallery.

There are many artist-run spaces in Sydney available for artists at all stages of their career to rent but often they are too expensive for emerging artists – both the Depot Gallery at 2 Danks Street Waterloo, and Mary Place Gallery in Paddington charge around \$2,000 per week for hire of space only, and therefore it is more economical if several artists combine to have a group exhibition and share the costs of renting the space, Opening Night, publicity, freight and invitations. Strategies employed by established artists with a solid CV include forming self-regulated Professional Associations and regularly holding independent exhibitions of members' work in the large exhibition spaces of public buildings; or turning a commercial warehouse building into an Artist's Co-operative and opening the working studio spaces twice a year to the public.

This is an excerpt from *DIY – Getting Started in the Art World* by Janis Lander. You can read the full article in *The College Voice*, Volume 8, Issue 2, Summer 2010.

Janis Lander is completing a doctoral thesis in the School of Art Education at COFA. She is a figurative artist working in the media of painting, drawing and printmaking, with a background in performance art; Janis has had extensive experience on the committees of several artists' initiatives, projects including exhibitions, workshops, seminars, websites and art publications, and here she takes a look at exhibition spaces available to artists in the DIY scene in Sydney, all advertised and viewable online.

The College Voice is an Arc initiative that publishes critical and reflective pieces from the perspective of the working artist. You can check out the latest issue at www.arc.unsw.edu.au/Publication.aspx?id=5

If you have an idea for an article, review or interview and would like to contribute to *The College Voice* send an outline to the editor at jelander@bigpond.net.au to discuss your idea.



WHAT'S ON

WK 1

Tues 1 March

11am-1pm
SUMMER PUNCH STAND
 Free for Arc members
 \$1.50 for others
 COFA Courtyard at Kenso, next to the Roundhouse, UNSW

1-3pm
PIMP YOUR SCHOOL BOOKS
 Free for Arc members, \$2 for others
 COFA Common Room
 Level 1, E Block, COFA

Wed 2 March

4-6 **WATCH MOVIES:**
 Cronenberg Special
 COFA Common Room
 Level 1, E Block, COFA

WK 2

Tues 8 March

12.30 pm
VEGETARIAN LUNCH
 Free for Arc members,
 \$2 for others
 COFA courtyard at Kenso
 next to the Roundhouse, UNSW

2-3pm
STITCH 'n BITCH
 Bring your gossip, we provide the kneedles and wool.
 Free for Arc members
 \$2 for others.
 at Cafe on the Other Side
 cnr Albion St. near A Block
 COFA

5.30-7pm
EXHIBITION OPENING
 COFA Alumni Show
MEDIUM COOL
 curated by Nick Vickers
 feat. John Aslanidis,
 Denis Beaubois,
 Shaun Gladwell,
 Angelica Mesiti and
 Khalad Sabsabi.
 at Kudos Gallery
 6 Napier St Paddington

Wed 9 March

4-6pm
WATCH MOVIES:
 Cronenberg Special
 COFA Common Room
 Level 1 E Block
 COFA

WK 3

Tues 15 March

12.30 pm
VEGETARIAN LUNCH
 Free for Arc members,
 \$2 for others
 COFA courtyard at Kenso,
 next to the Roundhouse, UNSW

2pm-3pm
BIKE WORKSHOP
 Fix your wheels dude! BYO bike.
 Free for Arc members,
 \$5 for others
 COFA courtyard at Kenso,
 next to the Roundhouse, UNSW

Wed 16 March

4-6pm
WATCH MOVIES:
 Female Film Makers Special
 COFA Common Room
 Level 1, E Block, COFA

VOLLIE POSITION AVAILABLE!

Arc@COFA EVENTS INTERNSHIPS



The Arc @ COFA Events Internship program encourages students to participate in the organisation and implementation of student events on the Paddington,



Kensington and city campuses. Students work with the Arc @ COFA Activities Coordinators to plan and run events, learning promotion, budgeting, OH&S, contracting, administration and communication skills.

You could have the opportunity to plan and host your own event or activity on or off campus such as:

- FIELD TRIPS
- FESTIVALS
- PICNICS
- WEEKEND AWAY
- EXCURSIONS
- PERFORMANCES
- PARTIES
- SPORTS EVENTS
- WORKSHOPS
- DISCUSSIONS
- CRAFTERNOONS
- WORKING BEE



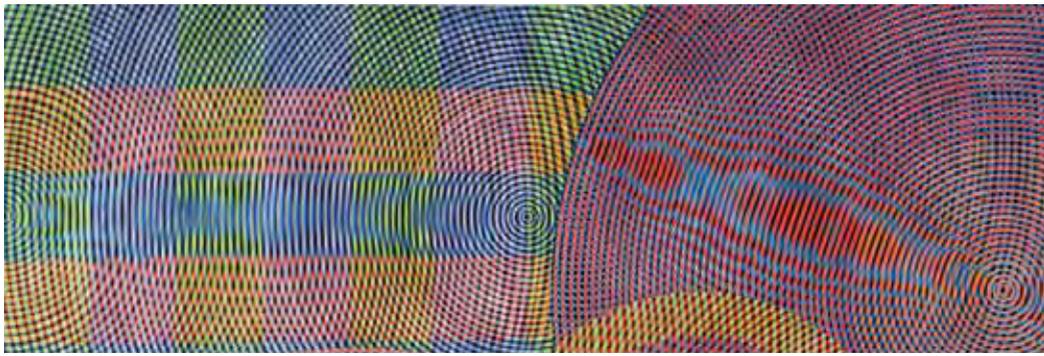
Event proposals with consideration for the COFA community, cross discipline collaboration and networking for arts and design students will be viewed favourably.

Successful applicants will be expected to work 3-4 hours per week for one semester with Arc @ COFA, helping with activities and general administration and upon completion will receive a certificate of appreciation and reference for their CV.



Volunteers who are motivated, enthusiastic and keen to learn are encouraged to apply. All volunteers must be Arc members in 2011 and enrolled as students at the College of Fine Arts, UNSW.





MEDIUM COOL

Interview with COFA Alumni coordinator and curator Nick Vickers

Nick Vickers has been curating exhibitions since 1984 and in 1994 established the Sir Hermann Black Gallery and Sculpture Terrace at the University of Sydney whilst managing the Student Union art collection. He now works as COFA's Alumni Relations Coordinator and as part of his role, is curating an exciting show of hot COFA Alumni. Kelly Doley caught up with Nick to pick his brain about art, curating and the exhibition

What is the curatorial premise for Medium Cool?

Medium Cool is the annual Alumni exhibition. Medium Cool is a barometer. It is an exhibition that deals with deeply human aspects of our society from the subliminal waves of sonar vibrations to the rapture of human emotion. There is a certain quietude that surrounds us and although the development of our technologies appear to be hurtling our society along at break-neck speeds, below the surface a tide of indecipherable influences seem to operate independently to affect changes that are sometimes unpredictable.

It is a heavy hitting line up of artists- what sort of work will be shown in Medium Cool?

Each of the artists within Medium Cool throw a particular light on insecure and changeable aspects of our society. Starting with John Aslanidis, he is a painter of sonic

networks. Though it is unusual to mix works on canvas with projected and flat screen works, this work deals with those unseen sonic vibrations that surround us and are constantly changing. Similarly, the quietly simmering work of Denis Beaubois who has taken the fermentation of beer as a metaphor for Australian society, the end result is unsettlingly explosive. Kahled Sabsabi mesmerises us with endlessly changing aspects of our gene pool, a mix of stereotypical faces that meld into one another, like the sea of faces that Angelica Mesiti presents in rapturous response to rock music. Finally, the other tide, the surf that washes our shores, becomes a nocturnal vision for Shaun Gladwell.

What is an alumni?

The word has its origins in Latin and means graduates – very specifically plural because a male is an Alumnus, a female an Alumna and the plural is Alumni. So anyone that graduates from COFA UNSW automatically

becomes an either an Alumnus or an Alumna. All of the artists in Medium Cool are Alumni

Any tips for young curators wanting to get a head start in the industry?

I think that it takes a while to get your confidence together and to work out the possibilities of what will work and what won't. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to set up an ARI (artist run initiative), we could all experiment and trial ideas. There are many more exciting venues now and I think a really good move is to apply to get onto the board of one of those ARIs, its kind of like volunteer work but you learn so much about curatorial practices within a really vibrant part of the industry. It also gives you a handle on deadlines for mail-outs and press releases.

MEDIUM COOL OPENS AT KUDOS GALLERY 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2011

START A CLUB
IN 2011!

Joining or starting a Club is the easiest way to meet people who like what you like and to make friends in the COFA community.....

Arc supports over 100 Clubs by providing funding, training and resources. A club can be anything! From a Salsa Club, an art lovers club, a baked goods club or a film club!

To find a club that suits you, or to start one of your own, visit the Arc@COFA Office (First Floor, E Block) COFA or the Student Development Office (Level 1, Roundhouse)

KUDOS GALLERY VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Get involved in an instant social network for emerging artists!!

Kudos Volunteers will work under the guidance of the Kudos Gallery Coordinators and will assist in all aspects of Kudos Gallery including exhibition minding, publicity, opening nights and maintenance. This position provides students with the opportunity to participate in an Artist Run Space, work with artists and the broader Sydney arts community.

Volunteer roles are open for one semester or the whole year. Expected workload is up to 3.5hrs per week, or 40 hours over a semester.

The Kudos Volunteer program is particularly aimed at first and second year students interested in developing their professional practice, gaining experience in gallery roles and becoming involved in student life. COFA. Volunteers who are motivated, enthusiastic and keen to learn are encouraged to apply. All volunteers must be Arc members in 2011 and enrolled as students at the College of Fine Arts, UNSW.

To apply, please send your CV with a cover letter explaining your interest and how you would like to be involved in Kudos to a.clapham@arc.unsw.edu.au.

WATCH

MOVIES

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
DURING
SESSION.
4-6PM.

Arc COMMON
ROOM LEVEL
1 E BLOCK,
COFA

WEEK 1-3 Cronenberg special

4x7

And so begins another year with the latest installment of the drama and the tears in the life and times of the 4 x 7 crew

This year things do look a little different kids – no – I don't mean that you all got awesome new haircuts over the summer break – or that you got a sweet new tattoo – oh no my dears – I mean the very grounds of our beloved COFA campus have been FLATTENED!! Yes FLATTENED!! And now, dear readers, I will tell you how it happened.

Black Widow: Mak – I have a feeling in my bones – I feel that our COFA campus will be going through some changes shortly and I want to be prepared.

Mak: What do you mean Black Widow? What could ever happen here – all is well – the birds are singing, the trees are providing shade, art is being created – what more could we want!

Black Widow: Trust me Mak – we need to make some changes. We need to upgrade. We need to move forward – as we never know what the future will bring. I feel that Kudos Gallery needs a change – a re-formation – a re-invention, and I think we also need.... A base! A place to meet, to gather, to congregate – a place a little away but very close, a place on the corner of all points, a place.... A place on the other side!

Mak: I think I know of this place Black Widow – it is near the old gallery, just down from where that man who used to have a big beard and hair and now has a short beard and hair works, lending out photographic equipment.

Black Widow: YES! That's the place – I think we should journey there at once.

So Black Widow and Mak pack their belongings and venture to The Other Side.... And they're there in no time!

Mak: wow – it is close – hey Black Widow – who are those ladies behind the counter?

Black Widow: They call them Clap and Robbo – they are known throughout the lands for their pie and brownies. They are destined for big things – mark my words.

Clap: Hey – what can I get you?

Black Widow: Clap, I have come to you with an offer. I would like you to summon your leader, Om. He holds the key to The Other Side, and we must get it from him.

Om: Black Widow? Ah – yes – I have heard of you.... Soy latte... yes... I will give you the key to The Other Side, on two conditions – 1. Clap stays here to lead the way and 2. The Other Side will always be a place for community, a place to gather, share ideas, feelings and coffee. Will you promise me this?

Black Widow: Yes Om. I do.

Om: And so it is.

WAHHHHHHHHHHB BBBMPPPPWWAPP

G'day Darllll – how are you ladiezzzz?? Can lvvva Burger?

Mak: who is that?

Black Widow: Ah – as I suspected – it's the demolishers. The cards have spoken of them. They are here to flatten COFA – they have been summoned by the lords and they will not cease until COFA is flat and ready for rebuilding. It will be a long process – but never fear Mak – we now have the keys to The Other Side and we also have Clap and Robbo on board to revitalise Kudos. I feel that this time of turmoil will be short lived.

Mak: Perhaps we also need an army of Volunteers – special COFA kids who want to help make student life at COFA better – Volunteers who can work at events and Kudos openings and really get involved in the new beginnings around here!

Black Widow: Indeed Mak. Indeed. Let us summon them at once.

And so – The Other Side becomes a place of rest and relaxation far away from The Demolishers, Kudos turns over a new leaf and a Volunteer callout is begun. COFA is flattened, but there is hope on the horizon – and in the meantime, we will always have Woolworths.

TINA FIVEASH:

Grace

Featuring a captivating series of large-scale animated lenticular photographs, stills, and video art, the series explores the thematic of dream, memory and emotion.

Grace represents Tina's shift into video art and animated lenticular photography: a technologically complex and rarely used medium, which produces an illusion of animation on a flat photograph. Viewers of the works are enabled the freedom to infinitely rewind, replay and/or pause to reflect on all they are seeing/perceiving by controlling the angle and pace in which they interact with the large-scale works.

**OPENS 5-7:30PM TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY
EXHIBITION CONTINUES TO: 5 MARCH 2011**



Grace II
Tina Fiveash
c type photograph, 110 x 78cm, 2010

COFA ALUMNI SHOW:

Curated by Nick Vickers
MEDIUM COOL

**JOHN ASLANIDIS DENIS BEAUBOIS
SHAUN GLADWELL ANGELICA MESITI
KHALAD SABSABI**

Medium Cool is the phrase that describes the colour temperature of digital presentations. But whilst this exhibition features a cool medium, the artists featured deal with a hot topic – humanity and our social networks. Within our communities, whether urban or rural, a complex fermentation process is in progress. From the sonic reverberations of John Aslanidis's works to the disquieting undertones of Denis Beaubois' exploding brews, the collective human heart beats from within Angelica Mesiti's rapturous audience to Khaled Sabsabi's multiple racial stereotypes and throughout all, the strife of human endeavour is encapsulated in Shaun Gladwell's work.

**OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 8 MARCH
EXHIBITION CONTINUES TO 19 MARCH 2011**



Sonic Network No. 8
John Aslanidis
oil and acrylic on canvas, 244 x 305cm, 2010
IMAGE COURTESY of Gallery 9, Sydney

KUDOS GALLERY

6 Napier St. Paddington NSW 2021
T 02 9326 0034
E kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au

open Wed to Fri 11am - 6pm, Sat 11am - 4pm

Kudos Gallery is run by COFA students and funded by Arc @ UNSW Ltd



IMAGINATION

IS OUR THING

COFA



JOIN TODAY
ONLY \$69

ARC it's a student thing
UNSW Student Life

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