



COFA
POPA

ATC

UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts



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As brave as you

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THANKS

All contributors, and
Arc @ UNSW Ltd.

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UNSW Student Life

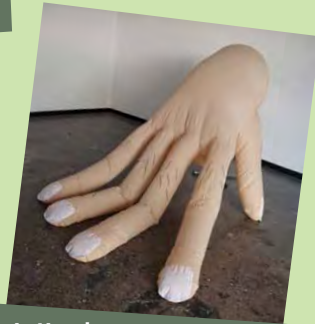
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Benjamin Holdstock "Contact" 2010, Silver gelatin print, 20 x 24cm - As part of "As brave as you" Kudos Gallery 18-28 May 2011

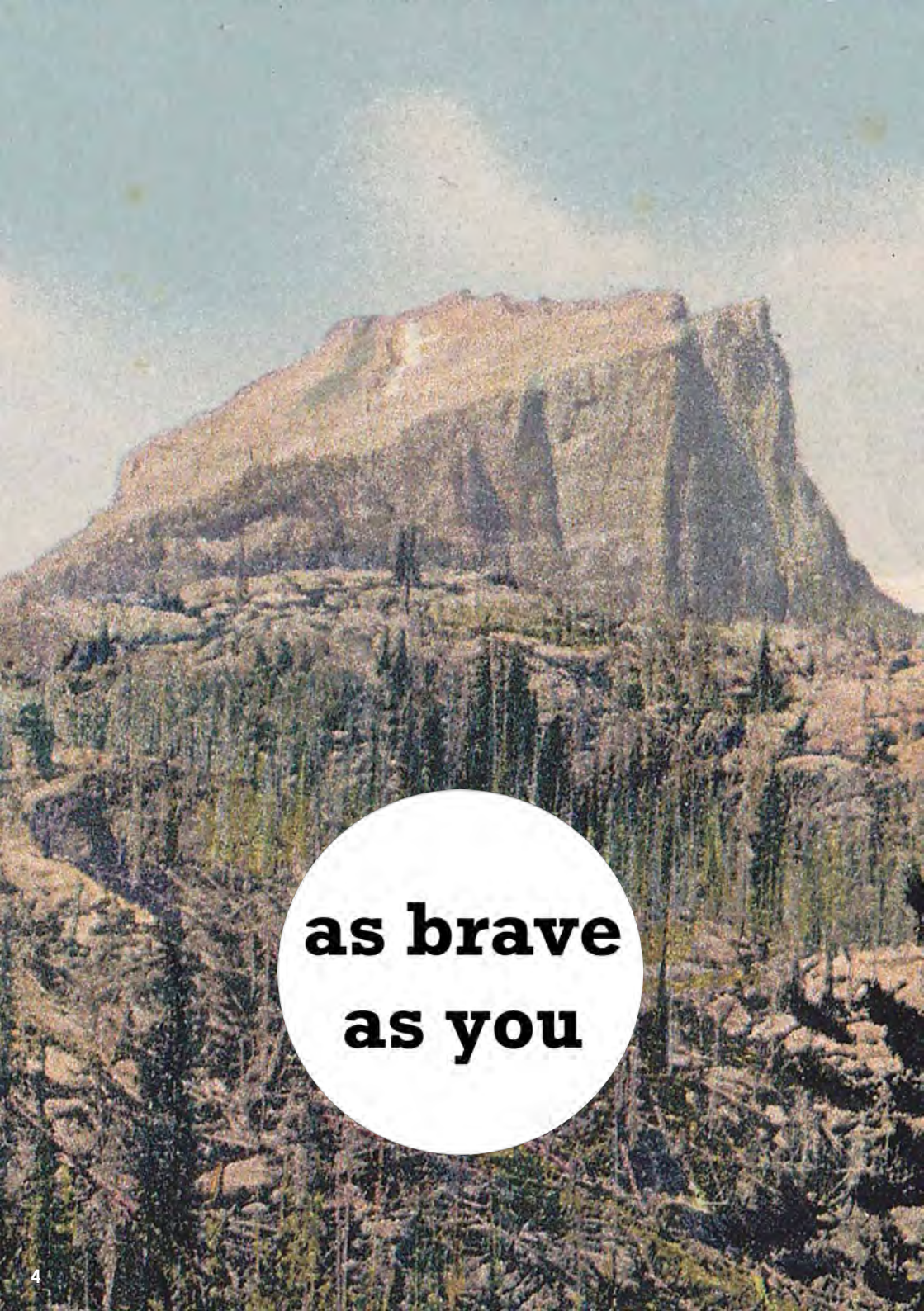
EDITORIAL

COFAtopia #4 2011

Be brave. To try new things, experiment, challenge, discover. I think that sums up the theme of this issue as set by Gemma Messih's first curatorial project *As brave as you* which opens at Kudos Gallery 17 May. A new student bar, The White House - a project that has been in the works for way too long to mention finally opens in a beautiful cottage mid-campus at Kensington, Tully Arnot talks about discovering inflatables by accident and how a grant from Arc @ COFA helped him buy materials for his show *Air Head* at Tin Sheds, and the Camp Betty collective fill us in on an exciting queer DIY festival happening in the inner west over the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June.

Now go, get out there, apply for grants, shows, residencies, make things happen, talk, listen, share, be brave.

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**as brave
as you**

Final year BFA photomedia major, Gemma Messih has curated her first exhibition “As brave as you” which opens at Kudos Gallery this week, we managed to catch her amongst install to hear all about it....

What’s the curatorial concept for this show?

As brave as you features the work of seven artists, **Tully Arnot, Ally Bisshop, Charles Dennington, Dara Gill, Benjamin Holdstock, Gemma Messih And Yiwon Park**, who work with the space between initial idea and outcome in their practice. I guess you could say that every artist and person works within this space, but for me the participating artists embrace the uncertainty that exists. The show aims to give due merit to the curiosities, attempts and knowledge learnt while working within the intangible space between idea and outcome.

How and why did you select the artists you have chosen?

I’ve been familiar with each artists’ work after seeing them in ARIs around Sydney the last few years. The sense of play and honesty in their work stuck with me. Each of the participating artists work with ideas that the show surfaces in some way, either conceptually or in aesthetic and I wanted to bring it all together- to have us doing what we do but doing it together. While I gave a curatorial brief to create new work, the possibilities of re-working old works was also open. Not viewing the ‘exhibition’ as the end point of a work is something really positive that has come out of the show.

“As brave as you” where did that title come from?

To some extent the exhibition could be seen as a reflection on the process of making work. Using ideas of chance, experimentation and play as guiding or deciding factors in your practice - I think that’s brave! It’s this sense of letting the works exist independently of the artists’ initial ideas, hopes and predictions that I’m interested in. A common interest in the fragile and relentless nature of the human spirit (including that of our own as artists) creates a nice link between all the works in the show.

You’re having a session with clairvoyants and artists talks during the show, it’s so great to start this kind of dialogue amongst artists and curators at this level, well done, but why clairvoyants?

I think that ideas of curiosity and skepticism go hand in hand with the subjective poles of success and failure. Predicted futures and what we do to either encourage or avoid our foreseen fate is quite interesting. It brings into play ideas of motivation, doubt, expectations and chance, which all have the potential to be very productive concepts when worked with. It’s also a fun way to get people along to artist talks!

Sure is!! So this the first exhibition you’ve curated, what made you decide to do this?

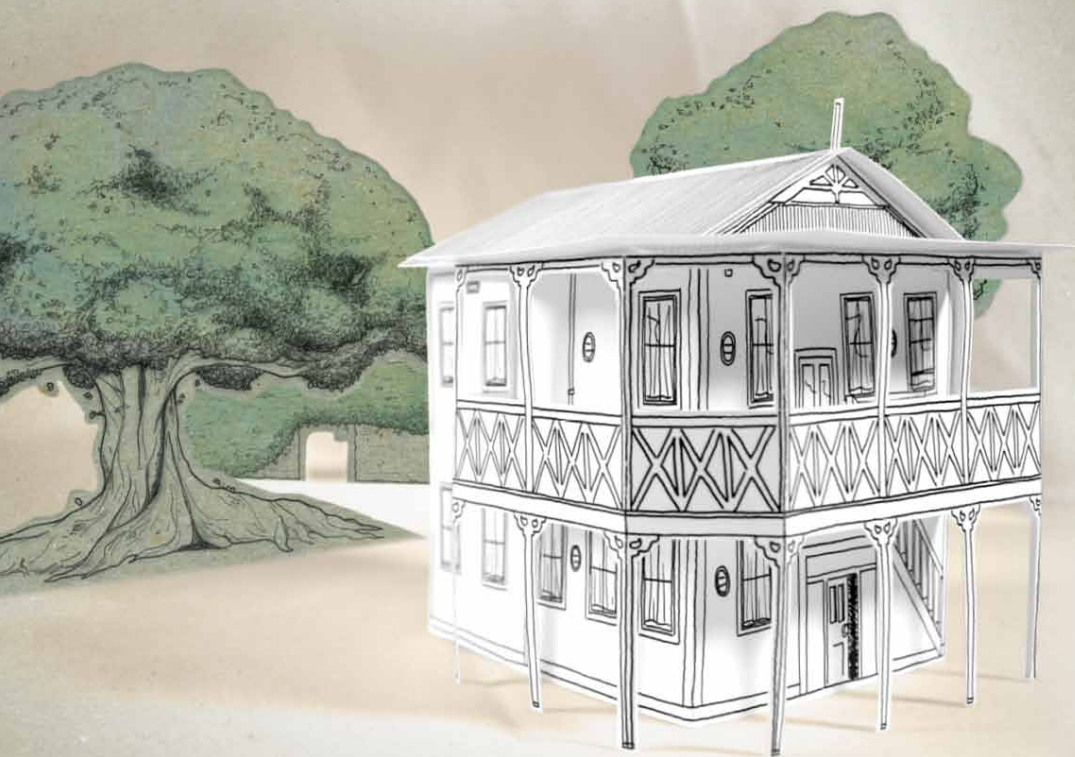
Yeah, *As brave as you* is my first curated show. It’s been brilliant having such a great group of artists to work with and learn from, they’re all really hard working and passionate about what they do (which has made my job relatively easy). I like the responsibility that a curator has to each artist to show their work in its best form both individually and as a group, and “playing God” with the works (Zoe’s words not mine) is also neat. I look forward to the next project...



As brave as you opens 5-7.30pm Tuesday 17 May at Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St. Paddington, artists talks and clairvoyants are the same time a week later, Tuesday 24 May and the exhibition continues until Saturday 28 May.

The next deadline for Kudos Gallery exhibition proposals from artists and curators is Friday 20 May, for info and application forms visit cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au or kudosgallery.wordpress.com

The White House



bites, beverages & brew

Just the other side of
the Quad Arch you'll find
the newest venue on campus



A new bar opens on the UNSW Kensington campus this week. A picturesque and slightly neglected building until now, Arc has recently transformed the space from dilapidated to debonair to serves bites, beverages and brew. We catch up with The White House Mgr, UNSW graduate Miles Portek for more...

Home for politics and beer or something else, why is it called The White House?

The name is actually in the Australian tradition of naming things how they look (redbelly black snake, wedge tailed eagle etc) and not a tribute to the increasing americanisation of our culture. It's one of the few original buildings left in the precinct, and looks like an Island of old timey glory in an increasingly developed space. It's going to be the place where you can escape, grab a meal, a drink and while away the hours away from the hustle of uni. And it's only ever so slightly off the beaten track, so it's easy to get to, and the activities are going to be great, I spent the weekend sourcing board games for people to use, and upstairs inside is glorious.

Beautiful, can't wait to get there, where is it?

It's a 2 storey weatherboard colonial type building. Literally 30 metres from the quad courtyard. The best way to describe its location, when coming from off campus is straight off high st through gate 4, you can't miss it. Or if you're on campus, go to the quad, walk through the arch that isn't a building, hook left, and there it is.

How did you secure the space?

That's a long story of battles, tears and woe, akin to a homerian poem, or Tolstoy masterpiece. Suffice to say, this will be the culmination of countless, thankless hours and hundreds of lives being sacrificed to the altar of student life on campus.

How long has this project been in the works?

I first heard rumblings of a whitehouse 6-9 months ago, then it was swallowed into the abyssal lakes of bureaucracy. Now it's emerged like a reverse Atlantis in its charming Edwardian glory.

Mmm yes sounds fabulous (the emergence that is) I heard you're setting up a gallery inside, The Stairwell Gallery. It's great there will be a student exhibition space at Kensington. Tell us all about it!

At this stage it's a set of railings in the stairwell. We've set the program for the first few shows, the first one is by Edmund Iffland. Then it's a work in progress, hoping to talk to the Kudos Coordinators.

Ah sounds like an empty canvas so to speak, I'll let Alex and Zoe know.

What are the hours TWH is open?

8am-11pm Monday to Friday, and from 11am on the weekends.

Love the poster, who made the paper models?

Full credit to Ryan Carceller and Michael Delmar, the creative dreamboats (and both COFA students/graduates).

on campus employment opportunities

**Kudos Gallery Intern s2, 2011
12hrs/wk x 13wks**

The role of the gallery intern will be to work with the Gallery Coordinators and assist with aspects of running Kudos Gallery. They will acquire hands on experience in gallery administration and marketing for a non-profit exhibition space.

Due: end of semester 1

Contact p.benton@arc.unsw.edu.au for info pack.

**Graphic Designer:
UNSW ARTSWEEK**

If you have skills in graphic design we are looking for a volunteer designer to take charge and create a visual identity for the festival. Although this is a volunteer position this is an opportunity to gain experience in producing an entire suite of design material.

Due: end of semester 1

Applications: contact artsweek@arc.unsw.edu.au with your proposals

**Student Development
Administrator** - full time

The Arc Student Development Dept's goal is to create a vibrant student life on campus outside of the classroom while developing students personally, professionally and socially. We do this by supporting over 150 student run Clubs and Societies, offering numerous volunteering and professional development programs and running courses and activities. It is the aim of the Student Development Department to inspire and support students to actively participate in non-academic activities that will ensure they have a well-rounded university experience.

Due: Monday 30 May, 2011

<http://jobs.arc.unsw.edu.au>

<http://thewhitehouseunsw.com>

What's

Wk 11

On

Wk 13

Monday 16 May

1pm BINGO,
Arc @ COFA common room
(E110) Paddington

2-5pm
Felt & Wire Birds Workshop,
COFA@Kenso Courtyard

Tuesday 17 May

11-3pm
Abstract Texture Painting,
COFA@Kenso Courtyard

12.30pm FREE VEGO LUNCH,
Arc @ COFA common room
(E110) Paddington

1pm CRAFTAFTERNOON,
Arc @ COFA common room
(E110) Paddington

1-2pm COFA SOCCER, Moore Park

2-3PM STICH n BITCH, Arc @ COFA
common room (E110) Paddington

5-7.30pm AS BRAVE AS YOU
curated by Gemma Messih
Tully Arnot, Ally Bishop, Charles
Dennington Dara Gill, Benjamin
Holdstock, Gemma Messih,
Yiwon Park
Kudos Gallery 6 Napier St Padding-
ton, 11am-6pm Wed to Fri, 11am-4pm
Sat. Continues to 28 MAY 2011

Wednesday 18 May

1pm WATCH MOVIES
Let the Right One In

Thursday 19 May

5pm
Arc @ COFA Presents: COFA
Kids Thursdays at Fringe Bar

Monday 23 May

1pm BINGO,
Arc @ COFA common room
(E110) Paddington

2-5pm
Badge & Brooch Making Workshop,
COFA@Kenso Courtyard

Tuesday 24 May

11am FREE MORNING TEA
COFA Courtyard @ KENSO. FREE
for Arc Members - \$2 for others

11-3pm
Spray Art & Stencilling,
COFA@Kenso Courtyard

1pm CRAFTAFTERNOON, Arc @ COFA
common room (E110) Paddington

1-2pm COFA SOCCER, Moore Park

2-3PM STICH n BITCH, Arc @ COFA
common room (E110) Paddington

5-7.30pm Artists Talks and Clairvoy-
ants as part of AS BRAVE AS YOU
curated by Gemma Messih at Kudos
Gallery, 6 Napier St Paddington.

Wednesday 25 May

1pm WATCH MOVIES
Samson and Deliah

Thursday 26 May

5pm Arc @ COFA Presents:
COFA Kids Thursdays at Fringe
Bar - from 5pm - \$5 Drinks for all
COFA Kids (and their Kenso friends)
- \$4 Drinks for Arc Members

Monday 30 May

1pm BINGO,
Arc @ COFA common room
(E110) Paddington

2-5pm
Everything Buttons Workshop,
COFA@Kenso Courtyard

Tuesday 31 May

11-3pm - Design A Scarf Workshop,
COFA@Kenso Courtyard

12.30pm FREE VEGO LUNCH,
Arc @ COFA common room
(E110) Paddington

1pm CRAFTAFTERNOON, Arc @ COFA
common room (E110) Paddington

1-2pm COFA SOCCER, Moore Park

2-3PM STICH n BITCH, Arc @ COFA
common room (E110) Paddington

5-7.30pm The Free Market LCH Ku-
dos Gallery, 6 Napier St Paddington.

Wednesday 1 June

WATCH MOVIES 1pm

Thursday 2 June

5pm Arc @ COFA Presents:
COFA Kids Thursdays at Fringe
Bar - from 5pm - \$5 Drinks for all
COFA Kids (and their Kenso friends)
- \$4 Drinks for Arc Members

Arc @ COFA ART & DESIGN GRANTS

help your creative ideas take flight

UP TO \$500 FOR...

- field trips
- opening night expenses
- transport / travel costs
- exhibition invites / event flyers
- materials, framing, printing costs
- catering for events
- equipment hire
- document artwork
- registration fees for conferences
- ANYTHING CREATIVE & EXTRACURRICULAR
(ie. not part of your studies)



DEADLINE FRIDAY 20 MAY 2011

appln forms at cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au or from Arc Office @ COFA, E105
only open to currently enrolled COFA students who are Arc members

Arc

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Tully Arnot completed Design Honours at COFA in 2008 and just started MFA Research this semester. He was awarded an Arc @ COFA Arts & Design Grant (ADG) earlier this year for his current show at Tin Sheds gallery which continues till 28 May. We managed to track him down amongst installing other work in Gemma's show "As brave as you" (see page 3) to talk about his exhibition "Air Head" and work with inflatables.

What's the idea behind your show?

The show is called 'Air Head', which was an obvious comment on the playful approach to the sculpture I produce. I can come across as being quite vague and I'm interested in how that exists as both an identity and a façade.

But then there's a subtle pun in the name's meaning, in military terminology, where the 'airhead' is a base within enemy territory that you access by air – it's a major tactical position and coming into this show – my largest and most professional yet – it's something you consider as an artist. How each exhibition can be part of an overall objective, but then not really knowing what that is.

So the show is somewhere between these – in a way a playful construction used to disguise more conceptual intentions. And of course this duality, the capacity for works to be read at both a simple immediate level and a contemplative intellectual level is something important to all my work.

How did you get to playing with air and inflatables? What inspired you / encouraged you to discover this medium?

It was pretty much by chance. I was completing my major project in Design through Richard Goodwin's Porosity Studio. We were in Milan and everyone was so stressed out with the language barrier and it was 12 hour days every day so there was a tendency towards improvisation from materials at hand.



I had designed the work to be a focal point that was big enough to obscure sight through a space, instead uniting people through a shared relationship with the work. Original plans failed so I ended up borrowing a roll of black garbage bags from one of the cleaners and taped it into an inflated 4 metre sphere – it was actually first inflated with a hand drier in the bathroom.

Yeah wow, I love those kind of stories. So it all evolved from there...

Yes, that original work was really well received and led to a few of my first exhibitions. I work with other materials but as it happened I was recently offered a few different inflatable sculpture exhibitions that all seemed to coincide. *Air Head* is the last of that series and my most gallery focused, but through TINA Festival in Newcastle I got the opportunity to run a public workshop on home made inflatable sculpture and at Underbelly Art Festival ran a collaborative project that resulted in a 10x10 metre inflated cloud which the artists exhibited in. It's an engaging medium and really open to experimentation and collaboration which I enjoy. Kids absolutely love interacting with the works, which is really rewarding to see.

What are the challenges of working with inflated sculpture?

Inflated objects are actually quite good at self-regulating. With most fans, once the sculpture is full, the excess air will just seep out the back. With the ADG grant I was able to buy more professional fans and different electronics like timers and sensors, which allowed me to introduce more interactive elements and simplify some of the process. The biggest challenge would probably be that when you are working on such a large scale, a lot of works can't even be tested until they are installed in the gallery. It can be stressful but so far everything has worked out fine.

Great! So what are you working on next?

I'm currently doing a residency at Firstdraft with my buddy Charles Dennington. It's a really inventive show working with electronics to create improvised robots and interactive sculptures. Our show opens on Wednesday 8 June so everything is pretty chaotic working on that.

The next deadline for Arc @ COFA Arts & Design Grants is Fri 20 May – apply forms here <http://arc.cofa.unsw.edu.au>



A big queer festival called Camp Betty is coming up over the Queen's Birthday long weekend in Sydney's Inner West, we caught up with members of the organising collective to find out all about it..

What is Camp Betty?

Camp Betty is a three-day radical DIY political festival focussing on sex, sexuality and gender, being held in Sydney's inner west over the June long weekend. The festival is open to everyone under the rainbow (all sexualities, sexes and genders are welcome), and aims to create dialogues and spaces which create connections between communities and individuals, reflecting on queerness and the politicising of space and issues. The program includes workshops, parties, performances, food, art, panel discussions and dress-ups, with room left for spontaneous happenings too.

You're having a series of artists talks, Pecha Kucha style, when is it, who's on the bill and what are they talking about?

Yes our opening party is a Camp Betty 5mins of Infamy Affair, a mutant sister of pechakucha/ignite events. We have some amazing artists and activists talking for 5mins about their passion to slides /wee videos, its defiantly going to be stimulating. So far we have the fabulous **Deborah Kelly**, infamous for the development of the tank man tango, (COFA's) **Simon Hunt** with his fabulous creation, Pauline Pantsdown, Activist **Elena Jeffery's** talking about whorephobia along with other local artists. **Willurei Kirkbright-Burney**, (COFA's) **Nicole Barakat, Textaqueen**, and many others it will be a provocative inspiring night, don't miss it!
7pm Friday 10 June The Red Rattler \$5

Looks like some great panel discussions too, what are the highlights?

So far we have panels on: policing, including police presence at parties, surveillance and more; queer sexuality, radical action and electoral politics; inclusion and exclusion in queer spaces; beyond consent – pleasure, danger, and sex; sex work and activism; and the diversity of the femme community.

And workshops?

Proposed workshops and activities cover a wide variety of topics including how artist run initiatives work, tensions around the responsibilities of artists, building community organisations and spaces, making your own sex toys, responses to violence in alternative communities, learning to strip, radical parenting, and the art of love letter writing.

What about the DIY zine fair, where will that be, what are you expecting to see there that will be different to other zine fairs and can anyone bring their books?

Anyone selling/trading zines & homemade things is welcome to bring stuff along. We're particularly excited if your stuff has something to do with sexuality, sex & gender, and radical politics. If you want to book space on a table please email Bastian **bastian.fox.phelan@gmail.com**. It will be held on Monday 13 June, with time and venue to be confirmed. There will be other activities going on around the fair too, such as food, fun stuff for kids, and possibly a picnic if the weather is fine. Find out more at the 'Camp Betty Zine & DIY Fair' Facebook page.

What else is happening? Parties?

Blue Betty will be the major party for the weekend, and promises an

evening of blue lights, blue angels, blue movies and blue valentines. Expect provocative performances, planned and impromptu. Dances in laps, on podiums, on floors. Dark desires and dark corners, purple poetry and prose. Lace and leather, frou frou and feathers, burlesque bombshells and musical magic. Dance to the delicious DJs, make small talk, or just sit back and watch it all unfold before you. Including shows by **Actual Russian Brides, Ginger Snaps** and **The Pretty Strong Lady**, DJs **Chris Lego** and **Audry**, lap dances by **SINdy**, go go dancers, stump worship with **Kath Duncan**, a beard rash booth, roving performances, a very tasty installation by **Tiara**, a dirty movie booth, pervy literature readings, and much much much more! It will be held at The Red Rattler from 9pm Saturday 11 June.

There will also be POC the Mic people of colour hip hop and spoken word event on Sunday the 12 June, and other party plans are currently underway. You can check out what is happening on Facebook – just look for Camp Betty Sydney 2011, or www.campbetty.org

When and where is all this happening and how much does it cost?

10-13 June 2011. Venues include The Red Rattler, which is an artist run initiative and community performance space in Marrickville, Plump contemporary art gallery in Enmore, and two nearby warehouse spaces (Midian and Dirty Shirflows).

The festival is super low-cost: just \$10 or \$5 for concessions (or \$20+ if you're feeling generous and have cash to spare!) for registration which includes a copy of the Program/Reader and entry into the opening night event. Most workshops and panels will be FREE or entry by donation, night parties will have an affordable cover charge, and no-one will be turned away due to lack of funds.

COFA BUILDING PROJECT WORKERS PROFILE: TOM

Hello! What's your Name?
Tom Corner

Corner - that's an awesome last name! Where are you from Tom?
Woronora Heights

Eek - where is that?
The Shire

What do you do here?
Operations Manager

What do you like most about COFA?
I'm only here for a short time....

Ha. Is that what you like most about working at COFA?
Ha. Yes.

What's the most interesting/shocking fashion you've seen on COFA campus?
One guy that is here everyday - he has orange hair, then green hair, blue hair - everything! And he wears bright patterned tights and huge shirts - with nothing else on!

Ha - nothing under - interesting...
Yep. That's probably the craziest I've seen.

And finally...What did you do this weekend?
Um... I went to the soccer and worked on the house installing insulation.

Great, thanks for the chat Tom.
Cheers.

Sian McIntyre



AS BRAVE AS YOU: curated by Gemma Messih

TULLY ARNOT ALLY BISSHOP
CHARLES DENNINGTON DARA GILL
BENJAMIN HOLDSTOCK
GEMMA MESSIH YIWON PARK

"As brave as you" gives due merit to the curiosities, attempts and knowledge learnt whilst working within the space between initial idea and outcome, success and failure and what is known and unknown. The seven participating artists play with the potential of chance to explore the fragile and relentless nature of the human spirit and our eternal and natural motivation to discover, learn and conquer new frontiers.

OPENS 5-7:30PM TUESDAY 17 MAY
ARTISTS TALKS/CLAIRVOYANTS 5-7.30 TUES 24 MAY
EXHIBITION CONTINUES TO 28 MAY 2011



THE FRINGEBAR

LAUREN CARROLL HARRIS The Free Market

Foodwise estimates that tens of millions of kilograms of safe edible fresh food and groceries are discarded in Australia every year. Meanwhile, two million Australians - or one in ten - live below the poverty line and rely on food relief, and a million children don't always get enough to eat. The problem is not that we don't produce enough food - feeding the hungry cannot be seen merely as achieving higher production levels in agriculture, but radically changing the way we produce and distribute food.

Rather than selling artworks from the gallery, "The Free Market" will collect surplus food and other goods from local businesses, creatively install them in the space, and freely distribute the goods to whomever wants them. This way, "The Free Market" will point to socially and environmentally sustainable alternatives to the current for-profit system of food distribution, divert perfectly safe food and goods from landfill, and provide a service for those in need.

Contact Lauren at l.harris@arc.unsw.edu.au to contribute excess food or other stock.

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 31 MAY
EXHIBITION CONTINUES TO 11 JUNE 2011



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

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kudos isn't just for two week shows, you know

We want your ideas, creativity & enthusiasm for:

- ~ film events ~ sound art nights
- ~ one-off performances ~ workshops
- ~ open studio & project space proposals

We want to help make your crazy idea
for a unique, exciting art-related
event/project a reality!

Get your proposal in ASAP!

curate

[verb. kyoor-eyt]

definition: to be in charge
(of an art exhibition or museum)

Kudos supports emerging curators!

Do you have an amazing concept for
a show that you'd like to curate?

Then we want to hear about it!

Send a proposal our way and we'll
consider it as part of our 2011 program.

DEADLINE FRIDAY 20 MAY 2011
appln forms at kudosgalleries.wordpress.com or from
Kudos Gallery or the Arc Office @ COFA, E105

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