



OH THE PLACES YOU WILL GO



UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts



COFATOPIA TEAM

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COFAtopia issue #5, 2010

EDITORIAL

What a start to 2010. Despite a somewhat dishevelled campus we are still going strong. We have made a little nest for ourselves in E105 just next door to the newly relocated Art Store and are enjoying popping in to visit Alice, Simon and Dennis for chats. It is also lovely being a bit closer to the hub that is the Arc Common Room, freshly painted, equipped with kitchenette, and filled with students studying, eating, chatting and killing time (I witnessed an open air ping-pong tournament today!). As the banners are taken down from the houses opposite our little campus we cross our fingers for the good vibes in our E Block nest to vibrate through the rest of COFA.

This year we have a new improved program of opportunities and activities catered especially to our COFA creatives. Stitch and Bitch is back and is joined by Soccer (now on Tuesdays @1pm AND Wednesdays @10am), ARI Gallery Tours have started with Kell and Thinking Minds Panel Discussions happening every few weeks.

This edition of COFAtopia is all about the incredible places studying at COFA can take you (with a little help from Arc). We have interviews with Amy Craig, a recently graduated COFA student who was selected to take part in a Biennale in Reunion, Michael Cox, a UNSW student who has had some amazing experiences volunteering in Arc volunteer programs, Rebecca Hyneck, this year's president of the COFA Student Representative Council and Hannah Ritchie Young, a Design student who took part in Porosity 2009. If these amazing students don't get you all inspired to take advantage of the amazing opportunities available to you during your degree I don't know what will!!

Deadlines for the Art and Design Grants, The Green House Fowlers Gap Residency, Kudos Exhibitions and new program the Arc Curators Award are all on Friday 21 May, so get inspired and take some leaps – Oh the places you'll go!

Sián McIntyre



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LA REUNION

Amy Craig, a recent graduate of COFA, was selected to take part in a residency and exhibition for the Art Actuels Biennale. During her last semester at COFA she travelled to Reunion and spent a month creating a body of work which she then exhibited in the Arts Actuels Biennale.

So Amy, Please explain what the Arts Actuels Biennale is.

The Arts Actuels Biennale was a contemporary arts exhibition showing last year from the 20th November – 20th December 2009 and featured artists from regions that the organisation defined as the 'economic southern sphere' including Africa, South America, Asia and Oceania.

What led to your involvement in the Biennale – so far away from home!

I was pretty interested in contemporary art that was being created outside the art hubs of cities like Paris, New York and Tokyo. I followed this particular interest and it didn't quite take me to Africa -with the plane falling short at an island off the east coast of Madagascar called 'La Reunion'. I was selected by a Grand Jury for participation and invited to undertake a residency for a couple of months on the island.

And you were studying whilst attending/ applying?

COFA School of Art and its Sculpture Department were, and are, really supportive of all their students. I was able to include the artworks produced on the island towards two classes I was already taking. I had a few General Education courses to complete my degree requirements, so I enrolled in online classes and completed these over Christmas.

How did you combine study and opportunities? Would you recommend that people combine the two or wait till they've finished uni?

I guess that it's all about the individual. Some people work 30 hours a week while they study and I've always thought that the people that can do 100 things at once are just so awesome.

How did the residency enrich your practice/ degree?

The residency gave me first hand knowledge and experience of some things we had sort of

been talking about in tutorials, topics like the post-1990s globalised mobilised contemporary artist and the proliferation of biennales. The best thing for me was learning some awesome ceramic skills that I will apply to future artworks and, overall, it was a fun, intensive learning experience alongside artists from all disciplines.

What was the hardest thing about your experience in Reunion?

The risk of catching Chikungunya, a viral disease similar to dengue fever, from the mosquitoes and making artworks in an isolated location with minimal resources.

What work did you create in Reunion? Did you feel that separating your practice from a university environment had a positive effect on your work?

I created two separate video installations that was a continuation of my action-based practice. In one installation, 'the return', a figure grapples to stay afloat. In the tenuous, humoristic, effort to rise above, the headless figures earthly residue stains. The critical investigation of movement within sculpture and video is enhanced when the two works presented are juxtaposed: a dance of opposition begins... I'm hoping that I'll be able to organise showing the work I created in La Reunion at the Grad Show this year.

And what for you now Amy? Do you have plans for further involvement in art events and opportunities?

Well, I've finished studies for the time being, so now I'm working on the next series of works and spending time with a youth business that focuses on local artists in the community.

More information on the Arts Actuels Biennale can be found at

http://www.artsactuelsreunion.com/IMG/pdf/biennale_arts_actuels_reunion_dossier_de_presse_anglais-2.pdf

Hanna Ritchie Young graduated from BDes at COFA in 2009. Last year she took part in the Porosity Studio in Cardiff, Wales. We had a chat to Hanna about her experiences with the Porosity studio and the benefits of getting involved.

Could you explain the ideas and aims behind Porosity?

The Porosity Studio is the brainchild of Sydney architect, sculptor, and professor at COFA, Richard Goodwin. According to Goodwin, the Porosity Studio is a research project that looks at public space in the city and uses public art to test the functional boundaries of built form. It is an opportunity for students from all over the world to work together across disciplines alongside professional practitioners. Together they form a think-tank that investigates public spaces. The Porosity Studio in Cardiff, Wales in April 2009 was one of nine studios since 2000, and one of three that have been generously sponsored by the British Council.

How did you get involved?

After a lecture at COFA by Richard Goodwin, I immediately knew that it was something I just had to do. There was a written application form, submission of a portfolio and an interview for shortlisted applicants.

Did it count toward your degree?

It didn't count for credits in my circumstance, but it did count as a component of my fourth year major project. Some students can enrol in the studio as an elective.

Highlights?

There were many highlights. Apart from all of the great people involved, I felt privileged to gain an intimate knowledge of a foreign city as unique as Cardiff.

Do you think learning outside the University environment improved what you were creating?

Definitely. Being in any new environment makes you open your eyes.

How did the experience influence your practice?

The experience gave me a lot of confidence. It gave me a solid concept for my fourth year major project that I felt connected to, and will continue to explore in my future work. Being part of the studio also helped me to get my first job after leaving uni.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely. It was challenging and rewarding.

Chloe Hughes. Image from installation. Moment: Mimus Them & Meaning. Kudos Gallery 16-27 March 2010.



WALAMA MURU

A RETURN OF ROAD OR PATH

Michael Cox is a three year veteran of Arc's Walama Muru Volunteer program. This year, Michael is taking up the role of Coordinator of Walama Muru. Siân McIntyre spoke to him about his experiences in volunteering with Arc whilst studying at University.

Firstly, can you explain what Walama Muru is and why you got involved?

Walama Muru is a volunteer program run in partnership by Arc @ UNSW and Nura Gili centre for Indigenous programs. Walama Muru is a program that works to reconnect communities in practical and meaningful ways. Volunteers fundraise in the months leading up to a week-long trip to Wellington in rural NSW, where we work in Nanima, an old Aboriginal Reserve. Once in the community we use our funds raised to complete community development projects designed in consultation with local Aboriginal community members.

I know you get a Secondary Testamur from the university for your work – can you explain what that is? Was it a consideration when you decided to do volunteering?

A Secondary Testamur is basically on-paper recognition of your involvement in the program as a volunteer, which you receive at graduation. It's an added incentive for a lot of social work and development studies students, whose courses sometimes require some kind of practical, extra-curricular community involvement in social and developmental projects. Personally, though, it didn't affect my enthusiasm. This is my third year with the Walama Muru program, and my first year as

coordinator. It's also my third year of uni, so I've been actively involved in what the program attempts to achieve since the beginning of my studies. For me, it was the opportunity to give back to an Indigenous community that aroused my interest in the program. This country has taken so much from Aboriginal peoples in the course of its short colonial history. Walama Muru is a program that seeks to redress that. It gives back, and it brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous together in the process. It's a great initiative – one I hold very close to my heart.

How did your experiences volunteering impact on your studies?

I'm an arts/education student, studying to become an English and Drama high school teacher. Ever since first doing the program in 2008, I've developed a passion to move in to Indigenous education as an area of practice and specialisation. I'm enthusiastic to take this passion out west in NSW, where passionate teachers are, I think, most needed. If you approach the program with an open mind, and with a commitment to engaging the Reconciliation process that it performs, you won't walk away disappointed.

What was the highlight of your time volunteering?

I remember my first year as a volunteer in 2008. Sue Green was offering up a few reflections after a hard day's work in Nanima. I'll never forget what she said—that even though the work we do in Nanima seems small, it makes a world of difference. The change ripples outward into lives. And it lasts. Apart from being a fun-filled, hands-on volunteer experience where bonds and friendships are made and continued, Walama Muru presents itself as an opportunity for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to come together in the true spirit of Reconciliation, so as to perform a real and lasting gesture of 'giving back'.

You have gone on to become a co-ordinator of Walama Muru this year, how did that happen and what would you like to bring to the program?

Each year, Walama Muru's main fundraising initiatives include Randwick Ritz movie nights, on-campus barbecues and krispy kreme drives, and a night-time trivia event. This year, we are seeking success through all of these, plus some. New initiatives are currently being considered, including a gold coin line beginning at the university's front entrance, and a possible music concert event, so keep your eyes peeled.

Would you be interested in other volunteer programs? Which ones and why?

Absolutely. Arc has plenty of wonderful programs that make a difference in the lives of those who not only take part, but who the program reaches out to as well. I hope to actually become a Shack Tutoring and Mosaic Fusion Forums volunteer this year, and might look to taking on a leadership role next year.

What would you tell someone who is considering applying for a volunteer program with Arc?

If you're keen to contribute to the university's wider cultural life and diversity, and to even take that a step further by working to make a difference in the lives of people who invite the engagement, then pop into Student Development and have a chat!

If you're interested in volunteering for programs ranging from Artsweek to Relay For Life take a look at the Arc website www.arc.unsw.edu.au/Volunteer.aspx to find out all the info you require. Get involved! Amazing.



WHAT'S ON

WEEK 7

STUDENT SURVIVAL AND WELFARE WEEK

MON 19 APRIL

- Applications for Arts Week Coordinator and UnSweetened Corodinator closes-check www.arc.unsw.edu.au for info pack

TUE 20 APRIL

- Soccer training, 1-2, Moore Park
- THINKING MINDS Panel: Sustainability, how, what and why? Speakers include Terry Bail (Live Green House Designer) and Roderick Simpson (Green Architect, 2009 Sydney Catalyst and Director of City Farm project in Rozelle), 3-4, Arc Common Room

WED 21 APRIL

- Soccer training 10am. Meet at Arc common room and get a crew together for alternate training session
- Stitch n' Bitch, wool provided - learn how to knit! 12-1, Arc Common Room
- Grab yourself a bargain at the Student Flea Market, 12-3, Arc Precinct, UNSW
- Applications for COFA Admin & Activities Officer close-email p.benton@arc.unsw.edu.au for info

THU 22 APRIL

- Coffee, Tea or Me? Student Afternoon Tea, 3-4, free for Arc members or by donation, Arc Common Room
- Get The Goss Gallery Tour, 4-6, touring to MOP Projects, Rosyln Oxley9, Chalkhorse and Grant Pirrie. Meet in the Loading Dock, COFA
- Go see new work by COFA Graduate Sean Rafferty at Grant Pirrie Gallery, 6-8, 86 George St. Redfern
- "DO IT YOURSELF" cinema wkshop Hosted by John L. Simpson, Australian Film Producer and Distributor, for the AFI on Digital Screenings around Australia. Recipients will discover first hand how to build an audience for their film and learn useful, practical tips and advice on how to take their films far and wide. 7.30pm, donation \$15 The Red Rattler, 6 Faversham St Marrickville. Bookings essential, email at afi@titanview.com

FRI 23 APRIL

- Welfare BBQ and launch of the Vegie Patch @ COFA. Have some freshly harvested in season produce and adopt a plant! 12pm in COFA courtyard.
- Contribute an artwork to the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) exhibition, on 17 May world wide. The exhibition will be held at the KUDOS Gallery, for more info go to www.idahosydney.org
- Go see TORTUGA Artist Studios exhibition with over twenty artists, 6 till late, Tortuga Studios, 31 Princes Highway, St. Peters

WEEK 8

DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

MON 26 APRIL

- Anzac Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY

TUE 27 APRIL

- Soccer training, 1-2, Moore Park
- Indonesian Night Markets, hosted by the Indonesian Students Association, UNSW, offering Indonesian cusiene, dancing and music and a Batik inspired fashion show, 4-7, UNSW Main Walkway
- Eye SPI, new work by SPI students curated by Emma Price, 5-7.30, Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St.

WED 28 APRIL

- Soccer training 10am. Meet at Arc common room and get a crew together for alternate training session
- Stitch n' Bitch, wool provided - learn how to knit! 12-1, Arc Common Room
- Go see COFA Graduate Shaun Gladwell at Campbelltown Arts Centre, continues until the 16 May, cnr. Camden and Appin Rds., Campbelltown

THU 29 APRIL

- Coffee, Tea or Me? Student Afternoon Tea, 3-4, free for Arc members or by donation, Arc Common Room

FRIDAY 30 APRIL

- Go see the work of COFA Graduates William Mansfield, Soda Jerk, Patrick Dagg, Greedy Hen, James Jirat Patradoon and more at China Heights Gallery, 6.30-9, Level 3, 16-28 Foster St. Surry Hills

WEEK 9

EDUCATION WEEK

MON 3 MAY

- Helen Lempriere Travelling Arts Scholarship due today. Go to www.arts.nsw.gov.au

TUE 4 MAY

- Free Lunch for Arc Members only. 12:30 - 1:30, Arc Common Room
- Soccer training, 1-2, Moore Park
- Kudos Exhibition Opening, 5-7.30, Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St.

WED 6 MAY

- Soccer training 10am. Meet at Arc common room and get a crew together for alternate training session
- Stitch n' Bitch, wool provided - learn how to knit! 12-1, Arc Common Room

THU 7 MAY

- Coffee, Tea or Me? Student Afternoon Tea, 3-4, free for Arc members or by donation, Arc Common Room

**Single Rabbits Club?
Soft Right Collective?
Stop Royal Corruption?
Some of you may be
asking 'what is SRC?'
Well-SRC stands for
Student Representative
Council.**

It is your representative and advocacy body comprised of a democratically elected board of students. The SRC is there to keep 'em honest so to speak - making sure that your student needs and interests are catered for on this journey called 'University'. The SRC reps give their time and love to provide services, run collectives, take action on current issues and make sure you know what affects you as a student.

There are many reps on the SRC. At COFA we have an Education and Welfare Officer-Anna Christofferson, Postgrad Officer-Dayne New, Environment Officer-Eleanor Hanlon, Queer Officer-Genesis Mansilongan, International Officers-Purnima Ruangletbutr and Katie McCabe, Womens Officer-Marcel Cooper and Disability Officer-Camilla Tully. Kelly Doley recently caught up with COFA Art Education student Rebecca Hyneck-the President of the COFA SRC.

Can you tell me a bit about your vision as President of the COFA SRC?

My vision is to see COFA students more involved in the SRC wherever possible, through the different collectives, or joining in alongside other students the demonstrations that go on throughout the year. I see my role as providing political representation, as well as advocacy and support for students at COFA.

What sorts of things do you want to see happen at COFA this year?

During my time at COFA last year campaigning for same sex marriage on campus I noticed there is a great vibe of support, acceptance and the necessity of equal rights for all. It was great to see COFA having a contingent at the same sex marriage rally last year. I think it would

be great if more students were involved in things such as the cross campus Equal Love group. By the way the next rally is at 1pm 20 March at Town Hall.

There are also other things that I think COFA should be involved in and supporting. For example across both UNSW campuses at the moment, Muslim students do not have a place to pray. The University proclaims that it's a secular institution, it provides for all other religious groups on campus, and advertises explicitly to Muslim students that UNSW provides space for them, but they don't. It is important that we at COFA get behind campaigns to ensure that racism, along with sexism and homophobia have no place on our campuses.

What is important to you, what makes you tick?

Not accepting that it's OK that 50% of the world's population lives off less than \$2 a day. Wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine, the ban on same sex marriage, and fighting to change that!

Why do you choose to be involved in the SRC?

I think it's important that the SRC remain a left wing political space for students' representation on campus. I guess it's that wish to keep demonstration at the forefront of the struggle to win a better world on and off campus that I want to promote and why I am involved in SRC. It's how we have always won things as students!

What do you love the most about going to university?

I enjoy the freedom it allows to research - turns out a whole lot of artists were radicals in their own times - not just on canvas! Many of them were involved in the activism and social movements of the day. Trotsky and Breton of the Surrealists even wrote a manifesto together!

Thanks for your time Bec, look forward to seeing what things happen on campus this year from the SRC.



4x7

In the last episode of 4x7 we left the crew out on the high seas of the Arrrrrry O Week Ocean. We farewelled BBC and welcomed Hooley Dooley, who has inherited the throne of Coordinator of Student Activities. The Arrrry crew are strong and ready to take on anything!

Hooley Dooley: Ahoy my fair students! Welcome to the COFA campus! We have so much to offer you – Free lunch, Gallery tours, Discussion panels, Soccer club, Stitch and Bitch, Post Grad Soirees, Life Drawing, Grants, Fowlers Gap studio residencies, and PARTIES PARTIES PARTIES!!!

The students heed Hooley's cries... they look toward the Arc office (up the stairs off the common room in E105) and fall to their knees.

"I can't believe you do so much for us Arc @ COFA! It just seems unfair that you should provide such an amazing service while other universities suffer without any Student Association at all".

Mak: Ah students- do not feel unworthy, we do what we do because we love COFA, we see all the things that can be accomplished with a little support and some helping hands, and we want the best for all of you. We want to make COFA the best place it can be, and despite the vacant buildings and rubble, we will continue to shine.

Mak, Dooley and Genalicious: and People – it's only 69 Dollars to join and support these amazing programs!!!!

GASP!! No!! I don't believe you!! It must be more - \$69 seems absolutely ludicrous!!

Genalicious: I know guys, let me tell you, we're deadly serious. I give up my own time

to make student life at COFA Glow. You will spot me serving lunch to you all with my bow tie on and you will see the power of Arc @ COFA. I am actually 59, but thanks to the joy that being involved in Student Life has given me, I remain eternally youthful and radiant.

Black Widow: it's true students, when I first met Genalicious I thought he was a mature age student, but slowly, as Genalicious became more involved with Arc @ COFA he emerged from his cocoon to become the fabulous stunning man you see before you.

GASP!! Wow – it's hard to believe – but it is true that Genalicious is a massive babe...

Dooley: Now, students and 4x7 crew, we must focus our eyes toward the horizon. We have had an amazing Women's Week with the Thinking Minds Panel discussing Feminism and a special Women's Week Stitch and Bitch Knitting circle – focusing on teaching men the incredible art of knitting. And now for Thinking Minds Panel #2 - Sustainability, how, what and why? , Gallery Tour #2 and brand new FREE Coffee, Tea or Me? arvo tea every Thursday!

Mak: Sounds amazing Dooley, I know that many students will feel inspired to take part in the extra curricular activities on offer at COFA after reading this week's COFAtopia too.

Hurrah!!!!

As the sun sets over the 4 x 7 office, students line up to board the Arc @ COFA pirate ship of love. This ship has no plank to walk off, just a feeling of fun and support



Eye SPI

Curated by Emma Price

Exhibition 21 April – 1 May 2010

Opens 5-7.30pm Tuesday 27 April

Out of Space

Lydia Dowman, Gemma Messih, Ben Holdstock, Andy Bass, Caitlin Gibson

Opens 5-7.30pm Tuesday 4 May

Continues to 15 May 2010

IDAHO

Curated by SRC@COFA Queer Collective

Opens 5-7.30pm Tuesday 18 May

Continues to 29 May 2010

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 arc.unsw.edu.au kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au

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



THE GREEN HOUSE

Arc@COFA Student Studio Residency Program
Fowlers Gap Arid Zone Research Station, far west NSW

Eco artist retreat with

- natural gas
- solar energy
- water tank
- self-composting loo

Can accommodate up to 4 people

FREE for Arc members

Deadline for applications: Friday 21 May 2010

Information pack at cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au
or drop into the Arc Office, E Block COFA



Arc

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