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Peter Nelson
Mountain Drawing
(the first time I felt at home)

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Arc Office @ COFA

THANKS

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SRC @ COFA,
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EDITORIAL

As bulbs await for spring rays to trigger their roots and embark on their journey above the brown surface, we are all eager for our moment in the sun. In this edition of COFAtopia we have three talented COFA artists sharing their experience of development, change and awakening with the help of Arc @ COFA. Peter Nelson, Stella Macdonald and Brook Morgan have all received Arc @ COFA grants and residencies, and have created some exciting and engaging projects as a result. Read their story, along with Stephen Chikazaza's amazing journey to become this year's Dislocation curator. We have some busy weeks ahead, with Arts Week in Week 5 and then the Big Soccer Fine Arts Cup Final in Week 6 (Tuesday from 10am at USYD in case you're interested), make sure you keep your eyes peeled and ear to the ground so you don't miss anything! Enjoy this edition of COFAtopia and next time you go past a patch of brown earth just take a moment and ponder what amazing magical things are working beneath the surface creating change and growth or waiting to pop up and show beauty to the world.

Lots of love,
Arc @ COFA



UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts

**Arc
Membership**

COFA





COOLBEANS

The words “cultural” and “diversity” are loaded with meaning, personal or public, micro or macro. When put together, a deeper plethora of symbolism and experience is created. This cultural plethora is what is explored, investigated and critiqued by artists in Kudos’ annual show known as *Dislocation*. I spoke with **Stephen Chikazaza**, COFA SRC International officer on his own experiences of ‘cultural diversity’ and what it was like organising *Dislocation*.

Hailing from Harare, Zimbabwe’s capital, Stephen has lived in many different countries but for him Harare will always be home. “It’s always there, I always go back”. This sense of home and appreciation for the rich landscape and family-oriented culture in some small sense has influenced Stephen’s art practice. It has also provoked interest in investigating culture as a source of inspiration

“Most of my inspiration for my art comes from other experiences outside of Zimbabwe but there are times when I draw upon my own culture, for example Shona sculptures in my paintings and design work.”

For Steven the most beautiful thing about cultural diversity is its subconscious influence on one’s work and how experience of other cultures and what we as individuals adopt from our experiences leads to a social and cultural literacy.

This is perhaps the reason why Stephen as COFASRC International Students Officer got involved with curating Kudos’ annual *Dislocation* show. When asked why he got involved one of the reasons that stood out was this simple answer:

“I just enjoy culture. I love learning about different cultures as you are always learning something new. Talking to different artists about their experiences of culture and how it affects their work. It’s something I really enjoy”.

And for Stephen the best experience of curating *Dislocation* so far has been the vision of bringing people together. The optimism that art has the opportunity to do this. To provide an exchange of voices. His own optimism in regards to the show is evident as I sit here listening to him.

“This is going to be big!”

His enthusiasm I am happy to share, as the conversation of topic then leads onto discussion of what it is like for him to be the COFASRC International Students Officer.

“I’m not big on the title but other than that it is great. It feels good to be part of international student life. I’m doing something, in a sense I am familiar with. Something that helps.

We end our discussion with a trendy word Stephen is known for. “Coolbeans”.

Genesis Mansilongan

***Dislocation* opens 5–7.30pm
Tuesday 17 August at
Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St.
Paddington.**

COFA students get grants

Arc @ COFA give out \$8,000 each year to members in the form of small grants to help with extracurricular creative projects. A range of activities are funded twice a session including publicity and opening expenses for exhibitions, registration fees for conferences and seminars, transport, materials, framing and lab costs.

MFA student Peter Nelson, and Honours student Stella Rosa McDonald received Art and Design Grants (ADG) from Arc to help complete projects they were working on at the end of last session. Sian caught up for a bit of what, how, when, why....

Pete can you tell us about your project and how Arc helped?

I was working on was a gigantic Perspex sculpture, representing either a mountain range or a future utopian city. Either way, it turned out to be time consuming and downright expensive to build. I ended-up having to buy about 60% of the Perspex to keep up with how much I using in the studio. My materials trips always had to be timed so that my framer friend had off-cuts, and so that the guys in at the plastics fabricator hadn't emptied their waste bin. If I arrived on their lunch break it was usually cool if I went through the skips at the back of the workshop.

I applied for the ADG grant when I had about one month of building left to go, which meant about another \$600 in paid-for (not scavenged) materials. The process was pretty straight forward - writing the conceptual rationale of the piece and its plans for exhibition. The grant came through and I received \$470 which funded the completion of the piece.

As the sculpture was nearing completion I was starting to work out where I should exhibit it. My dealer at Flinders Street Gallery was chasing up exhibiting it in an art prize and I was writing up a generic application which I have been sending to relevant exhibition

spaces. I now have a couple of applications pending and I expect the work to be exhibited in 2011. With works of this scale, exhibiting plans often have to be pretty long-term.

It is really important to acknowledge just how helpful these grants are to seeing the realisation of student proposals. Whilst it didn't fund this entire work, so many large projects are made by cobbling together money and materials from many sources, and when it comes to the final display of the work, all the people who supported it along the way deserve all the thanks they can get. So thank you Arc!

Oh thanks Peter, it's such a beautiful project, we wish you the best of luck with getting this piece out there.

And Stella what's your story?

I wanted to make a video installation based on a woman's 1952 unsolved murder for exhibition. Easy, right? Get a camera, get a woman, shoot it! Hold on, I need an actor, costumes, a make-up artist, I need to source the materials to build the installation, buy these materials, transport them... MONEY! MONEY! MONEY! Suddenly the work is a daunting, expensive and seemingly impossible mess. My work will never see the light of day.

Fortunately, I dished out a bit of cash to join Arc, and they give out grant to kids like myself (and kids like you) who have big dreams and tiny pockets.

The application is a straightforward and incredibly useful process. Arc asks you to outline your work you intend to complete, draw up a budget, and tell them what you will use your money for. In return they will give you up to \$500!

Last year I worked collaboratively with a friend on an interactive project. Funding from Arc allowed us to take the work to TINA Festival in Newcastle as well as Festival Mata Air in Indonesia. This funding was vital to our work being realised and giving it an audience both locally and internationally. You can use the grant money for anything from funding an exhibition,

printing catalogues or fliers, building an installation, to hiring a space to have a show or hiring equipment. The list goes on.

This is the second time I've applied for a grant from Arc and each application has helped me to clarify the conceptual aspects of my work as well as seeing what is truly possible. Creating a budget and getting quotes for the application gave me a clear picture of what I had to do to realise the work. Having to make a work for under \$500 means finding innovative ways to create your 'vision'; using cheap materials like plywood, asking actors to work for free in return for a copy of the final work, telling every business person and creative you come across that you are a student just in case they give discounts. Additionally applying for grants like this is great practice for the big bad world of funding applications that greet all of us at the end of our degree.

Receiving the grant feels like a validation of your work. Sometimes the life of an artist is insular and lonely and to be made to feel that your practice is valid and worthwhile is very rewarding. The Art and Design Grant contributed to the building costs of the structures that make up each of my video works, and therefore enabled the works exhibition at the COFA Annual and beyond. The ADG funded the purchase of plywood and structural pine that allowed me to build the installation and its components. Additionally it funded the cutting and transport of these materials and the use of a professional make-up artist. This funding was vital to the completion of my work in 2010, and vital to my practice as a video artist beyond COFA.

Wow thanks Stella, we can't wait to see your installation.

images:
Peter Nelson
Mountain Drawing (the first time I felt at home)

Stella Rosa McDonald.
Video still. *Last Scene*, 2010.



Wk 5 WHAT'S ON

Arts Week

MON 16 Aug
1-2:30 pm (fortnightly)
Wurth Drawing Room, Kenso
Origami Kids: Join Genisis for
Origami workshops at Kenso. Free.

2-4 pm
Training room, Blockhouse, Kenso
Life Drawing: Come to an expert life
drawing class with Sián as your tutor. Free.

5pm
deadline for nominations to the 2011 Arc @
COFA Student Development Committee
review grant and residency applications.
nomination forms online or at Arc office

5-9.30 pm
Roundhouse
Artsweek Launch night – COFA Soc
launch: Come and party with COFA
Soc and the Artsweek crew.

Special Event/ \$10
Lanfranchi's Memorial Discotheque
7pm
Popcorn Taxi presents the world premiere of
LANFRANCHI'S MEMORIAL DISCOTHEQUE
a documentary by Richard Baron
Book:[http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/](http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?agency=POPCORNTA)
TicketPurchase?agency=POPCORNTA
Xl&organ_val=22564&pid=6819954
Event Cinemas Bondi Junction
500 Oxford Street

TUES 17 Aug
12:30
COFA Courtyard
Free Soup Lunch and Lens Life Launch:
BYO cup or buy one for \$2 –
soup is FREE for Arc members.

3-4pm
Arc Common Room
How to start an ARI – Thinking Minds Panel :
Find out how to start your own ARI or Artist
Run event. Guest speakers from Locksmith,
Token Imagination and Imperial Panda Festival.

5- 7:30pm
Kudos
Dislocation opening: New work from
international and local COFA students
looking at themes of Dislocation.

WED 18 Aug
1 pm (weekly)
Arc Common Room
Stitch 'n Bitch: wool and needles
provided- just bring your gossip!

WED 18 Aug
exhibition opening
Dara Gill
Greg Hodge
Paul Greedy
6-8pm
Firstdraft
116-118 Chalmers St. Surry Hills
continues to: 5 September 2010
Artist talks: 4pm Sunday 5 September

THU 19 Aug
1pm (weekly)
Arc Common Room
Bingo: Legs 1! Two Ducks quack quack!
Heaps of prizes up for grabs including
vouchers from Minty Meets Munt, Ariel, and
Fringe Bar - we also have Art and Australia
Magazines and Berkelouw Books. Arc
members free, non members \$3

2pm
Unsweetened Launch: Come and celebrate
the launch of this year's Unsweetened
literary journal with designer biscuits.

Das Superpaper Launch @ The Paper Mill
Come and Celebrate The Critical Issue of Das
Superpaper and the launch of DAS 500.
6 – 9pm
The Paper Mill, 1 Angel Place
(corner Ash st) Sydney.

Performance/ \$10
Freshly Squeezed
19 to 21 August 8pm
An evening of short experimental
works by new performance makers
Studio One, UNSW. Gate 2, High St
Kensington Tickets \$10 Bookings
admin@stagejuice.com.au
www.stagejuice.com.au

The Paper Mill Music Fundraiser @ OAF
7:30 till late
The Paper Scissors, Bird Automatic, Eye
to Eye and Lucy Hall present a Wednesday
night you're not likely to forget. DJ sets from
Dara Gill. \$15 pre sale and \$18 at the door.

THU 26 Aug
1pm (weekly)
Arc Common Room
Bingo: Legs 1! Two Ducks quack quack!
Heaps of prizes up for grabs including
vouchers from Minty Meets Munt, Ariel, and
Fringe Bar - we also have Art and Australia
Magazines and Berkelouw Books. Arc
members free, non members \$3

The Paper Mill Performance Fundraiser
6pm till late
Starring Scott Sandwich, Zoe Norton Lodge,
Friends with Deficits and heaps more...
@ The Paper Mill, 1 Angel Place
(corner Ash St) Sydney.

Public Art Opportunity - Expressions of Interest
Submissions Sought 3pm 27 August 2010
Capture the unique local character of
Watsons Bay as part of the refurbishment
of the Watsons Bay Baths. Total budget:
\$70,000
www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/local_information_and_activities/arts_and_culture/public_art

Wk 6

Sustainability Week

MON 23 Aug
5pm
deadline for nominations to the
2011 Postgraduate Council
nomination forms online or at Arc office

TUES 24 Aug
ALL DAY
SOCCER FINE ARTS CUP!!
Join the COFA team or come and
support us at USYD: All welcome, free and
fun – let's get the cup back on COFA Ground
3 games – COFA vs NAS, NAS vs SCA and
COFA vs SCA – let the games begin.

12:30
COFA Courtyard
Free Soup Lunch and Lens Life Launch:
BYO cup or buy one for \$2 –
soup is FREE for Arc members.

WED 25 Aug
1 pm (weekly)
Arc Common Room
Stitch 'n Bitch: wool and needles
provided- just bring your gossip!

Arc @ COFA swap meet
All day in the common room.
Bring your junk and swap for a treasure –
art supplies, clothes, brick a brack – shop
sustainably and swap rather than buy.

Wk 7

Queer Week

MON 30 Aug
1-2:30 pm (fortnightly)
Wurth Drawing Room, Kenso
Origami Kids: Join Genisis for
Origami workshops at Kenso. Free.

5pm
deadline for nominations to the 2011 Arc @
COFA Student Representative Council
nomination forms online or at Arc office

TUES 31 Aug
Census date to discontinue coursed
without financial or academic penalty

WED 1 Sept
12:30
COFA Courtyard
Free Soup Lunchs.

1 pm (weekly)
Arc Common Room
Stitch 'n Bitch

THU 2 Sept
1pm (weekly)
Arc Common Room
Bingo: Legs 1! Two Ducks quack quack!
Heaps of prizes up for grabs including
vouchers from Minty Meets Munt, Ariel, and
Fringe Bar - we also have Art and Australia
Magazines and Berkelouw Books. Arc
members free, non members \$3

16th → 19th
August

ARTS WEEK

MON

TUES

THURS



Origami Kids 1 - 2:30 pm Kenso
Join Genisis for Origami workshops - Free.
Wurth Drawing Room, Kenso

Life Drawing workshop 2 - 4pm Kenso
Come to an expert life drawing class with Sián. Free.
Training room, Blockhouse, Kenso

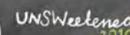
Artsweek Launch 5 - 9.30 pm Roundhouse
Come and party with COFA Soc and the Artsweek crew.

Free Soup Lunch and Lens Life Launch 12:30pm
BYO cup or buy one for \$2 – soup is FREE for Arc members.
Cofa Courtyard

How to start an ARI 3 - 4pm Arc Common Room
Thinking Minds Panel : Find out how to start your own ARI or
Artist Run event. Guest speakers from Locksmith, Token
Imagination and Imperial Panda Festival.

Dislocation opening 5:30 - 7:30pm Kudos
New work from international and local COFA students looking
at themes of Dislocation.

UnSweetened launch 2pm Courtyard
Come and celebrate the launch of this year's
Unsweetened literary journal with designer biscuits.





Simpatico



COFA MFA student Brook Morgan has just returned from a visit to The Green House, Arc @COFA's outback art house, a free studio residency program in the far western NSW desert for Arc members. She paints us a picturesque postcard of her experience as she prepares for her upcoming exhibition at Kudos Gallery 1-11 September.

The drive from Sydney to Fowlers Gap was a surprisingly pleasant two day trip, now it is true that I wasn't doing much driving so was mostly enjoying the incredible scenery. Over the Blue Mountains, through the lush grazing land around Orange and stayed overnight at the mining town of Cobar. It was on the second day driving that the scenery changed dramatically. Rich red soil, wild goats and the occasional pair of emus.

Fowlers Gap was everything we had hoped and more. Our days were spent exploring, setting up camp somewhere for the day and allowing the day to unfold with little pressure. Even after one day with no phone, internet and television you feel rejuvenated. As the sun was starting to go down for the day we would decide upon the best place to watch the sunset. Turning slowly in 360 degrees the hills would flood with gentle golden yellows and the skyline meld into soft, blues, pinks and mauves. We both decided on our next visit we might become landscape painters and spend our days in the open air watching the colours of the hills. But this visit was more geological for myself, and for my arid

zone companion Harley it was all about capturing the sunrise and sunsets. The rock formations at Fowlers are incredible. In parts the land is covered in scatters of white quartz, appearing like snow while only meters away the rocks glisten black, my most exiting find was a rock with one face of quartz and inside the quartz were splatters of iron ore resembling ink spills. Fowlers is abundant with patterns and beauty micro and macro.

Utilising natural materials, these wonders are always at the core of my practice. Circles are reoccurring forms within my work and at Fowlers it was fitting that painting circles around some of these small wonders seemed suffice, such as the lichen formations growing upon rocks that appeared like small paintings. The hardest part was coming home just as we were beginning to settle in.

Much thanks to the kind people at Fowlers and the Arc team for this opportunity.

P.S. The small battery run fridge at the Green House was bigger and better than we were expecting. So the serious rationing of beers was uncalled for. Also we did much of our shopping before leaving Sydney and had to throw out all our fruit as entering Broken Hill is a fruit fly exclusion zone, so maybe leave fruit shopping for Broken Hill.

PPS. My exhibition *Simpatico: The Gentle Art of Making* opens 5-7.30pm Tuesday 7 September at Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St. Paddington..



It's election fever, and whilst the red head goes up against the budgie smuggler we have our own battle for glory right here on COFA campus.

Student Development Committee (SDC), Student Representative Council (SRC) and Postgraduate Council (PGC) Elections are open and it will be a fight to the death for all the keen, motivated, arty students who want to make a difference in COFA's current electoral group.

COFA SDC – The leading party in Student Development.
Key Policies – To encourage students to develop.
Current Objectives – COFA SDC endeavours to review Grant and Residency applications with fairness and equality.

COFA SRC – Student Representatives who Represent!
Key Policies – To support students and provide a voice to all students at COFA
Current Objectives: COFA SRC will be focused on political action, student support and fun times for all.

COFA Postgraduate Council - Highly educated and Highly motivated
Key Policies – Specialised care for the higher levels of learning.
Current Objectives: To represent and support the specialised needs of the 'long term' members of COFA.

All parties are currently recruiting new blood – Nominations for Student Development Committee due 16 Aug, the Student Representative Council due 30 Aug and the Postgraduate Council due 23 Aug. For full deets and nomination forms visit www.arc.unsw.edu.au/Arc-Elections-16.aspx

VOTING IS COMPULSORY
Australian Federal Election
Saturday 21 August 2010



David Bowie has left the building. There is a trail of glitter left from the Arc@COFA office to the exit of the Common Room. Mak and Genalicious have been abuzz numbering COFABingo balls, folding Origami, stitching and bitching and kicking soccer balls at Moore Park. So if there is so much happening - what is actually happening at the Arc@COFA office?

The sounds of computer keyboards make a symphony

Gen: Mak I had this really weird dream last night. It was full of garden gnomes and they were all chanting "Artsweek". To the rhythm of Livin La Vida Loca?

Mak: I don't know babes but I just heard from the Bird with the Word that gnomes are the new "It"

Black Widow: The new "It?"

Mak: I was told by Saidmund that gnomes are the posterchildren for the AMAZING ARTSWEEK happening in Week 5. They will be hosting an ARI Forum, the UNSweetened Launch and sipping some wine at the Dislocation opening. They are totally onto it!

All: Legs eleven...that's amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A majestic trumpet sound is heard. It is being played by a purple raven

Saidmund: BEHOLD the Lenslife Photography Competition, The U Film Fest Competition, the Sounds Project and Jazz and Soup Night.

He disappears with a posse of purple ravens and garden gnomes.

Gen: Soup... speaking of food, I'm hungry. Is it Soup Lunch Tuesday yet?

Coop: Nearly. But are you hungry for art too? Prepare yourself for a feast of cultural diversity at Kudos' annual show... Dislocation. Artists from Malawi to Malaysia have come to present visuals your eyes will salivate for. Tuesday 17 5-7.30pm. Did y'all know that Julia Gillard and Tony Abbot graced us with their presence at the last opening. I'm telling you, everyone famous is coming to our openings.

Black Widow and Mak: CAUSE THEY ARE AMAZZZZZZZZZZZZZZING!!!! The exhibitions...that is. And that's just the beginning. So many more exciting things to happen from the magic cauldron that is the Arc@COFA office.

All: O-tay!



Genesis Mansilongan



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 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
cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au
kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au

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



DISLOCATION
curated by Stephen Chikazaza

An annual exhibition, supported by the SRC@COFA, aimed at welcoming, exploring and promoting cultural diversity at COFA. International and local exchange students creatively express and respond to feelings of exclusion or inclusion inspired by being in a new or foreign place. The opening of the exhibition will feature live performances and a delicious international feast. Image by Stephen Chikazaza

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 17 AUGUST
CONTINUES TO 23 AUGUST 2010



SIMPATICO
Brook Morgan

With pleasure and wonder at the core, this work resonates the beauty found within tactile and somatic inquiry of natural and found materials that are collected, sorted and arranged into graduated colour and archetypal shapes and often meticulously woven configurations. Intuition admits a type of 'knowing' that is fostered through sensorial and visceral connectivity.

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUES 7 SEPTEMBER
DATES: 1-11 SEPTEMBER 2010



TIM OLSEN DRAWING PRIZE

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

Image: 2009 Winner of the Tim Olsen Drawing Prize, Toshiko Oiyama 'Long White Cloud'



OPENS 5-7.30PM TUES 14 SEPT
CONTINUES TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2010

2011 UNSW STUDENT DIARY COVER DESIGN COMPETITION

\$1,000 PRIZE

Entries can be in any medium and can use an aesthetic mix of design elements that may include: hand and home made, D.I.Y, collage, cut and paste, photography etc. The combination of these key elements should suggest and portray Arc's mission to make your life at UNSW more interesting, more fun, more personally rewarding, and ultimately more affordable.



Contact:
Arc @ UNSW, The Blockhouse,
phone 93855272 or
email n.whitfield@arc.unsw.edu.au

Deadline: Friday 10th September 2010

Arc

UNSW Student Life