INSIDE:
- All the UNSW Artsweek program highlights...
- Meet and Greet COFA's newest collective...
- Hear from your COFA Postgrad PGC Councillor...
This is the theme of Artsweek 2012... so in the spirit this issue of C’topia is all about COFA kids coming together to do great stuff – on and off campus.

We hear from Artsweek Coordinator Zeynep Dilik who gives us insight into her program whilst Alyse Behringer takes us through the highs and lows of collecting strangers confessions for the Artsweek exhibition “Post Secret”.

Read on to hear from the latest COFA collective ‘The Melting Point’ then get some work-life balance tips from your COFA Postgrad Councillor on the PGC Louise Mayhew...

we return to an old collaboration – the two 2011 Kudos Coordinators Alex and Zoe who have come together for a new show at MOP Projects in August

Lastly a reminder HALF A DESK a response to the building project opens 14 aug...Enjoy!

Love,
Arc at COFA xx
What is the reason behind this year’s Artsweek theme ‘Coming Together’?

The theme of Artsweek “Coming Together” reflects the cultural diversity on campus. As I am an international student I wanted to capture the idea of different people from different backgrounds expressing themselves through art and sharing their experiences with others.

What are some highlights of this year’s program for COFA students?

I think COFA students are going to be excited to see the exhibitions (Roundhouse will be my main exhibition venue). Some artists who will be exhibiting their work are: Edmund Iffland (former Artsweek coordinator for 2010), Shohini Mukerji, Sally Conwell, Patti Bai, Prutha Girme… They also might be excited about some workshops like Life Model Sketch Workshop or events like Live Installation Event.

What do you study and how do you balance this with organizing an arts festival?

I am a masters student – Public Relations and Advertising and I think the key to success is being organised; I set deadlines for every task for Artsweek as soon as I started working and put them down on my diary and made sure they don’t clash with my assignments.

What are your thoughts on Fine Arts Students?

My bachelor’s degree is on Architecture and I did it in a fine arts university! I enjoyed the company of creative people who can think out of the box and I chose my friends among that crowd all my life and yes I had purple hair for some of my life :) Keep creating and be unique!

What plans do you have next?

After Artsweek 2012 I will concentrate on my uni studies but my aspiration is to be an Events Designer and have my own company some day maybe?

If you could have any artist in your festival who would you choose?

Oh, tough question! I have always dreamt about doing a music festival someday, headliner would be Jack White; I have to confess, I have a thing for him! But in terms of an art event/festival I would like to work with Hank Willis Thomas, I find his work contemporary and very relevant to the world we live in. As the world globalizes, cultures are coming together and we all lack tolerance for the different one which is a shame, we can learn so much from one another by appreciating and celebrating differences!
Alyse Behringer is the COFA Rep on the Student Development Committee and is also the curator of PostSecret - an exhibition of other people’s secrets as part of Artsweek 2012.

Anyone can anonymously contribute a secret to the project which will be displayed during Artsweek. Secrets can range from regrets, a betrayal, desire, a confession or a childhood humiliation. One condition - it has to be true and you have never shared it with anyone before!!

Alyse is an undergrad in a Bachelor of Design @ COFA with a major in textiles, graphics and applied object design.

Alyse got involved in Arts Week because she always wanted to do a UNSW Postsecret event. Though she first became aware of the Postsecret movement way back in 2010, with the 2012 Artsweek theme of ‘coming together’ she thought it seemed a perfect fit with the aims of Postsecret. She has had the full support of the Artsweek co-ordinator and successfully secured an Arc Student Community and Development Grant to fund the exhibition, making the project a reality.

Postsecret works like this: During the weeks leading up to Artsweek students can submit secrets anonymously. There will be Postsecret postboxes scattered over campus where students can collect blank Postsecret postcards and submit their Post-secrets. Alyse also recommends to keep an eye on the library lawn over the next couple of weeks for a situation that struck fear into the heart of Facilities Management!!

Alyse reports that she has received a fair few secrets already. She has read them all and says that some are shocking, some are silly and some made her realise that she shares that secret too. Interestingly secrets tend to fall into three categories: secrets about relationships, secrets that speak of life regrets, and secrets that state inspiring inner ambitions and dreams. The beauty of the Postsecret Exhibition is that it highlights the reality that we are more connected to one another than we might realise.”

Postsecret opens 6pm, Monday 13 August in the Roundhouse. All the Post-secrets that are received by the end of Week 4 will be on display. Check the UNSW Postsecret 2012 facebook and website: unswpostsecret.com for updates and campus post-secret postbox locations.
WHAT'S ON
MON 30 July
@UNSW
2-4pm
Queer Collective meeting
Room 9.20, Level 9, Chemical Science

TUE 31 July
@COFA
11am-12pm
SOCiER
Meet in the Arc Office or meet us at Moore Park. To join the group you can also find us on FB: COFA SOCCER 2012
Exhibition at Kudos Gallery: Science Fictional. Andrew Frost continues to 4 August
Kudos Gallery 6 Napier St. Paddington
6-8pm
COFA Talks
Masculinity and the 21st Century
Nick Vickers, Andrew Yip, Andrew Starr
EG02, E Block COFA.

WED 1 August
@COFA
3pm
Film screening: Deepwater
Michael Cinemoi EG02, COFA
3-4pm
Stitch n’ Bitch
Bring your needles and your gossip
Common Room

THU 2 August
@COFA
9-9.45am
ARTSWEK
MON 6 August
@UNSW
1-2pm
Women’s Collective Meeting
Womens Room, Blockhouse
2-4pm
Queer Collective meeting
Room 9.20, Level 9, Chemical Science

TUE 7 August
@COFA
11am-12pm
SOCiER
Meet in the Arc Office or meet us at Moore Park. To join the group you can also find us on FB: COFA SOCCER 2012
Exhibition at Kudos Gallery: For the Love of Prints!
Price Charming Print Collective continues to 5 August
Kudos Gallery 6 Napier St. Paddington

WED 8 August
@COFA
1pm
Film screening: Apocalypse Now, Francis Ford Coppola EG02, COFA
3-4pm
Stitch n’ Bitch
Bring your needles and your gossip
Common Room
4-5pm
Nintendo 64/weekly comps
COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block
4-7pm
MID WEEK SOCIAL
Booze, food and games all in the name of fun
COFA SRC present ROCKET Collective and
Free liquid breakfasts
The Thursday Blender Bender!
COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block.

THU 9 August
@COFA
9-9.45am
ARTSWEK
MON 13 August
@UNSW
1-3pm
Women’s Collective Meeting
Womens Room, Blockhouse
2-4 pm
Queer Collective meeting
Room 9.20, Level 9, Chemical Science
4-5 pm
Lenilife Exhibition opening Roundhouse
6-8 pm
ROCKET Collective and COFA SRC present
The Thursday Blender Bender-
Free liquid breakfasts
COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block

WED 14 August
@UNSW
1-2pm
Film screening: arthouse movies (tba) EG02, COFA
3-4pm
Stitch n’ Bitch
Bring your needles and your gossip
Common Room

THU 16 August
@COFA
9-9.45am
ROCKET Collective and COFA SRC present
The Thursday Blender Bender-
Free liquid breakfasts
COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block.
10am
COFA Fine Arts Soccer Cup
Come battle it out against SCA and NAS and win back the trophy!
Moore Park
12-1 pm
Meditation. Meditation will be explored from a mindfulness perspective.
Meditation will be explored from
Meditation.
12-1 pm
YOGA
Free liquid breakfasts
The Thursday Blender Bender!
COFA SRC present ROCKET Collective and
ROCKET Collective and COFA SRC present

WEEK 3
WEEK 4
WEEK 5
Why did the Melting Point Collective start?
Although there are several spaces in and around Sydney that are dedicated to exhibiting and promoting artists and designers working in the Jewellery and Ceramics mediums, they are largely concerned with more established practitioners, which leaves a daunting gap for the emerging artist. So, the collective was started by a group of COFA Bachelor of Fine Art students primarily as a response to the lack of exposure, within a Fine Art context, associated with emerging artists working within these more craft based disciplines. Both Jewellery and Ceramics, being smaller departments at the College, can also leave the students feeling somewhat isolated, which is why we felt it was important to establish another channel of communication.

What does the Collective hope to achieve?
The central function of the Melting Point Collective is to bring together students working in the Jewellery and Ceramics mediums and create a networking space to promote critical discussion, and also to gain increased exposure for the mediums we work with. Hopefully, this will not only be beneficial to us, but also to the wider community, especially those who are considering pursuing Jewellery or Ceramics as a discipline.

What can we expect from the Melting point Collective?
In the near future, we will be publishing regular newsletters with the intention of creating a greater awareness of the possibilities of working with Jewellery and Ceramics as Fine Art mediums, as well as the processes involved, in both material and conceptual sense. As longer term goals, we would like to collate a catalogue that includes and promotes the work of emerging Jewellers and Ceramicists, which would also potentially be linked to an exhibition in the early stages of next year.

How can we get involved?
As a collective we hold regular meetings in the Arc Common Room at COFA, where we discuss our work and also compile the next newsletter. If you would like to be involved you can email us at meltingpointcollective@gmail.com and let us know. We would love to hear from any other students and artists, at any level and from any discipline.
Louise Mayhew is a postgrad-student in the School of Art History and Art Education. Her research is on the history of women-only art collectives and collaborations in Australia c.1970 – 2010. She’s also a member of the PGC.

Tell us a bit about the PGC...
The PGC, or Postgraduate Council, is the arm of Arc that caters specifically for postgraduate students. We put on events for postgrads, to meet, socialize and learn. We also act as advocates for postgrads on issues that affect us such as access to study spaces and equipment, advice supervisor relationships and childcare on campus.

What is your role on the PGC?
I’m the COFA Councillor which means I bring the background and experiences of a COFA student to the council. I try to ensure the events and issues we organize for postgrads are relevant to my COFA peers. I also tease the rest of the PGC for their cluelessness on what most art students do—a lot more than painting!

What sort of time commitment is your role?
We meet once a month to hear reports from Office Bearers (the ones who get paid) and discuss upcoming events and issues. Many of us are based on campus, so we also see each other on a frequent basis, and we use email and an online discussion forum to read and comment on each other’s work.

What is your favorite thing about being on the PGC?
I love the people I’ve met through the PGC. Postgraduate study can be lonely and trying its great to have a strong network of people who know exactly what you’re going through socially, financially, intellectually.

How did you get involved?
When I started my PhD I lamented the lack of community and networking opportunities available for postgrad students. I came across the PGC by chance—while procrastinating on Facebook one day—and signed up immediately. Luckily for me the female COFA Councillor position was available.

What about the balance between your research & PGC duties?
Getting the work/research/life balance is pretty tricky and it took me a few semesters to get it right. Last semester I was: working part time for the peak academic organisation in our field—the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand—tutoring, representing my study space, active in two discussion groups, and involved in the PGC. Did I mention I was also having fun with online dating? It was far too much and my uni work suffered. I had a number of talks with my supervisor, my bosses and my family and decided to scale back my commitments.

Hot tips for future nominees?
Come along to PGC events, there are plenty! Have a cider with Louise—that’s me! at the Whitehouse to meet myself, the other Councillors and Office Bearers and to get a feel for what the PGC does. Find out about upcoming events at facebook.com/unswpgc.

The PGC needs peeps who genuinely love uni life; who are enthusiastic as well as dedicated, practical and hard-working. For more info on the elections visit: arc.unsw.edu.au/advice-representation/postgraduate-council
The Student Development Committee (SDC) is responsible for the management of clubs and societies; student volunteer programs; leadership development programs; grants; and relevant student events.

The SDC @ COFA Subcommittee is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the SDC on matters relating to COFA students, COFA Arc members and the Arc COFA team.

**NOMINATIONS**

**OPEN MON 6 AUG // CLOSE FRI 17 AUG**

**SDC @ COFA**

Term of Office:
- One (1) year, beginning December 1, 2012.
- Two (2) student representatives elected by and from COFA Students.

**NOMINATIONS**

Nominations must be made by at least 2 nominators on approved nomination forms available from:
- The Internet: www.arc.unsw.edu.au;
- Arc reception: The Blockhouse, Kensington;
- Arc Student Development Office, Lvl 1, Roundhouse.

All nominations must reach the returning officer by 4.00pm on Friday 17 August 2012. Nominations can be submitted in person at Arc Reception, Kensington (Blockhouse), or by email to the Returning Officer (sdco@sarc.unsw.edu.au).

[Image: The Thursday Blender Bender]

**FREE liquid breakfasts**

Every Thursday

9 - 9:45 am

COFA Common Room

**GRAB A SMOOTHIE YA SMOOTHIE!**
Alexandra Clapham and Zoë M. Robertson came together to job-share the role of Kudos Gallery Coordinator last year. Both coming to us as SPI majors, their approach to Kudos was as experimental as their individual practices considering perspectives on space and conceptual theories respectively. This saw an exciting shift emerge in the Kudos Gallery Management Committee and the exhibition program as the gallery opened to unfinished projects and critical dialogue.

Opening at MOP this week is “The” - their third process-based exhibition, described as the holy ghost of their working relationship as directors of Kudos Gallery (Zoë left early this year to work on Honours at SCA). They say they mean to hearken their past works and association with tandem sculptures - visually similar by appearing deconstructed and unfinished - whilst having very different ideas about what that means, due to Alex’s interest in mathematic clarity and Zoë’s penchant for obfuscation.

Can you tell us about your work in “The” and how does it relate to Kudos Gallery.

A: It’s because of Kudos that I am making the work I do now. I’ve always had an interest in the qualities of space, but since working at Kudos I’ve been able to hone in on my interests and skills through helping people install and bringing shows together that consider the work in relation to the space, it’s holistic. My own practice, and the work in this show considers hypothetical space within geometrical forms. I’m interested in the endlessness that space and geometry create, and how people enter and respond to the work.

Z: The works displayed on the walls are a retrospective of the proposals I have written over the years. I have long intended to display this work as the act of proposal writing is now a necessity for artists as it is the only way to be given exhibition space. Unfortunately the process can be so mechanical and outcome-based that it often leads to writing of the least creative order. My early frustrations often lead to writing proposals of the most extreme and obscene nature as an attempt to point out the standardisation that comes with acts of bureaucratic elucidation, where palatable proposals predict the work, and there is no longer any space for difference. Alexandra Clapham was the first person to ever give my work space in an exhibition, after years of rejection. I chose to display this work alongside hers to honour her for the patience and tolerance that civilised me and made me feel safe in a world I had always felt outside. The same attitude brought so many others to Kudos Gallery during our tenure, making it a place where people could feel supported in their experiments no matter how mad or haphazard.

“The” opens this Thursday 2 August at MOP, 2/39 Abercrombie St. Chippendale and continues to Sunday 19 August. mop.com.au
This year COFAtopia is giving over its naughty back page to the COFA Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC @COFA are a bunch of students who represent YOU! They are there to campaign for your needs to the larger university body as well as make sure your student voice is heard when it comes to national affairs.

In this issue we hear from SRC @ COFA Environment Officer Jessica Stewart. If you want to get involved in the conversation, friend them on FB at COFA Src.

Hello!

My name is Jess and I’m the current COFA SRC Enviro Officer. Here is some info on a few awesome things:

Half a Desk is an exhibition the COFA SRC have curated in response to the lack of studio facilities and resources provided to students during the COFA Redevelopment Project. The exhibition, featuring works by 50 students opens at Kudos Gallery 5-7pm Tuesday 14 August as part of Artsweek.

We are also hosting a panel discussion about the exhibition and the COFA Redevelopment Project at Kudos 4-5.30pm on Thursday 16 August. ALL WELCOME!

THERE IS RECYCLING ON CAMPUS! At every photocopier there is a paper recycling bin next to it. There is also a bin in the common room near the Arc office, as well as a big recycling skip at the bottom of F block.

WHAT CAN YOU PUT INTO YOUR RECYCLING BIN AT HOME?
Not really sure about what you can and can’t put in the recycling bin? Did you know that it changes from council from council? Here’s a cool website that tells you what your council accepts in the yellow bin! www.irecycle.com.au/recycle_tips_database_adults.php?council=37

Have anything to say to us about enviro stuff/any uni stuff at all? email us on cofasrc@gmail.com or chat to us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/COFAstudentrepresentativecouncil

Love Jess

Kudos Gallery is run by COFA students and funded by Arc @ UNSW Limited
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 10 AUGUST 2012
appln forms at arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa or from Arc Office @ COFA, E105
only open to currently enrolled COFA students who are Arc members