Welcome back!

Semester One is going to be grand - we have a heap of fun filled events and stimulating opportunities for you to get knee deep into. That said, you’ll notice our office is really far away (1st floor E Block) and there’s no student kitchen or social space - unfortunately we were excluded from the University’s plans. We hope to open late in Session 1 with a brand new fully equipped space on the ground floor of D Block, off the courtyard and next to the Student Centre.

Until then, we’re still active, and offering all our great services and member benefits. This issue looks at the wonderful things COFA students have got up to with the support of Arc.

The Green House residency program in the outback is a great chance to gather the time and space to come up with new ideas or try some stuff out. I talk to Rafaela Pandolfini and David Capra about their time out there last year and the fantastic projects they were able to achieve.

We also were lucky enough to receive a ‘Postcard From Berlin’ from Tully Arnot about his residency with Culturia that Arc @ COFA supported with an Art and Design Grant (ADG) last year. For deadlines and application info about all the amazing grant programs Arc offers go to arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa. It is too good to miss out on - applications are due Week 4.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Love,
Arc@COFA
PROFILE: RAFAELA PANDOLFINI

Rafaela Pandolfini is in her 2nd year of a MFA (Media Arts) at COFA. She is investigating emotion and the relationship of the viewer to an artwork via photography, video, performance and installation. Last year she went out to our studio residency, The Green House at Fowlers Gap AND received two Arc @ COFA Art & Design Grants (ADG) firstly for a project as part of the Erskineville Tiny Stadiums Festival, and then for a solo exhibition at Firstdraft Gallery. We caught up with her over summer to talk about her work and recent projects.

Congratulations on your recent exhibition “One’s Own Dual” at Firstdraft. How did this project emerge?

The work was born out of a very dark time for me. I was listening to a lot of Antony and the Johnsons, reading about Butoh master Kazuo Ohno, researching Alexander McQueen and watching Benjamin Smoke documentary on repeat. Everything felt really heavy and sad and I wanted to create an artistic expression of this time to help me work through it. I like to make projects in 3 parts – so that there is a beginning, middle and an end. This work is the first creative part of my Masters project, The Darkness.

My supervisor has helped me be a lot more present in the work I make by asking me to address my process, from finding someone to perform for me, to designing the costume, doing the shoot and collaborating on the sound. I used to just follow a formula for each work I made but never thought about why I did that or that it could actually be an interesting part of the work.

I loved the way you were able to completely transform that room with immersive darkness, What was your intention with this?

It was really important for me that the installation was immersive. As a viewer I find artwork has the greatest impact when I am completely cocooned in an environment, so that I have a physical response to it, that was what I was attempting to create.

The soundscape was beautiful, how was that created? Emma Ramsay, an artist and singer/drummer in Sydney

band Holy Balm, made the soundtrack. I love Holy Balm and Emma’s voice. I have worked with quite a few different sound artists before and generally my process is to email them the ideas and some of the footage and then let them come up with sounds based on their reaction to the work.

We then met up to talk about it and she made some sounds. I then picked out elements that I felt were working and I sent her all of the inspirational material I was looking at which really helped. Finally she saw a rough edit of the video to which she did a final live recording of the 4 separate sections.

You recently visited our studio at Fowlers Gap. What did you work on out there?

Fowlers Gap was the best few weeks of 2012. I went with my partner Dom and my 16 month old daughter, Rozsa and we all just adored the slow pace that the desert demands. I feel very comfortable and happy in the desert.

The light was incredible and because it had been raining so much the landscape was completely alive with animals and scrub. We drank loads of black coffee, sat on the porch and watched the day go by, waiting for the cooler hours. We cooked deliciously simple meals on the amazing BBQ there. I was reading I Love Dick by Chris Kraus while I was there and got an enormous amount out of her. She validates emotional behaviour making, I have always felt guilty and intimidated about making emotional work. Reading her made me feel strong, wild, free and charged with feminist power. So I ran around in the landscape in my undies wearing a cape made out white lace with phallic Louise Bourgeois esque shapes sewn all over it, I painted trees (and cleaned them!) with fluoro pink paint and sat naked amongst it all and photographed myself. The work will be for Part 3 - Happiness and Peace which I will begin work on later in the year.

How do you come up with new artworks?

Extreme circumstances generally kick off ideas for me – if I’m wildly pre menstrual, if I see a really incredible gig or exhibition or drink lots of coffee or heaps of booze. Sometimes the weather sets me off… definitely the landscape. Ideas generally hang around in my head for ages and I used to feel a lot more impatient about getting them out but now it’s nice to sit on them for a while, years even, until the right space / occasion crops up.

What’s next for you?

Desperately cramming 2 months worth of reading and writing into a couple of weeks before my first meeting with my supervisors, and then a solo in August, which will be the second part of the project – The Anger.

At this stage I am envisaging a parody of a sitcom… I have been watching a lot of 30Rock and Girls which makes me laugh at the time but then I feel really dirty afterwards. So maybe a sitcom about this character all dressed in a weird white dress with a mask on doing loads of exercise (because that is the way to get rid of the wild anger) like running up big hills or kick boxing around centennial park with a dog in a basket.

www.rafaelapandolfini.com
Each year COFA students join the Kudos Committee to set the Gallery exhibition program and run special projects. Last year’s committee was made up of Beth Dillon, Jessica Stewart, Lydia Dowman, Emily White, Claudia Nicholson, Lisa Sammut, Takashi Wakasugi, James McDonald and Wilna Fourie. In the lead up to this year’s deadline for Committee Reps, we sat down with Wilna to find out about her experience and their show.

Why did you get involved in the Kudos Committee?
It was my last year at COFA and I wanted to get as involved as possible before leaving. It was also a great opportunity to be part of the running of a gallery and helping out within an invaluable part of the COFA community.

What did the role entail and what did you get out of it?
The largest part of the role was meeting up and programming the shows in the gallery. It think as a group we learnt a lot about the application process, what works and appeals to those who receive applications and what doesn’t. You definitely learn to read between the lines to find really good work hiding behind application skills that aren’t great. We also got to mentor applicants like Amber Camille Jacobs who applied in her first year and had our opening show of 2013. As an Art Theory student, being part of the committee was a great way to engage with the practicing students, I made some very exciting, talented friends that I hope to work with in the future.

The Kudos Committee’s exhibition Launch Sequence opens on Tuesday 5 March, how did the idea for that come about?
Well I think the original idea came out of a discussion within the Kudos Committee about launching yourself into uni and getting involved as early as possible, a sentiment that also applies to recent graduates who are “launching” into a professional career. Puns and thematic word play aside, its been interesting to look at some of the work and see different ideas of movement and exchange coming into play.

‘Sometimes things don’t go as planned’….is this a reference to the change in venue for the exhibition, which was originally supposed to be installed at Kensington, or does it refer to accidents and mistakes in artistic practice? Both really, the exhibition did hit a bit of a speed bump a few months ago but luckily there was a solution with Kudos having an unexpected free slot. The astronaut story and the change of venue is a reminder that things will work out and that anything is possible as long as you put yourself out there and are open to different opportunities and experiences. You might find yourself somewhere you didn’t expect but it might be better than you could have imagined. Experience and contingencies often alter preconceived ideas or assumptions for the better. Then again, Buzz Aldrin might not have taken a pen to the moon and then the story would have ended very differently.

* The astronaut story is that in July 1969 Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong landed on the moon. Apparently their astronaut suits were so big that they broke the lunar module’s “on” switch. As an alternative they used a felt tip pen to restart it and get back to earth.

What sort of works will we see in this show?
There are quite a few artists exhibiting work across a full range of media from installation and performance to sculpture, drawing and painting. I’m trying to convince someone to build a full scale lunar module, but we will have to see.
**WHATS ON! WHATS ON! WHATS ON!**

**WEEK 1**

**SAT 2 MARCH**
1-4pm
Art School Confidential (East)
Go behind the scenes on a tour of Sydney’s University Galleries. KUDOS Gallery, COFA space and NAS Gallery, led by Firstdraft Gallery co-director Tessa Jeffress.

[Art Month Sydney March 2013](artmonthsydney.com.au)

**TUE 5 MARCH**
1-4pm
Student Platform
Artist talks by students for students
E101, Level 1 E Block

5-7pm
Exhibition opening
Launch Sequence continues to 16 March
Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St. Paddington

6.30pm
COFA Talks, EG02

**TUE 12 MARCH**
1-4pm
Student Platform
Artist talks by students for students
E101, Level 1 E Block

6-8pm
Exhibition opening
Mirror Mirror continues to 22 March
Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St. Paddington

**WEEK 2**

**SAT 16 MARCH**
1-4pm
Art School Confidential (City)
This tour will visit UTS gallery, Verge Gallery and Sydney’s oldest art school gallery. Tin Sheds at the University of Sydney. Led by Firstdraft Gallery co-director Tessa Jeffress.

[Art Month Sydney March 2013](artmonthsydney.com.au)
Hallo from Berlin!
Thanks again for the ADG funding; it’s really helped support the residency I’ve been doing here with the Culturia organisation. Their program has been really vigorous - a series of filmed interviews with curators, presentations to arts professionals etc. I’ve met a lot of interesting people, but more so it’s really helped to better understand my work in an international context.
I’m also doing a semester of practicum exchange at UdK, studying under Professor Gregor Schneider. The system is so different here, it’s quite self-directed so it could have been easy to flounder. Having a couple of things on the go has helped me to maintain momentum. Back home I have networks and knowledge of exhibition opportunities, but here it’s all new and hard to navigate, and to even know where to start!
Our class had an exhibition in December, “Doublings”, curated by Schneider and in collaboration with a class from Munich. The preparation was intense, involving scale models of the gallery and artworks, and many lengthy (sometimes 12 hour!) class discussions. At times it was tough, but a great experience to see how other people work. There are a lot of new perspectives that I’ll be bringing back home and I’m really grateful to have had this opportunity and the support of Arc @ COFA. See you back at COFA soon!
Tschüss!
Tully :)
THERE ARE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED THIS YEAR - HERE'S A SUMMARY...

KUDOS COMMITTEE
The Kudos Gallery exhibition program is determined by a committee of COFA UG and PG student representatives from each school. The Kudos Committee have regular meetings, run special projects including the annual Kudos Award, attend openings and raise the profile of the gallery. Participation on the Kudos Committee also acknowledged by UNSW on your ‘Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS)’ upon graduating.

Applications for the 2013 Kudos Committee open week 1 semester 1 2013 and are due in week 4.

COFA GRANTS COMMITTEE
The COFA Grants Committee is made up of 4 COFA students who are responsible for our grants and residency programs: ADG (Arts & Design Grants), Group Work, Quick Response Grants, and The Green House residency program. Students assess applications for all programs and make decisions on how the budget is spent. The Grants Committee is chaired by the COFA Representative on the Student Development Committee, who also represents COFA at SDC meetings at Kensington and votes on Club affiliations, and all the Club grant programs and awards. Participation on the Grants Committee also acknowledged by UNSW on your ‘Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS)’ upon graduating.

The deadline to be part of the 2013 COFA Grants Committee is end of week 4, semester 1.

COFA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
The SRC @ COFA is part of the Arc’s Student Representative Council. The SRC @ COFA exists solely for the students at COFA, and as such we rely on students input and participation to make the SRC an effective voice for students.

Vacant positions on this year’s SRC @ COFA are: ETHNIC AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL and DISABILITIES OFFICER.

COFA FACULTY COMMITTEES
COFA has a number of committees that help decide important issues around undergraduate and postgraduate courses and degrees. Because they deal with issues vital to all COFA students, places are set aside for students to be full members of these committees. Students are appointed for a year.

The Committees are:
*Faculty Standing Committee: meets Mar, May, Jun, Aug, Sept, Nov) Wednesdays 2-4 - 1 PG and 1 UG student members
*Undergraduate Education Committee: meets bi-monthly Wed 2-4 - 1 UG student
*Postgraduate Education Committee: meets bi-monthly Wed 2-4 - 1 PG student

KUDOS VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers assist with running the bar at openings, gallery minding and annual maintenance. Being an active Kudos volunteer is the best way to meet other COFA students and network with the wider Sydney arts community.

Serving drinks at openings usually leads to paid work at other galleries or art events.

Volunteer positions open in week 1 semester 1 and will be accepted all year.

Arc @ COFA ACTIVITIES
COFA student volunteers are invited to assist with existing campus activities and events, or create and run your own. Activities and events don’t need to attract thousands and make headlines, we are also interested in supporting a range of ideas that may only cater for a handful of people.

Run or facilitate creative workshops, talks, gallery tours, picnics or parties. Volunteers may also or instead assist with Arc @ COFA’s general activities program including free lunches, market days, artists talks, bingo, film screenings, Fine Arts Cup Soccer Tournament and more.

BRIGHTSIDE
BRIGHTSIDE is an artistic mentoring program that pairs up COFA students with underprivileged Sydney high school students with a focus on Indigenous youth. BRIGHTSIDE offers COFA students the chance to mentor local Sydney high school students to assist in developing their creative skills, confidence and inspire new pathways. Have the chance to empower and improve our local communities in a creative way whilst building upon your own experience and skill development!

How to get involved
Apply online to fill in the Volunteer Application form at arc.unsw.edu.au/volunteer

More info?
www.arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa
cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au
DID YOU KNOW?
We have heaps of programs to help support your ideas:

**ADG (Art and Design Grants)**
The Arc @ COFA Art and Design Grants aim to support extracurricular arts practice and theory activities by our members. There are four rounds of applications this year only open to currently enrolled COFA students.

**DUE:** Week 4, Thurs 28 March

**COFA Quick Response Grant**
This new grant supports exciting and innovative projects ‘on the fly’, for all sorts of reasons, exhibition, event and residency opportunities emerge at the last minute. This grant is for that

**DUE:** No deadline, applications accepted year round

**GROUP WORK Grant**
This grant supports students that have a great idea for bringing people together. We want to see more students coming together to make new connections, collectives, groups or clubs. This could be a magazine, a radio station, a new artist run space or a performance group.

**DUE:** Week 11

For application forms and more info go to [www.arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa](http://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa)

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The Green House is a residential artist studio run by Arc@COFA at Fowlers Gap Arid Zone Research Station in far western NSW as part of COFA’s ILIRI - Imaging the Land International Research Institute. It gives COFA students the opportunity to make and develop work in the awe inspiring landscape that is the Australian desert. From one week to three months Arc members can enjoy a self-contained house accommodating up to four guests with bedding, cooking and eating utensils supplied, all at a subsidised rate (ie. FREE!*).

*conditions outlined in application form

In 2012 COFA MFA by Research Photomedia student Rafaela Pandolfini was a successful applicant and her project, ‘Roses Dancing Carnival’ underwent a two week development period at The Green House. Rafaela’s work uses video and photography to document bodies in moments of performance. You can read more about Rafaela’s latest work on pg 4.

David Capra, another COFA MFA student, also completed a residency period at The Greenhouse with fellow artist Peter Nelson. David and Peter were at The Green House for two weeks in September, 2012 where they worked together on the performance installation project ‘New Intercessions.’ David’s work explores the notion of artist as mystic and he does this through creating improvised, trance-like dance performances accompanied by handmade props and banners. While at Fowlers Gap, David and Peter developed a new performance that engaged with the arid landscape through dance and banner waving.

Rafaela and David, like a lot of artists, believe that the most fruitful and productive times to make work are when on residency periods. It allows for complete isolation from the usual distractions of our everyday lives, allowing time and space to think clearly about new ideas and projects, and to try out new things.

So what are you waiting for? Get writing!

Application deadline is Week 4, Thurs 28 March.

Register your interest via email to Liz Nowell, l.nowell@arc.unsw.edu.au

www.arc.unsw.edu.au/framework
“Going on an outback field trip to The Green House was the highlight of my undergraduate studies at COFA.

Before going out there I researched the idea of the black stump. In the Australian vernacular the ‘black stump’ marked the spot beyond which the landscape was considered too remote. Others have said that, beyond the black stump, portals open into mysterious places, and this idea is relevant to my work. Upon arrival at Fowlers Gap I noticed our porch looked over what appeared to be the set for a ballet, complete with a large stump perched in the middle.

I documented a prepared dance and operatic ballad with squawking birdlife joining in at the climactic point. Other highlights involved witnessing a duel between a white and pink gang of galahs, and lightning that struck my ceiling fan, making the room look as if on fire.”
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 Rep Laura Anthony

If you want to get involved in the conversation, friend them on FB at COFA Src.

Hi, I am the new SRC Rep for 2013.

The SRC and myself would like to welcome and welcome back all students to COFA and especially to Paddington in 2013. We are expecting over 600 new students as well as having our far flung colleagues returning to campus. This will make 2013 a much more cohesive campus.

We would like to focus on events and activities that will help us make our new campus “home”. 2013 also is the year that we have a completely new degree structure.

The COFA SRC is a voice for students at COFA. We can do this in various ways. Through publications such as Tharunka, being a voice to the university on educational and other issues, providing support for special groups across campus and representing students on a campus, state, national and international level.

We also do things like providing free lunches every two weeks, organizing seminars, yoga classes and stitch n bitch sessions to mention just a few.

Welcome / Welcome back. Let us know what you are thinking.

I would love to hear from you about what you think are important issues and activities. Finally we are still looking for a Ethic Affairs and International Student Officer for 2013. If you would like to have a say in how your SRC is run, or want to help out with the student experience at COFA please let us know.

l.anthony@arc.unsw.edu.au

### ARTS MEET SCIENCE

6 Napier St Paddington NSW 2021
11am-6pm Wed to Fri, 11am-4pm Sat
T 02 9326 0034
E kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au
W arc.unsw.edu.au/kudos

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

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**AFTER THE MAYANS**
Curated by Kieran Bryant and Lachlan Herd

Artists explore the 2012 phenomenon, comprising a range of eschatological beliefs according to which cataclysmic or transformative events will occur on 21 December 2012. This date is regarded as the culmination of a 5,125 year long cycle in the Mayan Mesoamerican Long Count calendar.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 26 February
Closes Saturday 2 March 2013

**LAUNCH SEQUENCE**
Curated by the 2012 Kudos Gallery Committee

Some say that on July 20th 1969 Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong landed on the moon. Aldrin maintains that a UFO accompanied them out of the earth’s atmosphere. Apparently their astronaut suits were so big that they broke the lunar module’s “on” switch. As an alternative they used a felt tip pen to restart it and get back to earth.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 4 March
Closes Saturday 26 March 2013

**CHANCES WE TAKE:**
Jane Fontane

Chances we take explores this process of construction through the unique perspective of pre-adolescence, investigating the notion that we are all constructs of our time, place and history, just as the presented screen-print works are of theirs. The conceptual properties of screen-printing are linked to the formation of an identity based on experiences as layers of the finished work.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 18 March
Closes Saturday 23 March 2013
The Party!

Come and celebrate the start of semester

Free pizza
Free drinks
Free dancing to
The Kaniz
Plus DJs galore

From 4pm Wed 6 March
Fringe Bar 106 Oxford St.

Presented by Arc@COFA