Hello!

COFAtopia is all about you. It is all about showcasing all the amazing things you as COFA students get up to away from the lecture theatres and classrooms. It is also here to make sure you know about all the amazing opportunities Arc@COFA provides to support you in doing this.

This issue takes a slight turn. We here at Arc@COFA have experienced a significant rise in the amount of students contacting us about the state of the COFA campus post redevelopment. A lot of you are frustrated about lack of shade, atmosphere and services. In response, this issue features articles that attempt to address this problem. SPI student Susi Langdon dreams up a greener courtyard while Lachlan Herd, our Activities Coordinator and COFA student reflects on the student experience of a redeveloped ‘new’ COFA with a continual lack of resources. On a positive note you can take matters into your own hands - why not join the new COFA Courtyard Installation Collective (meeting Mon 25 March, see What’s On) which will come up with ways to combat the blinding grey or contact your COFA Src officers with your thoughts (FB: COFA Src or email l.anthony@arc.unsw.edu.au).

To get super big guns, why not get on the Arc Board? Nominations are now open and this really is an amazing opportunity to control how and what Arc supports/funds/speaks out about (see pg 16). In this issue you can also read about the Arc Writers Coordinator and the new online arts mag FRAMEWORK and hear from the Kudos Intern Zac Fenn. There is also O Week in pictures for those of you that missed it and a jam-packed What’s On to whet your appetite for the next three weeks on campus.

Get crackin!

Love,
Arc@COFA

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Framework is a new COFA publication providing a platform for emerging arts writers to have their work published.

Issue #1 is out in Week 5 edited by COFA student and curator Liz Nowell. I got to speak to her about the upcoming Framework.

Tell me a bit about yourself...
I moved from Adelaide to Sydney in 2010 shortly after I accepted the role of Curator/Exhibition Coordinator at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery. After two years I decided to leave and finish my studies at COFA. I was really blown away by how supportive Arc is and the kind of services they offer – no one offered me van for hire or free lunches at my last university!

What is Framework?
Framework is a new quarterly online publication which was established after The College Voice wrapped up in late 2012. Since 2003 The College Voice (and its editor Janis Lander) offered a space for staff and students to write about the visual arts; from exhibition reviews to critical essays. When The College Voice ended a number of students expressed a desire to see a new publication set up – one which would allow them to engage in critical discourse and practice their writing in a professional setting. Writers are often asked by publishers to provide samples of their writing and when you are fresh out of university, this can be a daunting. Framework fills that gap for students.

How does Framework work?
Apart from being a quarterly online magazine, each edition of Framework has a theme. The first edition is based on ideas around renewal, which is particularly relevant considering the new campus and recent Dean appointment. This issue includes two feature articles, two exhibition reviews, a Q&A with a COFA graduate and COFA student profile. Articles range from 1000 to 3000 words. I wanted students to have the opportunity to write in a flexible manner, because often publications require different format, style, tone and lengths. Being uni students, we’re all so used to writing 2000 word papers and being concise is a challenge, but you’ll find that art journals demand constrictive word counts of their writers.

Why is it important for students to have a publication they can contribute to?
A lot of students leave university wanting to write professionally for arts journals, online publications, and exhibition catalogues but don’t really have many examples of their writing outside of their degree. Framework offers students the opportunity to develop their professional practice and expand their networks in the arts industry. Building networks in the arts is really important and writing an article on someone gives you a great excuse to make new connections. A lot of people in the wider arts community like to keep in the loop with what is happening across art schools and Framework will also make this information readily available to writers, artists and curators outside of COFA’s immediate networks.

How can students contribute to Framework?
We are currently calling-out for submissions to the next issue around the theme of gender.

The publication and info about how to submit work or get involved is available here arc.unsw.edu.au/cofaframework

Look out for launch party details on campus in week 5

PAID OPPORTUNITY:
Arc@COFA is looking for a Writers Coordinator to manage Framework

Job applications due: Friday 5 April
Visit arc.unsw.edu.au/jobs or contact p.benton@arc.unsw.edu.au

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Arc@COFA, COFA SRC and ROCKET Collective Present...

The Tuesday Blender Bender

FREE liquid breakfasts Every Tuesday 10 - 11 am COFA Courtyard

GRAB A SMOOTHIE YA SMOOTHIE!

GREENING THE COURTYARD:
Community Garden at COFA? by Susi Langdon

On returning to COFA in 2013, it has become the norm to see students and teachers squinting, fumbling for their sunglasses or running for shade in a feeble attempt to escape the blinding glare that has enveloped the new COFA courtyard.

Don’t get me wrong, I think we’re all happy not to be working in a construction site, I’m just not sure we were all expecting a new campus that’s quite so... ‘concretey’. The beautiful couches in the old student Common Room are gone, there’s no Lin and Tosh from the on campus cafe to brighten up our days (and make us delicious coffee and smoothies) and the question arises, “where’s all the colour?” All the bland grey and blinding white doesn’t exactly inspire any sense of creativity, which is a shame considering that this is an Art School.

One way that students can combat this is the creation of a community garden. Not only do they look great, but they are also really fun to build and maintain. Imagine bright veggies, aromatic herbs and colourful flowers, centered by a fruit tree. Then we could say “I’ll meet you at that beautiful apple/citrus/plum tree after class!” Best of all, a community garden is a great way to get everyone involved in the important and beneficial activity of growing our own food. It is a great feeling of planting, growing and harvesting something and provides the opportunity to meet like minded people, while adding some much needed life into the campus. Kitchen scraps could be reused through composting systems (fantastic for those of us who live in the inner city and don’t have great access to gardens). When our veggies are fully grown, they can become a delicious organic dinner!

The actual design of the Community Garden is in no way limited to a box containing soil. Everything from bedheads to barrels have been used in community gardens around Sydney, making a creative and interesting space for everyone to come together. Because we would all get kicked out if we turned up in the middle of the night with tins of paint, let’s build a community garden that adds colour and life to reclaim our courtyard!

Susi Langdon is studying Sculpture Performance and Installation at COFA.

The COFA Courtyard Installation Collective is meeting 3pm, 25 March (all welcome) E Block Learning Commons.

A community garden proposal from the COFA SRC is currently in progress.

Have your say! Join the collective or email your thoughts to your SRC Environment Officer at hellywelly@gmail.com
Mindfulness and breathing

Meditation

12-1 pm

THU 21 MARCH

4-5 pm

Student Platform

Artists talk by students for students
Come be exposed to new ideas, get inspired and connect with similar COFA students from different disciplines.
E101, Level 1 E Block
NEED YOU! Present at Student Platform! Email Iherd@arc.unsw.edu.au your:
- Name
- Degree, major and year
- and a short statement outlining your topic

5-7 pm

Exhibition opening

Chances We Take

Jane Fontane continues to 23 March
Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St. Paddington

6.30 pm

COFA Talks

Curated by Zac Fenn

CB09, C Block

MON 25 MARCH

1 pm

Stitch n Bitch

COFA Common Room

Level 1 E Block

3 pm

COFA Courtyard Installation Collective

First meeting to discuss ways to green and ‘art-ify’ the courtyard
Old Common Room, Level 1 E Block

4-6 pm

Queer Collective

Queer Space, Room 9.21), Level 9, Chemical Sciences Building, UNSW

5 pm

NEW COFA zine ‘Manifesto’ contributors’ meeting

Come and be part of the contributors for this new student magazine that will engage students with political ideas we’re interested in.
COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block

THU 28 MARCH

DEADLINE!

Heinz Harant Award

Nominations NOW OPEN!
Do you know someone who has participated in various UNSW Arc Volunteer Programs over a number of years and deserves recognition for their efforts? Nominate them now for this prestigious award.
For info and forms go to arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa

THU 11 APRIL

1 pm

MID Session Break

Yoga

2-3 pm

THU 11 APRIL

1 - 2 pm

Meditation.
Mindfulness and breathing to help you improve your mood and deal with stress
CB09, C Block

FRI 22 MARCH

10-12 am

Brightside Mentoring
East Sydney High School

2-3 pm

Yoga

Get stretchy and relax!
CB09, C Block

THU 14 APRIL

12 Midday

Arc Precinct, UNSW

Free cocktails and tropical ideas we’re interested in.

COFA Common Room,
Level 1 E Block

FRI 29 MARCH

Good Friday

THU 21 MARCH

10 - 11 am

Free breakfast in aid of Close The Gap
Provided by R.O.C.K.E.T Club and COFA SRC
Sign the Close the Gap petition and grab a balloon
COFA Courtyard

4-5 pm

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THU 26 MARCH

10 - 11 am

Free breakfast
Provided by R.O.C.K.E.T Club and COFA SRC
COFA Courtyard

4-5 pm

Student Platform.
Each week your fellow COFA students will talk about their practice, ideas, past projects and future aspirations.
E101, Level 1 E Block

5-7 pm

Exhibition opening

Proximity curated by Zac Fenn continues to 31 March
Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St. Paddington

6.30 pm

COFA Talks

EG02

WED 27 MARCH

Arc Flea Markets

Arc Precinct, UNSW

12:30 pm

Free Lunch

COFA Courtyard

5 pm

Mid Session Party- Paradise

Free cocktails and tropical dancing
Old COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block

THU 28 MARCH

DEADLINE!

Queer Collective

Queer Space, Room 9.21), Level 9, Chemical Sciences Building, UNSW

For info and forms go to arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa

11 - 1 pm

Queer Cofa Sushi Party

Elywn Lynn Conference Centre

12 Midday

PGC Easter Egg Hunt!

Physics Lawn, UNSW

8- late

Toga Party

Roundhouse, UNSW

MON 8 APRIL

1 pm

Stitch n Bitch

COFA Common Room

Level 1 E Block

4-6 pm

Queer Collective

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DEADLINE!

Kudos Gallery applications
For info and forms go to arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa

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Mindfulness and breathing to help you improve your mood and deal with stress
CB09, C Block

FRI 12 APRIL

10-12

Brightside Mentoring

East Sydney High School

2-3 pm

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Get stretchy and relax!
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Brightside Mentoring

East Sydney High School

2-3 pm

Yoga,
Get stretchy and relax!
CB09, C Block
Kudos Gallery is your student gallery. It is run by students for students. Kudos Gallery also offers a semester long internship. It is a paid position that offers an invaluable development opportunity to gain hands-on experience and professional development in a gallery. The program involves mentorship and experience in coordinating the Kudos Gallery exhibition program, liaison with artists, marketing and promotion, installation of exhibitions, and opening night event planning. Zac Fenn is the intern for Semester 1 2013 and I got to chat to him about the position.

Firstly, what are you studying and what year are you in?
Bachelor of Fine Arts, majoring in SPi, 3rd year

Why did you want to be a Kudos Intern?
I love art galleries. Getting paid for some really valuable experience working in a gallery sounded like a pretty sweet gig!

What are you planning to do when you graduate?
Make art, work with art and travel!

Had you done anything else at Kudos before?
I’d been a part of a few group shows...

What’s an average day as the Kudos intern like?
Hanging and installing the shows so lots of drilling holes and white paint! Working at the opening nights are a big part of the job too.

Do you have any ‘big ideas’ for Kudos?
Yes I want to make an official Kudos documentary...

Most favorite show you have seen at Kudos?
Siân McIntyre’s grass installation ‘Exile’s Lament’ last year was very very cool.

What are you planning to do when you graduate?
Make art, work with art and travel!

The deadline for Session 2 Kudos Intern applications is yet to be announced. In the interim there are so many opportunities to get involved in this year like...

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

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

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

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

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

More info?
arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa
cofa@arc.unsw.edu.au
Over the past 3 years the COFA campus has undergone a massive redevelopment which students have put up with under the assurance we would be presented with an amazing new space to study and work in once it was completed. Not only has the development still not been completed, not only are the new corridors, courtyard and countless learning commons as bleak as a hospital attached to a prison, we still have not been given adequate studio space.

Throughout the construction students were given a measly half a desk of space to work with. This was definitely not enough space to work with especially for students creating large or even medium scale paintings, sculptures and installations. After returning to our newly developed space, we find that we still only have half a desk of space, again! One new exchange SPI student was so enraged that she was expected to work in such a tiny space, she has not returned to class. Other students have decided to study elsewhere, and part-time Masters students have no studio space at all.

The spaces we have been given are considerably smaller than we had to work in before the development. One has to question why the entire campus seems to have been filled with computer labs and learning commons, where first year students are instructed to make Tumblr accounts and Twitter posts as a supposed ‘new way of learning’. We are starved of actual learning space, in dire need of space to present our work for assessment, but overwhelmed with spaces to go on Facebook.

Kieran Bryant, 3rd year SPI student and COFA SRC Education Officer asks, “Who was the designer? Did they actually understand what artists and art students need? Or were they just making a miniature version of Kensington?” Beth Dillon, ex-president of the SRC and head of the Half a Desk campaign in 2012 that sought to highlight the inequity of little to no studio space at an art school during the redevelopment says, “If we have less studio space than before, who was this project supposed to benefit because it certainly hasn’t benefited students.”

We appear to have been totally disregarded in the planning and construction of the new campus. In sacrifice of essential space and facilities they have created a campus that attempts to give off an air of successful formality but is instead a bleak and oppressive slab of white to grey concrete.

Have your say! Come to the COFA Courtyard Installation Collective Meeting, 3 pm Mon 25 March in the Old Common Room, Lvl 1 E Block COFA

Image: The current allocated studio space for 3rd Year SPI
An election will be held to elect three Student Directors to the Arc @ UNSW Limited (Arc) Board. At least one Director elected must be a woman. One position must be filled by a student from the COFA electorate. The term of office will be two years commencing June 2013.

Arc is the student organisation at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). It provides community and representational activities with a vision of “creating the best student experience” on both the Kensington and COFA campus. Arc’s mission is to maximise the support, engagement and development of UNSW students.

The 14 member Board is responsible for the overall performance and strategic direction of the organisation.

NOMINATIONS
Nominations open on Monday 18th March 2013 and close at 3.00 pm on Thursday 28th March 2013. Late nominations will not be accepted.

The election roles will close with the closing of nominations.

QUALIFICATIONS
Candidates, their nominators, and voters must be current UNSW students and Ordinary Members of Arc at the close of nominations.

The CoFA Director position must be filled by a student from the CoFA electorate.

Each candidate must be nominated by two (2) other Ordinary Arc Members. All nominators must be eligible to stand as a candidate in the same election.

NOMINATION FORMS
Nomination forms will be made available at:
• Arc Reception Kensington – Ground Floor, The Blockhouse
• Arc Office at CoFA
• The Arc Website – www.arc.unsw.edu.au

Forms may be lodged at:
• Arc Reception Kensington – Ground Floor, The Blockhouse.
• By fax – 02 9385 7701, attention: Returning Officer, Nitasha Prasad (please contact the RO to ensure your fax has been received).
• Arc Office at CoFA.
• By email to returning.officer@arc.unsw.edu.au

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
Candidates are invited to submit a statement of not more than 150 words containing information in support of their candidature, and a recent photograph. These must be submitted in electronic format, either on CD or via email. Your name must appear in the subject heading for the email.

The statement must be in Word format, and the Photo in jpeg format.

These must be submitted by the close of nominations, preferably with the nomination form.

The Returning Officer reserves the right to edit or reject any material provided in line with the Arc’s Regulations.

VOTING
If more than the required number of candidates are nominated, an election will be held.

Voting will be held in week 10 of semester 1, 2013. The method of voting will be Optional Preferential.

ENQUIRIES
Further information may be obtained from the Returning Officer, Nitasha Prasad on 02 9385 7711 or returning.officer@arc.unsw.edu.au

* Note: the onus is on candidates to ensure their nomination form has been received by the Returning Officer.
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 Enviro Officer Helen Wardle.

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

For such a giant gaping space, don’t think that you’re alone
Under searing sun reflected in a poorly-chosen stone
Can it really be that an art school has been built without some green?

Keep your head up though; the SRC pays visits to the Dean
To express what we’re all thinking on the current state of things
Here we stand with you in wanting an environment that sings
Ecology, not economy, and a garden bed for starters
Clearly the message is: we need some green, and bugger all the charters
On the issue of no water, this we raise as just bizarre;
University, we’re asking for you now to raise the bar
Remembering it’s all quite new and problems will arise;
To iron out the glaring ones would be a nice surprise
Yet here we are, and doing work, but needing campus maps;
Around you here at COFA you’ll find many helpful chaps
Rejoice in that the space is being worked on as I type;
Deduce from this that we prefer to act instead of gripe.

Your Enviro Officer,
Helen Wardle
The COFA Grants Committee is made up of 4 COFA students who are responsible for our grants and residency programs. 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.

arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa for forms or come into the Arc@COFA office E105, Level 1, E Block COFA