EDITORIAL

Arc@COFA is all about supporting student life and this issue of COFAtopia is packed full of hot stuff to show it.

Our cover image of ceramics from Claire Johnson comes ahead of upcoming exhibition ‘Slow Burn’ at Kudos Gallery. One of the exhibition’s curators, final year BFA student Kristian Fuhrer give us an insight into the background of this exciting show and a preview of what’s in store.

‘Slow Burn’ opens as part of Artsweek in week 5, an annual festival across UNSW celebrating the diversity of the arts on both Paddington and Kensington campus. We catch up with one of this year’s Artsweek Coordinators, 3rd year double degree Arts/Fine Arts student Cat Knight about what’s in store. Artsweek is chock full of exhibitions, talks, film screenings, workshops, dancing, theatre, poetry, performances and more! We’ve included a preview of the full program on pages 6-7pm.

In this issue we have a chat to one of our Kudos Gallery Committee members in this issue. Honours candidate, Hannah Carroll Harris talks about her practice, her involvement in recent Cypher gallery launch at Monster Mouse Studios and what it’s like being part of the Kudos Committee.

UNSW Queer Collective are hosting a Queer Week across both campuses in week 6. We chat to Cassie Cooties about exhibition Permutations at kudos gallery that week, and what else they have planned for the week.

Lastly, we talk to the President of Create UNSW who currently have a residency in the Makerspace on the COFA Courtyard. Create is an Arc affiliated club of students from several faculties, including COFA. They’re running workshops every Friday afternoon teaching each other things, building equipment, machines, and flying objects. It’s so great!

We have 2 grant program deadlines coming up in the next few weeks. The first one, Arc@COFA Art & design Grants (ADG) up to $500 for an extracurricular project, could be an exhibition, transport, materials, framing, or anything creative that is not part of a course you’re doing at COFA. The deadline is Friday week 4 (22 Aug) application form here orgsync.com/80377/forms/99022. The next grant deadline is for Group Work. Available only once a year(!) Group Work is $1,000 for 4 or more students who have a great idea for an ongoing activity or project – eg a magazine, radio station, new gallery or studios, performance night, a festival, etc. The deadline is Monday week 7 (8 Sept) and the application form is here orgsync.com/80377/forms/112186.

Lastly we have 2 new murals going up in the next few weeks. Congrats to our first female artist to be awarded the COFA Mural Project; Bronwen Williams!! supported by Eckersley’s Art & Craft and congrats to general legend Jason Phu, supported by The Art Scene on campus. Check ‘em out on campus.

Arc @ COFA
Artsweek is a week-long art explosion around the UNSW COFA and Kensington campuses during Week 5 of Semester 2 each year. Encompassing everything from street art, live music, comedy and theatre through to the humble yet noble art of arrowroot biscuit decoration, Artsweek has something for everyone!

THIS YEAR Artsweek has been co-curated by 3rd year Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts student Catherine Knight! We caught up with Catherine to hear about what Artsweek has in store for UNSW’s art capital... COFA!

Why is Artsweek an important event within the UNSW Art & Design calendar?

I think what makes Artsweek really fun and unique is the way it can connect Kensington and COFA students. It provides a great opportunity for cross-pollination of creativity, with events this year such as the “Meet Your Creative Match” social at UNSW encouraging, with its speed dating format, the building of artistic partnerships across all mediums.

This year is especially exciting as we are hosting the National Cross Campus Art Prize with an exhibition being held in the Roundhouse featuring some amazing COFA student’s work!

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Can you tell us a little bit about the theme of this year’s Artsweek: ‘Mix it up’?

The theme this year, ‘Mix it up’ promotes accessibility, new experiences and expanding what it means to be creative. It is all about trying your hand at something that might be outside of your expertise or area of study.

This means both celebrating the skill of student’s already making fantastic art while also reaching out to people who maybe haven’t had the opportunity to have a go at something artsy. Our focus is to celebrate excellence of students in creative fields while also creating a light hearted and judgment-free space for anyone to get involved.

Artsweek 2014 wants you to mix up your usual uni week by checking out a panel talk, learning a fun new skill at a workshop, trying out improv dance, seeing a performance, making something in the craft tent, the list goes on!

How did design play a role in the conception of this theme?

The design for Artsweek plays with positive and negative space, subverting student’s expectations, which is a goal for the wider program. It is sharp and bold with loud splashes of colour, which reflects the hit of dynamic energy we are hoping to inject into campus life during Artsweek.

Tell us about your ‘women in the arts’ event at Kensington.

Our women in the arts event, taking place on Thursday 28 August between 6-8pm at Kensington, is a panel to discuss the experiences, both rewarding and challenging, of female professionals from a host of creative industries. The event will celebrate female success in the arts, reflecting on the unique perspective women in such fields have and how this can inform their practice. Key speakers include artist, activist and academic Emma Price (The Kingpins) and Arts and Culture EP for FBi radio Kate Britton.

What can we expect for Artsweek on the Paddington campus- any highlights?

Lily Chan is the awesome head volunteer for Artsweek at COFA and together we have planned a week aimed at spotlighting the fantastic homegrown talent that this campus is crawling with!

Lily will running a zine making workshop on Monday 2pm in the Courtyard where students can individually or collaborative produce their own bite sized works of art and writing.

On Tuesday evening “Slow Burn” opens at Kudos Gallery.

The COFA Environment Collective led by Alexandra Mitchell will be hosting a gardening workshop on Wednesday at 1pm for students keen to get their hands dirty and learn the art of the green thumb!

On Thursday night students can settle in with popcorn and blankets to our courtyard outdoor cinema for the beautiful documentary Ai Wei Wei: Never Sorry.

Our Performance Art Night and Party on Friday evening will be our premier Artsweek @COFA event where the courtyard will once more transform into a hive of good tunes, video and live art! The night will include performance by our very own Dominique Cahill, Kel Henderson and Amy Mills. Videos by Anthony McMenamin, Celina Jane Irwin, Kel Henderson, Kate Darmody, Alexandra Mitchell and Susi Langdon will light up the courtyard walls. Students can party on to the sweet sounds by DJ Syntax Error and phenomenal noise performances by KIT.

Sounds amazing! See over page for the full program!
MORNING SNACK!

MON 25 AUGUST

UNSW Paddington
10am EG02
HOT TIPS: Manager of GALLERY 9, William Strickland talks about securing commercial gallery representation, the artists/dealer relationship & your rights and responsibilities.

2pm courtyard
Zine Making Workshop

UNSW Kensington
1-2pm Quad
D2MG Hip Hop Society Performance followed by live music

4pm Quad 1001
Life Drawing

5pm Club Bar
Meet Your Creative Match* will bring together students from all creative fields and areas of study in the hopes of creating artistic partners for cross disciplinary collaboration. Run on a speed dating style format you will have 5 mins to get to know each other’s practice and share ideas over drinks.

7pm Roundhouse
Artsweek Launch and National Cross Campus Art Prize Exhibition Opening

From 7pm until late the Roundhouse will host the exhibition opening for the National Cross Campus Art Prize. Awards will be presented to the winners selected by our judges contemporary photographer Kelly-Ann Denton, academic and artist Izabela Puita, MOP project directors George and Ron Adams, ERFA Director Allan Giddy, and Exhibitions Manager of the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation Michael Moran.

The launch will also feature performances by Hot Potato Band and Spoonly, live art by COFA students Dominique Cahill, Karina Tengar, Danielle Johansen and Amy Summer and amazing video projections by Campbell Henderson and Celina Jayne Irwin.

TUES 26 AUGUST

UNSW Paddington
12pm courtyard
Free lunch + COFA Sounds

4:45pm student lounge
Framework Launch
Arc@COFA online arts journal the collaboration issue

5-7pm Kudos Gallery
“Slow Burn” ceramic exhibition opening at Kudos Gallery

6pm EG02
Dr Rogers on The Disaster Effect
Installation-based performance artist-engineer who works between the fields of geophysics, cultural theory, intervention, resilience, engineering and social commentary.

UNSW Kensington
10 – 4pm Flea Markets with Mix Tape Swap

1pm Roundhouse Beer Garden
Pictionary Tournament

2pm Drawing Room
Special Effects Make Up Workshop

4pm Club Bar
Art of Cocktails Wkshop

6pm Club Bar
Queer Screen and Artsweek Present: ‘Queer People in the Arts’ panel discussion featuring key queer professionals in the arts such as author Benjamin Law, performance poet Candy Royalle, photographer and contemporary artist Liam Benson, audio artist and performer Simon Hunt aka Pauline Pantsdown, Mish Pony the organizer of the Bitch Please zine distro and videographer Shandy Whitaker who will reflect on industry experiences and how their identities have informed their respective creative practices.

7pm Drawing Room – No Lights No Lyrcra – NLNL is a space where you can completely let go, shake out the stresses of the week, and lose yourself in the music and the physicality of your body. NLNL is a daggy, non-pretentious place to have any special requirements.

7:30pm Roundhouse Beer Garden
Poetry Night presented by Artsweek & UNSWeetened

WED 27 AUGUST

UNSW Paddington
12pm courtyard
Free lunch + COFA Sounds

4:45pm student lounge
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5-7pm Kudos Gallery
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6pm EG02
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UNSW Kensington
11am Quad, Tea Soc Tea Party

1pm Quad, Live Music

5:30-7pm Roundhouse Beer Garden
Literary and Art Trivia w/ Happy Hour

5pm Club Bar
Presented by Artsweek and the UNSW Women’s Collective The Annual Women’s Collective Zine Launch will celebrate the collaborative efforts of the collective in putting together this fantastic hit of poetry, prose, collage and illustrations. The event will show case these talented students who will perform some readings of their work. This is an autonomous event for female-identifying students.

6-8pm – Artsweek at Nurj Gili with Stiff Gins, Lucy Simpson, Dennis Gundling, Royalle, photographer and contemporary artist Anthony McMenamin, Celina Jane Irwin, Kel Henderson and Amy Mills (pictured). Videos by DJ Syntax Error and phenomenal noise performances of good tunes, video and live art! The night will include performance by Dominique Cahill, Kate Britton plus more TBA.

7pm Roundhouse – Comedy Club – All round funny guy ARJ BARKER is gracing our stage as a part of ARTSWEEK!

With two Letterman appearances under his belt, to being Bret and Jemaine’s bestie Dave (in Flight of the Conchords), Arj Barker has been killing it on the international circuit for years. Straight from the US (but really Byron), he’ll be whipping out some of his greatest stuff in a showcase collection of his comedic gold.

FRI 29 AUGUST

UNSW Paddington
6pm courtyard
Performance Art Night

The courtyard will once more transform into a hive of good tunes, video and live art! The night will include performance by Dominique Cahill, Kel Henderson and Amy Mills (pictured). Videos by Anthony McMenamin, Celina Jane Irwin, Kel Henderson, Kate Darmody, Alexandra Mitchell and Susi Langdon will light up the courtyard walls. Students can party on to the sweet sounds by DJ Syntax Error and phenomenal noise performances by KIT.

UNSW Kensington
1pm Quad, Live Music

3pm Drawing Room, Animation Workshop

THURS 28 AUGUST

UNSW Paddington
4pm Kudos Gallery Artists Talks

Check out Jason Phu and Bronwen Williams painting new murals on campus this week.

1pm courtyard, Gardening Workshop

5:30pm, COFA Gallery Crawl

UNSW Kensington
1pm Quad
Live Music & Hula Hooping Competition

2pm Drawing Room
Candle Making Workshop

4pm The Place
Launch of ‘UNSWeeeten’, our own Literary Journal, publishing the profound and piercing works of some the best reative minds at UNSW.

6-8pm Club Bar
Women in the Arts Talk with artist, activist and academic Emma Price (The Kingpins) and Arts and Culture EP for FBI radio Kate Britton plus more TBA.

7pm Roundhouse – Comedy Club – All round funny guy ARJ BARKER is gracing our stage as a part of ARTSWEEK!

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7-9pm Club Bar
Arts with Disability Discussion and Performance Night

MC’d by musician and UNSW Disability officer Alexandra Little this talk will reflect upon the experiences of students with disabilities who are pursuing creative careers. Showcasing the music talent of UNSW performers this will be an evening of food, drink and sweet tunes.

Please contact us at artsweek@arc.unsw.edu.au if you have any special requirements.

6pm courtyard
Film screening Ai Wei Wei: Never Sorry

UNSW Kensington
1pm Quad

The current issue of Art and Australia showcases a ceramic work by Brendan Huntley on the cover and features an article written by Glenn Barkley “Contemporary Ceramics: So Hot Right Now". The Art Newspaper’s coverage of Basel Hong Kong reflected upon the presence of ceramic media in the art fair, stating that ceramics was “perfectly unfashionable to be fashionable again” (like an ugly sweater perhaps). An exhibition ‘Slow Burn’ at Kudos Gallery as part of ArtsWeek 26-30 August will provide a meaningful perspective in this current climate by presenting ceramic practice across Art and Design from current students and alumni.

We caught up with one of the exhibitions curators, final year BFA student Kristian Fuhrer to find out more...

How did you become interested in ceramics?

After a project I did as part of the Sculpture major class, which involved carving plaster, I realised how engaging the process of working with and refining a material could be, and began to look into ceramics as a major instead. Despite knowing very little about the field, I was instantly seduced by the infinite possibilities of surface and form, as well as the incredibly rich and diverse history of the medium. There is something unique and slightly magical about working with clay as a material because there are so many uncertainties in the process, and so even with research and testing the work is still never fully in your control; there’s always some part of it that’s seemingly created by elements outside of yourself.

What does the title of the exhibition ‘Slow Burn’ refer to?

The title of “Slow Burn” was originally suggested by Rod Bamford, a ceramicist and lecturer at UNSW Art & Design who had a large hand in organising the exhibition. Slow Burn is firstly a reference to the firing process of clay, which gives the otherwise fragile raw material it’s strength and durability, as well as changing it’s appearance. Beyond this, the title also reflects the incredibly long history of clay as a medium, and the ever present but often understated effect that the material has on us. If we take something like our regular ceramic coffee mug it is easy to underestimate it’s potency, but this is an object that we might use hundreds of times in our life time, and with each interaction we’re also connecting with the qualities of the ceramic medium. The familiarity of the material can often lead us to overlook the role that it plays. I should mention that Milly Dent’s work “Scattered Gems”, which will be part of the exhibition, really investigates these inherent qualities of the ceramic material.

Tell us a bit about some of the artists involved...

There is such a diverse range of ceramicists in the show! From both art and design, some just starting out and some very established names in the community, and with backgrounds including painting, fashion, and architecture. I think that anyone who visits the exhibition will be surprised by the sheer variety of work being created with clay. With so many different aesthetics involved it will also be a showcase of various technical skills, for instance Kairul Nizan and Peter Dwyer, who are masters of creating forms on the throwing wheel. Other artists in the show include Peter Bentley, Alice Couttoupes (pictured), Kristy Craig, Milly Dent, Lynda Draper, Ion Fukazawa, Angus Gardner, Claire Johnson, Min Lee, Tom Mason, Ramesh Nithiyendran, Jason Phu, Damien Toner, Toni Warburton, and Annie Xu.

Any advice to budding ceramicists?

While I’m by no means a clay guru, my advice would be to enjoy the process of experimenting with the material and seeing what you end up with. For me, this is the fun part. Once you start trying to achieve very specific end results though you have to be willing to spend a lot of time testing, because the material generally has it’s own ideas.

Slow Burn opens 5-7pm Tuesday 26 August at Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier Street Paddington and continues to Saturday 30 August.

image: Alice Couttoupes Untitled #11, Ink on velin cotton rag, 83 x 83 cm (framed), 2014
WHAT’S ON

WEEK 4

Tuesday 19 August
2pm Yoga, F Block, Level 3 Balcony, F Block, $4, some mats provided.

5-7pm ‘Borrowed Time’
Tim Bruniges
opens at Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St Paddington

6-8pm: Bob Brown on Optimism - COFA Public Lecture EG02

Wednesday 20 August
1030am: Smoothie Social with the COFA council, COFA courtyard
12noon: COFA Sounds with KIT followed by open mic interaction with Tim Bruniges' installation 'Mirrors'
12noon RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME. launch, Nura Gill
2pm meet COFA Courtyard for National Day of Action at UTS at 230pm
530pm: Arc@COFA Gallery Crawl meet in COFA Courtyard

Thursday 21 August
2pm Yoga, F Block, Level 3 Balcony, $4
5pm: Arc @ UNSW EGM, Roundhouse
6pm: PGC Event: The Dangers of Budget Cuts, The Roundhouse, UNSW

Friday 22 August
1030am: Free toast Fridays w/ COFA Council
11am-1pm: Brightside
3pm: Hackerspace - CREATE club workshops, courtyard

5pm deadline for Arc@COFA Art & Design Grants - up to $500 for your extracurricular project
6-9pm: COFA Life Drawing

WEEK 5

ARTSWEEK
see pages 6-7 for full program

Tuesday 26 August
2pm: Yoga, F Block, Level 3 Balcony, $4
12noon Arc@COFA free lunch + COFA Sounds
4.45pm Framework launch
The Collaboration issue co-edited by Maria White & Louise Mayhew feat articles by Louise Mayhew, Rebecca Gallo, Kieran Bryant, Alicia Dulinan-Demou, Georgia De Biasi, Harriet Field, Harrison Witse on Louise Zhang, Birns + Valamanesh, Brown Council, soda_jerk, Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro and more
Arc student lounge
5-7pm “Slow Burn”
Peter Bentley, Alice Couttoupes, Kristy Craig, Milly Dent, Lynda Draper, Peter Dwyer, Ion Fukazawa, Angus Gardner, Claire Johnson, Min Lee, Tom Mason, Ramesh Nithiyendran, Kairul Nizan, Jason Phu, Damien Toner, Toni Warburton, Annie Xu
opens at Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St Paddington
6-8pm: Dv Rogers on The Disaster Effect
COFA Public Lecture EG02

Wednesday 27 August
1030am Smoothie Social with the COFA council
COFA courtyard
12noon COFA Sounds
530pm Arc@COFA Gallery Crawl

Thursday 29 August
1030am: Free toast Fridays w/ COFA Council
4pm Artists Talks, Slow Burn Kudos Gallery

Friday 28 August
1030am Free toast Fridays, courtyard
3pm: Hackerspace - CREATE club workshops, courtyard

WEEK 6

Queer Week

Tuesday 2 September
2pm Yoga

5-7pm Permutations opens at Kudos Gallery

6-8pm: Curating West of Centre, Public Lecture EG02

Wednesday 3 September
10am Smoothie Social with the COFA council
COFA courtyard
12noon COFA Sounds
530pm Arc@COFA Gallery Crawl

Thursday 4 September
4pm Artists Talks
Kudos Gallery

Friday 5 September
1030am: Free toast Fridays w/ COFA Council

3pm: Hackerspace - CREATE club workshops, courtyard

LAUNCH:
4.45pm Tuesday 26 August
Arc @ COFA Student Lounge

#7 | the collaboration issue

Arc @ COFAs online arts journal
arc.unsw.edu.au/cofaframework


Arc @ COFA’s online arts journal
arc.unsw.edu.au/cofaframework

LAUNCH:
4.45pm Tuesday 26 August
Arc @ COFA Student Lounge
Hannah Carroll Harris is a BFA Honours student. She is a student rep on this year’s Kudos Committee and just generally involved in student life here and the Sydney arts community in general. We had a chat to Hannah about her work, her involvement in recent launch of COFA student initiative Cypher gallery at Monster Mouse Studios, and other projects she’s involved in.

What is the basis of your Honours project / research here?

My research has been focused on exploring issues surrounding how we fit in with, perceive or classify notions of the natural, nature and the environment during this time of great environmental change. My interest has predominantly stemmed from personal feelings of eco-anxiety but I think at the heart of what I’m interested in are universal issues. I think most people acknowledge that the world’s undergoing some pretty scary changes and I’m interested in how that’s affecting the way we view our place in it.

You were recently part of the launch exhibition of Cypher, a new artist run gallery some COFA students have set up in Marrickville. Everyone has been saying that the space and the show was amazing. What went down?

The opening night was really exciting, it didn’t feel like a regular white-cube gallery exhibition opening. There was a really diverse range of people there who were all obviously really excited to see the new space in action. I think some of the main highlights were discovering the beautiful water scape of someone swimming, a video that was projected across onto the adjacent building and the second highlight was tracking peoples reactions to the super-enthusiastic performance by student collective Clare Powell and Mark Mailler who spent the evening being overly-encouraging to the audience, clapping them and giving them compliments.

What was the work you included in the exhibition?

‘Terra Luna’ is a nature/plaster hybrid, a conglomeration of a whole range of natural materials that I collect day-to-day that are intricately arranged on a plaster geode-like form. The aim of this work and the others in the ‘Terra Incognita’ series is to play on your comprehension of what’s natural or unnatural, alien or of this world. Terra incognita is a Latin used to signify unchartered territory, and I have adapted this to suggest that we are currently facing unchartered territory in terms of where we’re at environmentally- we’re currently facing the ecological unknown.

What was exciting for you about being part of this show?

Probably the most exciting thing was seeing a really different multi-purpose shared space that was being used for not just art but music and other events too. Everyone seemed really eager to see how the space was going to be transformed by the works and finally see everything in action. I think it’s really important to have spaces like this that really foster creativity and experimentation outside the confines of a normal gallery. I used the opportunity of exhibiting their to experiment with how I would usually use a gallery space and it’s led to something really exciting for my own practice.

You’re currently a student rep on the Kudos Committee, what’s that like?

Joining the Kudos Committee has been really great. I was initially interested in meeting more people and getting more involved in student-run initiatives but I think the most valuable aspect of being on the committee has been all the skills I’ve learned that are invaluable to an emerging artist.

What are your aspirations post your degree?

I think next year I’m really just looking forward to doing some residencies and other projects where I’ll get to meet-like minded people and get further involved in initiatives that help inspire people to rethink how they approach the way they see our ecology.

And more immediately? What is the next big project for you?

I’m excited to take my work to a larger scale and create more site-specific pieces. I’ll be exhibiting at Beams Festival in Chippendale in September where I’ll be transforming a tree with an alien form made of silver palm inflorescence that will seemingly grow from one of the forks in the branches. I’m hoping to mess with that moment of comprehension, you’ll be walking down the street and see something that could almost be natural, but isn’t quite right.

There’ll be a call-out for expressions of interest to be part of the 2015 Kudos Committee or COFA Grants Committee later this year. Stay tuned.

If you have a great idea for a new space, or big group project, apply for an Arc Group Work Grant (see back cover)
Permutations is an exhibition put together by the UNSW Queer Collective to coincide with the university’s Queer Week. The show is on at Kudos Gallery in week 6 and is pitched as a contemporary family portrait. The gallery will visually reflect the LGBTIQA community at UNSW, where our most common similarity is difference. Through artworks of self-expression that focus on the personal, the exhibition becomes a wider conversation about identity, society, community, gender, love, sex, strength, transformation, survival, loss and learning from a variety of perspectives. These perspectives are expressed through a variety of media, from painting and drawing, to photography, video, installation and performance.

Cassie Cooties is a B Fine Arts/Arts majoring in Time-Based Art and Theatre and Performance Studies. As a representative from the Queer Collective, and exhibition co-curator we caught up with Cassie to talk about the show.

How long have you been involved in the Queer Collective?

I have been involved in the Queer Collective since Queer Week 2011, and then I became really active in organizing for Queer Week 2012 as an attempt to bring a greater Queer Collective presence to COFA. Last year I was Queer Officer at COFA and this year I moved over to the position at UNSW.

What does Queer Week have in store for us? What are the highlights?

This year’s Queer Week will be a blast. We have a few things happening at COFA including the Permutations exhibition at Kudos Gallery opening 5-7pm Tuesday 2 September, and a related Artists Talk on the Thursday at 4pm. There will be a movie night in the courtyard on Wednesday night, and a screen-printing workshop during the week. We also have a whole slew of great events happening over at UNSW campus like a Visibility BBQ including a Drag Race, Coming Out by Candlelight, a “Fuck the Gender Binary” clothes swap, and of course, a big Queer Week party. We will also have a range of workshops that are either skill sharing based, or peer education based. Some fun workshops we have are a make-up 101, zine-making, asexuality awareness, the “trans enough” issue, queer identities, equality in the workplace, activism, consent and sex education, (plus more we are still organizing.) While most of our events are open to people of all identities, some of our events are autonomous, these are all marked on our timetable. Autonomous events are important both to protect the safety people who may not openly identify with a group or term publicly or to certain people and to allow people the freedom to express themselves with people who may have similar experiences, so we ask that people respect the autonomy of marked events. We will also be launching the awesome Queer Week zine that features the brilliant work of UNSW queer students.

What themes will be explored as part of ‘Permutations’? Who’s work will be exhibited?

The Queer Collective organized Permutations as an exhibition where LGBTIQA artists could safely express whatever they wanted to in a supportive environment, as we recognized that this is not an opportunity offered up often enough. We wanted to reflect the wide range of experiences that are included in our acronym, so it’s an exhibition of great variety in both subject and medium. The exhibition will explore themes of identity, society, community, gender, love, sex, strength, transformation, and survival from queer perspectives. All artists exhibiting are students from UNSW who identify somewhere within the queer spectrum.

What is the Queer Collective, and how can students get involved?

The Queer Collective is a social group, a support network, an advocacy group, and possibly more. We hold meetings twice a week (Mon and Thurs 4-6) at the Kensington campus. Our meetings are held in the Queer Lounge which is a safe space for LGBTIQA students to access 24/7 to chill out, study, sleep or relax with free tea, drinks and snacks, access our queer library, and really just be feel at home at UNSW. We also hold different events, workshops and parties throughout the year to both bring LGBTIQA people together and make UNSW a more safe, supportive and fun place for LGBTIQA people to be. The Queer Officers (Cassie and Dylan) sit on the SRC, which is a part of Arc, and advocate for equality for queer students on campus. For example right now we are working on creating university funded queer scholarships and providing gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.

To find out more information about Queer Week and the Queer Collective you can visit our website at unw queer.org.au or email Cassie and Dylan at queer@arc.unsw.edu.au.

Image: Edison Chen
Nathan Adler is the President of Arc affiliated club CREATE UNSW who are currently doing a project on the space on the courtyard, now referred to as Makerspace. We caught up with Nathan to find out more about what the society gets up to, and to talk about MAKING THINGS.

What is CREATE?
CREATE is a student-led multi-disciplinary society at UNSW that is all about “making things”. Our main aims are to allow students to broaden their knowledge and skills in engineering and design, and foster an environment in which collaboration on ideas and project development thrive. CREATE’s core activities include a variety of workshops on subjects such as Arduino micro-controllers and computer-aided design (CAD), as well as “hackerspace” events and long-term club projects such as our unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) teams. We provide our own 3D printing service, consult on a range of design projects from all schools and faculties, and we also run our own shop and weekly stall in which we stock a variety of useful electrical and robotic components and tools.

How did you become involved?
The idea for the club was conceived in 2012 by Sam Cassisi who got together a small group of engineering students, including myself, to find it at the end of that year. We were (and are still) both studying mechatronics at the time, he was in 2nd year and I was in my 3rd. We saw the need for a club which taught students the practical skills that are necessary for us to put our ambitions into practice and make things work, that work, when often what we are studying is only a small subset of the knowledge that is required. Our first activity was the weekly Arduino microcontroller workshop in semester 1 of that year which I facilitated. We had over 70 students turn up to our first workshop, and I think that’s what got us hooked into developing the club - starting the shop, getting a 3D printer, building quadcopters, and designing all the other workshops and projects that we would be involved in. We were honoured to win Arc Club of the Year for 2013.

What has been your favourite project/workshop with CREATE?
Without a doubt my favourite CREATE project so far has been the quadcopter project. With almost no knowledge or experience we started researching how to build unmanned aerial vehicles - the hardware, electronics and software required - and within a couple of months had a platform that we had built from the ground up flying autonomously. This included doing all the mechanical design so that most of the chassis was designed in CAD and 3D printed by us with the printer we had acquired recently. It is amazing to me how something that seemed to be so complicated and out of reach of anyone who didn’t have a PhD in the subject could actually be quite achievable with only a modest amount of time and effort. Having become pseudo-experts in a couple of months we then designed and sourced our own custom quadcopter kits for our members to purchase and build, stepping them through the process of constructing their own UAV. Today there are about 60 UNSW students with one of our quadcopters. More recently, we have put cameras with camera stabilizers on our aerial vehicles and used them to shoot footage around UNSW. A highlight has been filming the testing of the Sunswift solar car. We also got to present in June this year our quadcopter UAV concept at Vivid Ideas in the Museum of Modern Art, which was very exciting for us.

What does CREATE get up to on the UNSW Paddington campus and how can Art & Design students get involved?
Our newly-fitted-out workshop space on the main courtyard is CREATE’s primary “hackerspace”. We’ve only moved in recently, but COFA is quickly turning into CREATE’s home for work on our major projects that we have planned for the next few months. Every Friday from 3pm-6pm for the rest of semester we will be in the room helping out students with projects, running Arduino workshops, and our new UAV and UGV teams will be operating out of the space. All our events are free to join in and no notice of attendance is required, so if you want to get involved or have any questions, come down to the main courtyard on Friday afternoons. Information for all our events can be found on our facegroups/createunsw and our website createunsw.com.au.
MONEY FOR YOUR CREATIVE PROJECTS

no matter how big or small. every little bit counts
art and design grants up to $500

DEADLINES IN S2 2014:
Friday 22 August (Week 4)
Friday 26 September (Week 9)
Friday 31 October (Week 13)

Arc @ COFA Arts & Design Grants (ADG)
info + appln form at orgsync.com/80377/forms/99022

BORROWED TIME
Tim Bruniges
Borrowed Time presents four installation works engaging sound, object and light to investigate perception, the fallibility of memory and our relationship with time.

Exhibition continues in the Black Box (D106) and courtyard, UNSW Paddington campus.

Opening Reception
Exhibition Dates
5-7pm Tuesday 19 August 2014
12-23 August 2014

SLOW BURN
Peter Bentley, Alice Couttouges, Milly Dent, Lynda Draper, Ion Fukazawa, Angus Gardner, Claire Johnson, Min Lee, Tom Mason, Ramesh Nithiyendran, Khairul Nizan, Damien Toner, Toni Warburton, and Annie Xu.
A diverse showcase of ceramics by UNSW Art & Design students both past and present.

Opens 5 - 7pm Tuesday 26 August 2014
Closes 30 August 2014

PERMUTATIONS
Curated by UNSW Queer Collective
Permutations is a family portrait. LGBTIQA artists from across UNSW create personal works that form a conversation about community, identity, gender, love, and learning.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 2 September 2014
Closes Saturday 6 September 2014

Kudos Gallery is run by UNSW Art & Design students and funded by Arc @ UNSW Ltd
GROUP WORK GRANT

Got a great idea for an ongoing group project? We want to give you $1,000 to get started!! Could be a radio station, a magazine, a festival, a new artist run space, a performance collective, or something else. Deadline Mon 8 Sept (week 7)

orgsync.com/80377/forms/112186