

REPORT TO COMMUNITY, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Artists Selected for the 2011 Waverley Artist In Residence Program (A07/1554-09)

Report dated 20 October 2010 from the Director, Recreation, Customer and Community Services about the selection of artists for the 2011 Waverley Artist-in-Residence Program at the Bondi-Waverley School of Arts Building.

Recommendation: That Council:

1. Endorse artists Sue Saxon, Emma Anna, Kate Mitchell, TV Moore, Joanne Mulcahy-Zubani and Todd Fuller for a place in the 2011 Artist-in-Residence Program .
 2. Endorse artists Lara Merrett, Mills and Morte, Rafaela Pandolfini and Mark Rowden to be placed on an eligibility list for the 2011 Artist-in-Residence Program.
 3. Delegate the Director RCCS to finalise community benefit outcomes within the license agreements.
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Purpose of Report

This report is to provide information on the Public Art Committee's recommendations for the 2011 Artist-in-Residence Program at the Bondi-Waverley School of Arts Building.

Background / Introduction

Introduction

On 17 March 2009, Council formally endorsed a new Artist-in-Residence Program to be based in the former Caretaker's Studio in the Bondi-Waverley School of Arts building on Bondi Road, Bondi.

2010 Residency

Until the end of this year, the artists-in-residence (Maz Dixon, Fiona Lowry and Todd McMillan) will continue to use the studios. The current artists have been on a twelve month contract with Council and have had their respective residencies further extended for two months to align the program with the calendar year from January 2011. Each of the artists has worked towards the development of their community benefit projects during the course of the past twelve months

Marissa Purcell is the first of the 2010 Residents to fulfil the requirements of a community benefit in the culmination of her residency. In March 2010 Purcell donated a painting to the Waverley Collection as outlined in the agreed Community Benefit section of her contract. Further to the donation of a painting she curated two self funded exhibitions of local painters for the Bondi Pavilion Gallery in October 2010.

Todd McMillan is booked to launch the first of his proposed video screening programs in March 2011 followed by 2 further screenings later in the year while Fiona Lowry will curate the exhibition she committed to in her application to open on Thursday 27 October 2011. Maz Dixon has worked steadily on the creation of postcard paintings exploring the local area which are due to be distributed across Waverley through local businesses in conjunction with the scheduled artistic program for the July 2011 Bondi Winter Magic Festival.

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2011 Residency

During 2011 it is planned for the Waverley Artist-in-Residence Program to offer two rounds of three rent-free workspaces for a period of six months. In return for the space resident artists will enter into an agreement with Council that binds them to provide a community benefit art project. The residency program will host six artists over a twelve month period including three artists from January to June 2011, and three from July to December 2011.

The Program was widely advertised between July and September 2011 and 21 applications were received from interested artists.

The standard of applications was varied and ranged from high end contemporary art practitioners to folksy level craft makers. Most applicants worked in painting (9), followed by cross media practices (3), print media (2), new media (1), public art (1), installation (1), contemporary folk craft (1), photography (1), animation (1) and performance (1).

There was, once again, a strong trend in artists wanting to explore themes of the environment, history and famous historical persons of the Waverley area as the proposed subject matter.

As with the previous year's applications, most applicants expressed the desire to have the residency as they couldn't afford a studio and wanted to work in an environment with other artists to lessen the isolation while working. Some artists wanted the residency to work towards confirmed local and international exhibitions to develop a new body of work and enter a new phase of their practice. Others wished to work specifically with the history, cultural diversity and environment of the Waverley area to develop work in direct response to the geographical and historical location of the studios and community in the area.

A working group made up of two Public Art Committee members and an independent ranked the artists across the adopted criteria which included artistic merit, value of residency, professional development and contribution to Waverley and presented these rankings to the Public Art Committee.

Recommended artists

On 20 October 2010, the Public Art Committee formally recommended six visual artists for the Artist-in-Residence Program: Sue Saxon, Emma Anna, Kate Mitchell, T V Moore, Joanne Mulcahy-Zubani and Todd Fuller.

Three of the six are residents of the Waverley area, and three are from neighbouring LGA's. Of the six, three represented work with cross media practices with the remainder including one in public art, one in animation, and one in etching and print media.

Of the six applicants ranked highest, five are distinguished by their specific interest in working directly with the community, environment and everyday culture of the Waverley district. Each of the five presented a strong connection between the development and direction of their work in response to the surrounding's of Waverley in their applications, and would directly gain more from having a studio in the area. The calibre of the remaining recommended applicant is at the highest end in the Australian and international contemporary art sphere and supporting this artist within the residency would reflect Council's commitment to excellence in the visual arts on an international level.

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Results Table

Artist/s	Medium	Timeframe	Local Status
Sue Saxon	Installation/painting	July - December	yes
Emma Anna	Public art	January - June	no
Kate Mitchell	Cross media/performance	January - June	yes
T V Moore	Cross media	January - June	no
Joanne Mulcahy-Zubani	Etching and printmaking	July - December	yes
Todd Fuller	animation	July - December	no

Sue Saxon

Sue Saxon is moving in to her twentieth year as a painter and installation artist. Her work explores the manner and reason for the creation and deployment of stereotypes and draws on popular cultures, philosophical texts and the symbolic and sensual qualities of materials such as paprika, salt, flour, tears and eggshells.

Saxon is the recipient of Samstag International Fellowship award, Cite Internationale Des Arts Residency from the Australia Council of the Arts, numerous NAVA artist marketing grants, VACS artist project grants, and a Postgraduate Award Scholarship at Sydney University. She holds a BA in Art Education '83, Graduate Diploma in Professional Studies COFA '92, Masters of Art Study, Painting and Drawing Major, New York University '96, and a Masters of Visual Arts by Research, Painting Major, SCA, Sydney University '09.

For her community benefit she will run workshops in the medium of egg shelling and will use the residency to develop a body of work in direct response to the diverse community of the Waverley area for exhibition in Waverley in early 2012.

Emma Anna

Emma Anna works specifically in public art with emphasis on text, communication and the idea of 'the Mass' As a Consultant to local Councils in the area of public art and as a practitioner working in the realm she makes use of the tools of language, universal symbolism and everyday technologies to help define place and community. Emma Anna holds a degree in Mass Communications from UTS, Sydney and a Diploma of Graphic Design from Enmore Design Centre. In late 2009 she was awarded a Masters of Art (Arts in Public Space), with distinction from RMIT.

For her community benefit she will create a new temporary public art installation with a specific resonance to the Waverley community.

Kate Mitchell

Kate Mitchell's practice spans performance, photography, video, sculptural elements and drawing. Through performances, which usually culminate in impermanent objects or in documentation, she attempts to communicate life's great mysteries through her own physical

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failings. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (1st Class Honours) SCA 2005, MFA SCA 2008, and is the Founder of Greedy Hen 2005-2010.

For the Community benefit of her residency she will present a series of temporary ephemeral installations around Waverley. During the course of her six month residency she will realize three subtle public works. The performances will be public and their aim is to make people aware of how they spend their time and to realize that time is precious and that 'now' is the time.

T V Moore

T V Moore is one of Australia's most internationally recognizable contemporary artists. His work has been seen in museums and galleries across the globe. His practice explores the space between the real and the unreal, the documented and the directed. He uses varied materials and means to execute his ideas from painting, collage, silkscreen, video, film and performance. He holds a BVA from Sydney University 1999, MFA Cal Arts LA 2006, a Samstag Scholarship, a Don Lucas Art Fellowship USA and won the Art GalleryNSW Anne Landa Award 2009. T V Moore's works are held in the collections of AGNSW, MCA, Artcorp, Goldman Sachs and Private Collections across Australia, the USA and Europe. Moore will be using the residency to produce new work for upcoming exhibitions at Baer Ridgeway in San Francisco (October 2011) and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery in Sydney (December 2011).

Community benefit is indirect in the sense that Council can benefit from association with an artist of this calibre. The license agreement would require inclusion of Council's logo on promotional material related to work produced in the residency. It is suggested that the license agreement should also require an exhibition in the Waverley area in early 2012.

Joanne Mulcahy-Zubani

Using the panels of metal from discarded white goods, Joanne Mulcahy-Zubani makes idiosyncratic etchings exploring the themes of domesticity and everyday life in her art work. Her themes are a direct response to her home life and community based experiences as a resident of Bondi for the past twenty years.

She has an extensive community oriented creative practice including working as a lecturer in Mosaics at East Sydney College, a background in performance art (erotic poetry, dancing) regular gigs at the Hopetoun Hotel and involvement in the development of the Bondi Beach public school mosaic. She will use the residency to build a body of work for an exhibition in early 2012 at the Pavilion gallery. In addition she will run workshops on etching techniques/mosaic or sculpture to target groups identified by Council possibly in partnership with Environmental Services.

Todd Fuller

Hand drawn films drive Todd Fullers practice. Widely accessible through themes of love, loss, masculinity, and the absurdity of the human condition, the 'everyman' his films depict is universally recognizable and applicable to us all.

He holds a BFA (Hons) NAS 2010 and is a feature animator for Converse Shoes. He teaches at the State Library of NSW and in 2010 has had exhibitions at Exhibitions at Brenda May Gallery, Mills Gallery, Monstrosity Gallery, Pine St, and Gosford Regional Gallery. For his community benefit Fuller has proposed a series of animation workshops to be run out of the facilities in the School of Arts, Bondi Pavilion or Waverley Library. He will teach basic stop motion animation techniques and skills relating to digital software use and editing and recommends an age bracket of 10 -13 year olds.

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He has also proposed an animation screening “extravaganza” night in the amphitheatre at Bondi Pavilion. In the screening he will debut the work he has made over the course of the residency, and follow this with a curated program of Australian emerging animators and artists working with animation techniques in film.

Finalisation of licenses for the 6 artists is subject to satisfactory negotiations with Council officers regarding community benefit.

In addition to these 6 artists, the Public Art Committee has recommended the following artists be placed on an eligibility list as a contingency to a withdrawal of one or more of the selected artists or in the circumstance where agreement regarding the community benefit cannot be reached:

Artists/s	Medium	Timeframe	Local Status
Lara Merrett	Painting	As available	yes
Mills and Morte	Installation	As available	no
Rafaela Pandolfini	Photography	As available	no
Mark Rowden	Print Media	As available	no

Analysis

- **Financial** – Artists interested in the residency are expected to fund their own work and other costs arising. Council is only committed to providing free access to the studio for a period of time, subject to agreement.

Artists are responsible for any preparation required to commence the residency and all materials and supplies they will require throughout the residency.

It will be the responsibility of the resident artist to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and secure their own travel, medical and other appropriate insurance. The agreement formalising the residency will outline the obligations and expectations of both the artist and the Council in relation to the residency and the studio space.

Council will provide in kind support in the delivery of workshops, seminars, and exhibitions run for the artist/s community benefit projects, incorporating them where it enhances community benefit in Council run programs. Council has commenced sourcing external funding from the Australia Council and artsNSW to further assist in the delivery of the community benefit projects.

- **Delivery Program/Operational Plan**
The Waverley Artist-in-Residence satisfies a number of important elements of the 2010-2013 Delivery Program, particularly:

C6a Enrich the cultural life of the community by providing and supporting a variety of cultural events and activities for residents and visitors; and

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C6c Create opportunities in the creative sector to retain local artists and cultural providers in Waverley.

In 2009, the NSW State Government released a report¹ that found the creative industries were vital to local communities because they create new business and job opportunities, promote innovation and fuel cultural vibrancy. However, the report also notes that the cost of real estate in Sydney is seen as a deterrent for studios, artist-run spaces and galleries. To counter this problem, the report recommends making unused public spaces available to the creative industry² and a trend of providing subsidised work spaces for artists is developing across all levels of government.

- **Consultation** - The Public Art Committee consists of community representatives and Councillors. The Committee were consulted on the structure and priorities for the Waverley Artist-in-Residence Program and formally recommended the six artists on 20 October 2010.

Timeframe

If the recommendation in this report is adopted, Council will finalise negotiations and enter into separate agreements with each artist. The agreement has been approved by the Executive Team and will specify the obligations of the artists plus the terms of their residency. The agreement will also specify details of the artist's intended community benefit and Council officers will negotiate with each artist to ensure a balance between artwork donations, workshops and talks, and community projects.

The first group of artists will move into the studios in January and the second group will move into the studios in July 2011. The art projects will be finalised in late 2010 / early 2011 and will be delivered between July 2011 and June 2012.

Recommendation: That Council:

1. Endorse artists Sue Saxon, Emma Anna, Kate Mitchell, TV Moore, Joanne Mulcahy-Zubani and Todd Fuller for a place in the 2011 Artist-in-Residence Program.
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3. Delegate the Director RCCS to finalise community benefit outcomes within the license agreements.

Meredith Wallace

Director Recreation Customer and Community Services

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¹ NSW State Department of State and Regional Development. New South Wales Creative Industry Insights. December 2008. Available at: http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/692CA84C-5456-4DFA-849D-5B1C607FBEFC/0/NSW_creative_industry_insights_090204.pdf. Accessed 12 March 2009.

² Ibid. p31