



Metro Arts

Annual Report 2019

Knuckle Duster Antler Vessel (Too embellished for its own good) by Luke O'Connor in *Do you hear the people sing?* curated by Heidi Lefebvre, Katy B Plummer and Luke Létourneau, 2019. Image by Louis Lim.

Cover Image: Explain Normal by Daniele Constance, 2019. Image by Jorge Serra.

Metro Arts fosters contemporary art and independent contemporary artists because we believe in experimentation. You don't discover the new unless you're willing to challenge the old; you can't see what's over the hill by standing still.

Brave new futures require experimentation and exploration. Our 2019 program offered just that, for our audiences, our artists and our organisation.

OUR PROGRAM SUPPORTS THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT, EXPERIMENTATION AND PRESENTATION OF **EXCITING** AND **BRAVE** CONTEMPORARY WORK.

“Metro Arts is providing a unique and invaluable service that creates a clear pathway for artists.”
- 2019 Performance Artist

“This is a wonderful opportunity to work in a space to truly experiment with new ideas towards the creation of new work. The team have a genuine interest in fostering both the work in development and the artist throughout the process.

The environment and team at Metro were encouraging, nurturing and posed provocations where appropriate.”
- 2019 Creative Development Artist

“Great to see new local work created and performed in Brisbane.”
- 2019 Audience Member



19 EXHIBITIONS

13 PERFORMANCE SEASONS

8 VENUES TOURED TO

7 WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

5 PUBLIC ACTIVATIONS

1 ARTIST RESIDENCY

1 COMPANY IN RESIDENCE



349 ARTISTS
218 HIRERS & TENANTS
41,341 CAFE PATRONS

f **10,529** LIKES
ig **6,676** FOLLOWERS
✉ **3,344** SUBSCRIBERS

OUR FOLLOWERS ARE



68% FEMALE
28% MALE **4%** OTHER
62% LIVE IN BRISBANE
46% UNDER 35 YEARS OLD

Chairman Report

Michael Cottier

I am pleased to present my first annual Chair's message and Metro's Annual Report incorporating the Treasury report for the year ended 31 December 2019.

After a historic year for Metro in 2019, 2020 is already a year that we will not easily forget. Despite the current COVID-19 pandemic gloom, I am confident that the strategic decisions your Board and management have taken, our strategy going forward, and the quality of our Board and management team combine so that Metro Arts will get through this, and an artistically vibrant and financially strong Metro will emerge and thrive into the future.

Sadly, the social distancing measures and shut-downs imposed by our governments to protect us all from the spread of the pandemic are smashing our arts sector. Recovery will be one of the greatest challenges seen in generations. Sadly, we are already seeing that not every organisation is going to survive.

The year 2019 will be remembered as the year we sold and began to say farewell with love to our former home of 40 years at 109 Edward Street. Fortunately, we completed the sale of 109 Edward Street and banked the proceeds and secured

our new location at West Village before the pandemic descended upon us. Predominantly as a result of the sale, cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2019 were \$10,437,056, up from \$441,181 at 31 December 2018.

Given the exceptional current conditions created by the global pandemic, I would like to cover in more depth than usual the current situation and outlook. Although Metro had planned to be in partial hibernation and transition in early 2020 while we relocated to West End, COVID-19 has had an unplanned and significant impact on the company and our planned artistic programming. The Board's four immediate primary focus areas have been the health and wellbeing of our people as they adapt to working remotely; supporting our artistic community at this very difficult time; protecting Metro's financial future; and ensuring that work on our modern, fit-for-purpose home at West Village proceeds to plan as much as possible.

Turning to our finances, I can update you on what has happened so far with the money received from the sale of 109 Edward Street. Since receiving the proceeds of the sale in December 2019, the Board has been prudent with these precious funds, with a

focus on downside protection and capital preservation. While not predicting the pandemic (that would be above our pay grade), there were strong indications by February 2020 that equities markets were fully priced. We held off deploying the new Metro Arts Future Fund ('MAFF') into assets other than cash, instead maintaining all of the funds in cash and secure bank deposits. This means that to date we have totally protected the MAFF from the significant capital losses otherwise sustained in investment markets since the pandemic. Given COVID-19, the investment outlook remains uncertain, and it will probably be very challenging to generate the rates of return that we targeted last year.

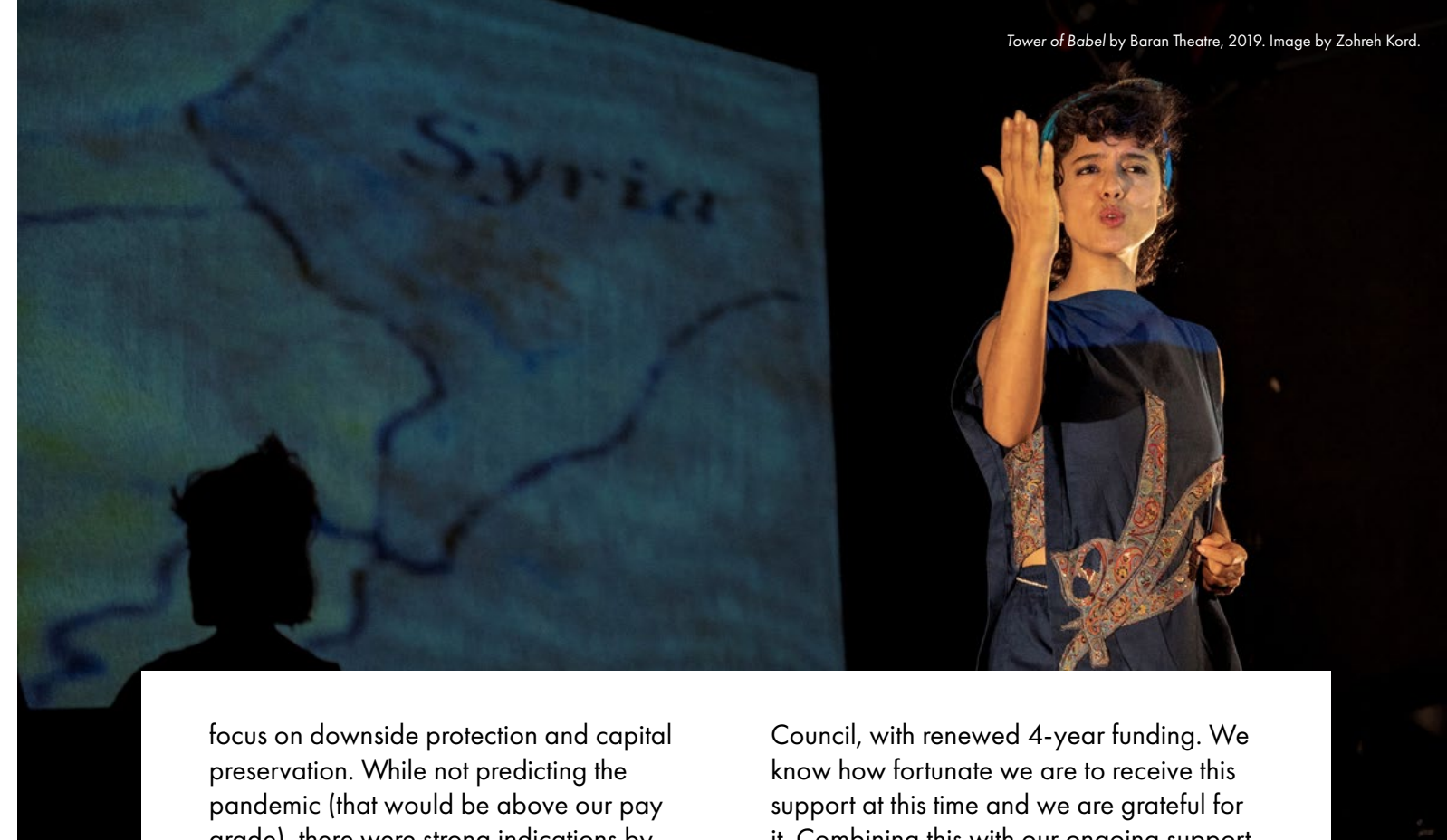
The longer term investment strategy is unchanged. That is, to deploy the net proceeds of the sale of the building, after the costs of setting up our new home at West Village, into a diversified, professionally managed and ethically invested portfolio. The deployment will occur once current extreme investment market risk and volatility subdues. We will work to then grow the MAFF over time and distribute funds to support artists.

In April 2020, Metro received an enormous vote of confidence from the Australia

Council, with renewed 4-year funding. We know how fortunate we are to receive this support at this time and we are grateful for it. Combining this with our ongoing support from Arts Queensland (maintained at current levels for the next year), the support of our other funders, and future investment distributions from the MAFF, and the Board is confident that we have adequate resources to sustain operations in the short and medium term.

Turning now to the 2019 financials, the financial position of the company, including its cash position, is described in the financial statements.

While challenging operating conditions continued in 2019, the financial performance of the organisation was headlined by the successful sale of 109 Edward Street for a sale price of over \$10m. Metro's overall statutory profit of \$7,654,010 was up from \$83,407 the previous year, noting that \$7,899,667 represents the one-off statutory accounting profit on the sale of 109 Edward Street. The 2018 prior year profit has been restated downwards by \$35,000. Opening retained earnings at 1 January 2019 has been restated upwards by \$670,587. Both of these adjustments relate to the statutory



accounting treatment of 109 Edward Street. These adjustments are set out in the audited financial statements.

The completion of the sale has unlocked funds to invest in the fit-out of our new leased premises at West Village and to underpin our sustainable future via the MAFF. I am very pleased to report to you that despite COVID-19, work on our new home at West Village has been progressing to plan, including the construction of the New Benner Theatre.

Accounting revenues for the year were up 572% at \$9,596,210, reflecting the sale of 109 Edward Street. Excluding the gain on sale of 109 Edward Street, total revenue was up by 19% on the prior year. Café sales and tenancy income were down compared with 2018, reflecting softer local commercial conditions and disruption associated with the lengthy process of marketing and selling 109 Edward Street.

Total expenses were up 44% to \$1,943,000. Consultant and contractor costs were significantly higher this year. This increase primarily related to the sale of 109 Edward Street, and some of the preliminary costs associated with the leasing and fit-out at West Village.

Total grants were up 39% to \$1,008,087. This partly reflects the final acquittal of funding for the new lift in the building, and the Farewell Festival.

Private philanthropic fundraising activities continued to be otherwise negatively impacted by relatively weak economic conditions. A positive here is our Art Starters donor group that supports our Creative Development Program. We look forward to re-energising Art Starters once we are out of lockdown.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our CEO and Creative Director, Jo Thomas, and all of the Metro staff for their hard work, dedication, focus and significant artistic and administrative delivery in the highly challenging conditions during 2019. Jo and her team have handled a raft of enormous challenges with intelligence, passion, high energy and resilience. I am delighted to add that in a most wonderful way, Jo and her team's efforts have recently been recognised by others. In April 2020, Jo was named the Telstra 2020 Queensland Business Woman of the Year! Congratulations Jo on this wonderful achievement!

I would like to sincerely thank our Patron Wesley Enoch for his magnificent support and leadership during a very challenging year. I would also like to thank the many organisations who have supported and/or partnered with us over the course of 2019 and helped to create our future. The list is too long to mention everybody, but I thank Arts Queensland, the Australia Council, Brisbane City Council, TAFE Queensland, Hutchinson Builders, Jones Lang Lasalle, the West Village team at Sekisui, Clayton Utz,

Blight Rayner, Urbis, Norman Disney and Young, and Karyn O'Brien.

I wish to note the recent retirement from the Board of the immediate past Chair, John Dunleavy. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank John for his long and very significant voluntary contribution to the Board over close to 15 years. We wish John all the very best for the future. Our Board succession planning efforts continue, and I welcome our most recently appointed Board member, Brad Coombs. I warmly thank all members of the Board for their dedication, hard work and support through a very challenging and successful year.

I welcome the appointment of our new independent external audit firm, Hall Chadwick. At the same time, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of our previous long serving and retiring auditor, Mr Brian Tucker. Brian has been a great supporter of Metro and other arts and Indigenous organisations over many years.

In closing, we are all grappling with enormous uncertainty about the future. I wish I could tell you what is going to happen, but I don't have those answers. What I do know is that we have a wonderful team and great support from many organisations and people who believe in what we do. We are looking out for each other as best we can. There will be hard times ahead, but I have no doubt that we will emerge on the other side and create an exciting and vibrant future. Art will continue to start here!



This is Pep Tool by Hailey Atkins, 2019. Image by Sarah Poulgrain.

CEO & Creative Director Report

Jo Thomas

We all know the feeling... There's a big birthday coming up, a significant anniversary on the horizon and suddenly we find ourselves taking stock, assessing, wondering. Looming significant milestones have a way of helping us narrow our focus, reflect and often make big changes. And so it was with Metro Arts, on the eve of our 40th birthday, we decided to really shake things up!

13th December 2019 is a date I will not easily forget – it marked the final sale of 109 Edward Street as Metro Arts started its momentous journey towards a new future. Now, in May 2020, due to COVID-19, that future is not at all as we had imagined but thankfully, due to the sale of our asset, the restructuring of our business model, and ongoing funding, Metro Arts is in a relatively enviable position as an arts organisation. In the future, we will be here. In this time of great uncertainty and upheaval, we are incredibly fortunate to know we will emerge to continue to support artists and the creation and presentation of new work through all of our initiatives. The Metro Arts Board and Team are committed to working responsibly with our resources to ensure sustainability in both the short and long-term. This is for the organisation, the sector, our artists and audiences. We are committed to remaining a significant player in the Australian arts sector for decades to

come. With the creation of our Metro Arts Future Fund, and the support of our donors and partners, we continue to be responsible custodians of all funds to ensure this longevity of our services and our sector.

But before the pandemic, 2019 showcased another year of meaningful support for local and contemporary artists and firmly cemented Metro Arts as the creative hub for new multi-disciplinary work in Queensland.

We started the year by receiving six Matilda Awards for our projects and supported artists including two for our commissioned original work *We Live Here* taking out both Best Circus/Physical Theatre Work and Best Director. This multi-year partnership with Flipside Circus, and directors Natano Fa'anana & Bridget Boyle, showcased the success of our new commissioning initiative and a further financial commitment to the creation of new Australian work. A record number of performance projects produced by and associated with Metro Arts were presented as part of Brisbane Festival in 2019, including: *We Live Here* (Metro Arts & Flipside Circus) presented at QPAC, and both *TRUTHMACHINE* (Counterpilot) and *Tyrone and Lesley In a Spot* (David Megarrity) presented as part of Theatre Republic; and our BlakLash, people+artist+place partnership presented

Evening Lights by visual artist Elisa Jane Carmichael. This work was part of Metro's year-long contract with Brisbane City Council to deliver the Temporary Art Program across the city.

Our creative development, performance and exhibition programs continued throughout the year with seven works in development, 13 performance seasons and 19 exhibitions.

Of significance was the resurgence in our commitment to our producing service supporting touring work and the management of selected artists and their projects. Through this service, Metro Arts develops career pathways for artists and prolongs the life of new artistic projects allowing greater audience connectivity. Metro Arts presented work for consideration at both the Performing Arts Exchange (PAX) in August 2019 and at arTour's Queensland Touring Showcase in October 2019. Both opportunities were used to strengthen relationships with national and regional presenting partners to tour Metro Arts' produced works. We also supported tours by Counterpilot to Adelaide, the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Melbourne; and David Megarrity's season of *Bear with Me* in Perth.

Sitting alongside our full year of final exhibitions in the Edward St galleries, Metro Arts alumni artists received accolades and successes nationally including Susan Hawkins being awarded a Studio Scholarship at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris; Callum McGrath being announced as one of four 2019 recipients of the national Freedman Foundation Travelling Scholarship for Emerging Artists

and Shivanjani Lal being announced as the recipient of the prestigious 2019 NSW Visual Arts Fellowship. These successes highlight the value of Metro Arts as a stepping stone in artists' careers.

There were significant challenges throughout this year as we moved through the sale process of Edward Street and investigated new opportunities for Metro Arts; and endeavoured to always keep our community updated and part of this process. The team at JLL became close collaborators and I thank them for their support, guidance and incredible hard work always delivered with professional cheer. Through this collaboration the successful sale of Edward St was achieved; and a new private sector opportunity created with Sekisui House. The new Metro Arts @ West Village in West End will be a home for the future of new work and new artists including those yet to be born. The now-established Metro Arts Future Fund shall similarly support more art and more creative careers for many, many years to come. The future is secured.

As always, I thank the Board for their guidance, including outgoing Chair John Dunleavy, and the Metro Arts team who have navigated a difficult 2019 with grace, strength and unwavering commitment to art and artists. As one of our exhibiting artists for the year, Emma Lindsay, said "Staff culture, positivity, support and enthusiasm made me want to keep working with Metro - a special mix needed more in our industry."

Metro Arts is indeed a special mix for the future, no matter what it may hold.

Development Report

Celestine Doyle, Development Consultant
Genevieve Trace, Development & Partnerships Officer

In 2019 we continued to receive generous support from our Metro Arts community. We acknowledge all who support Metro Arts and our artists through donations, sponsorship and grants.

The major achievement for the Development Department in 2019 has been working with the Board and Executive to secure Metro Arts' Founding Venue Partners for our new premises – West Village and Hutchinson Builders.

Another milestone was the announcement of Metro Arts' first Education Partnership with TAFE Queensland. The partnership was launched at the opening night of Emerging Company in Residence Robert the Cat's production of Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information*. Robert the Cat is a newly formed theatre company comprising alumni TAFE Queensland students. The inclusion of Robert the Cat in the Metro Arts program is indicative of the partnership's goals to provide TAFE Queensland's creative arts students and recent alumni with invaluable industry experience while boosting employment pathways for emerging artists and enriching Brisbane's creative and artistic community.

We are also particularly grateful for the sponsorship of local accounting company Bones Accounting for partial in-kind financial services, and international leader EPSON for supplying projectors for the Lumen Room and Galleries.

In June 2019 we launched the Art Starters Program – a donor group focused solely on supporting our Creative Development Program, and thus the creation of new Australian performance works. Our Patron, Wesley Enoch, led the donations charge matching dollar for dollar the amount we raised on the launch night. In 2019 the program saw 14 Art Starters join with a gift of \$500 each.



Celebrating the launch of the Art Starters donor group were Shane Anthony, Director, *Our Blood Runs in the Streets*, Wesley Enoch, Metro Arts Patron, Jo Thomas, CEO and Creative Director, Michael Cottier, Board Chair, Allycia Staples, performing artist and Danielle Constance Director, *Explain Normal*.



Opening night of Emerging Company in Residence, Robert the Cat's production of Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information* was also the launch of Metro Arts' first Education Partnership with TAFE Queensland.

The Development Department worked with the Board and Executive on the set up of the Metro Arts Future Fund ('MAFF'). Perpetual Private has been appointed as Financial Advisors for the MAFF. Metro Arts was one of eleven organisations nationally to be selected for Creative Partnerships Australia's LIFT Mentorship Program 2019-2020. Metro Arts is currently being mentored by Malcolm Moir, Head of Foundation and Development at the Australian National Maritime Museum and formerly Head of

Development at Sydney Festival. Malcolm will work with key Metro Arts staff in the development of key MAFF documents, processes and procedures, as well as best practice stewardship process in the implementation of an all-of-organisation CRM. We were also successful in gaining funding from the Queensland Community Foundation to aid the development of best practice policy and procedures in setting up the MAFF to ensure its longevity.

Other funding gained focussed on the 40th anniversary celebration and farewell to 109 Edward Street to be held in 2020. This included gaining a Brisbane City Council History grant for the development of a book detailing the 40 year history of Metro Arts, as well as presentation funds from Arts Queensland and sponsorship from RACQ for the production of *Metro Arts, with love* – our farewell to 109 Edward Street and 40 year celebration festival.



Presentations

30 January - 16 February

Do You Hear The People Sing?

Heidi Lefebvre, Katy B Plummer & Luke Létourneau

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

19 February - 3 March

TRUTHMACHINE

Counterpilot

PERFORMANCE: RCC Fringe, Adelaide Fringe

27 February - 16 March

A Treasured Private Notebook

Ella Sowinska & Thea Jones

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

27 February - 16 March

Love Me, Love Me

Olivia Lacey

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

21 - 23 March

Where Are You From?

Shelley Cheng

TAP ACTIVATION: QUT Gardens Point

20 - 30 March

Reagan Kelly by Lewis Treston

Rocket Boy Ensemble

PERFORMANCE: Sue Benner Theatre

27 March - 13 April

Yaad Karo

Shivanjani Lal

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

27 March - 13 April

Paintings

Christine Morrow

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

8 - 25 May

This is Pep Too!

Hailey Atkins

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

8 - 25 May

MARS Video Exchange

Stephen Haley, Hannah Raisin & Diego Ramirez

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

15 - 25 May

Kill Climate Deniers by David Finnigan

THAT Production Company

PERFORMANCE: Sue Benner Theatre

30 May - 8 June

Magpie by Elise Greig

Playlab & E.G.

PERFORMANCE: Brisbane Powerhouse



Reagan Kelly by Lewis Treston, 2019. Image by Nick Bleeker.



A Treasured Private Notebook by Thea Jones & Ella Sowinska, 2019. Image by Louis Lim.

“ I was absolutely enthralled from the first moment. ”

Audience member of Magpie by Elise Greig



Truthmachine by Counterpilot, 2019. Image by Yaya Stempler for Sydney Festival.

“ Keeping quality Brisbane theatre alive. ”

Audience member of Reagan Kelly by Lewis Treston



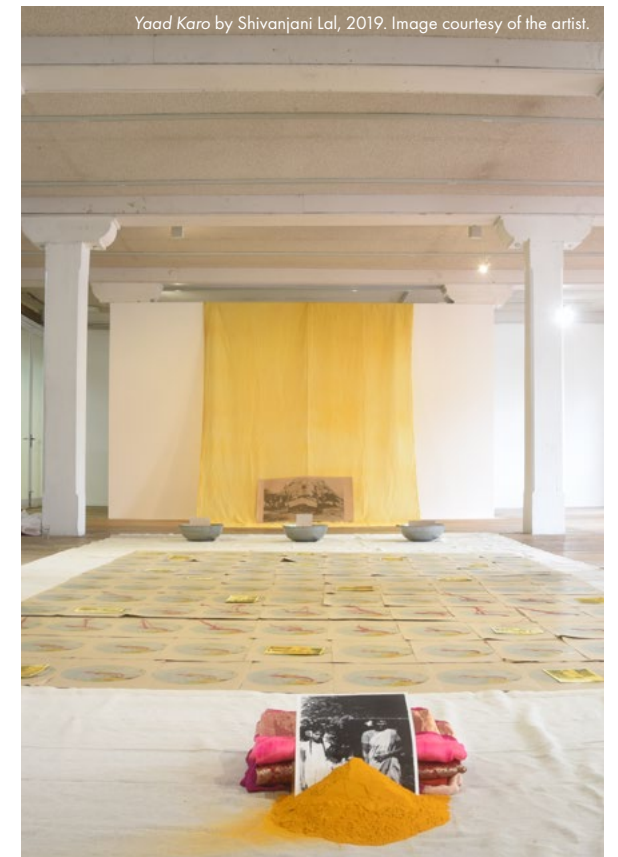
Magpie by Elise Greig, 2019. Image by Stephen Henry.



Love Me, Love Me by Olivia Lacey, 2019. Image by Louis Lim.

“ The staff are enthusiastic, resourceful, interested, helpful, positive about the work they do and the artists they support. ”

2019 Exhibition Artist



Yaad Karo by Shivanjani Lal, 2019. Image courtesy of the artist.

“ This was an amazing activation, I really learned a lot and it provided the opportunity for me to connect with a lot of people and hear their perspectives. ”

Participant of Where are you from? by Shelley Cheng



Kill Climate Deniers by David Finnigan, produced by THAT Production Company, 2019. Image by Adam Finch.



Where Are You From by Shelley Cheng, TAP 2019. Image by Dave Kan.

5 - 15 June

Life On Earth

Emma Lindsay

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

26 June - 13 July

We Koppel, We Dala

Roberta Rich

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

26 June - 13 July

The Boy Diver

Alex Pyren

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

12 - 14 July

Backyard Reckoning

Sally Molloy

TAP ACTIVATION: West Village

24 July - 10 August

Flash Lights in Low Visibility

Necho Brocchi

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

24 July - 10 August

Silica

Grace Blake

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

31 July - 10 August

Love and Information by Caryl Churchill

Robert The Cat

PERFORMANCE: Sue Benner Theatre

21 August - 7 September

Gyre

Torin Francis

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

21 August - 7 September

Unnamed

Priscilla Beck

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

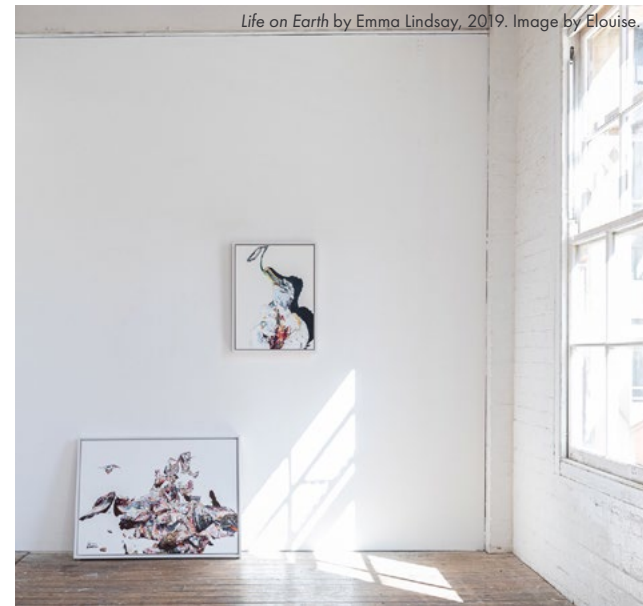
26 - 27 August

TRUTHMACHINE

Counterpilot

Presented by Horizon Festival

PERFORMANCE: The Events Centre, Caloundra



Life on Earth by Emma Lindsay, 2019. Image by Elouise.

“ Thanks to Metro for continually giving a voice to and supporting such brilliant local talent. ”

2019 Audience Member



Love and Information by Caryl Churchill, produced by Robert the Cat, 2019. Image by Warrick Fraser.

“ Thank you so much for taking a chance on me and my show! ”

2019 Exhibition Artist



Flash Lights in Low Visibility by Necho Brocchi, 2019. Image by Carl Werner.



We Koppel, We Dala by Roberta Rich, 2019. Image by Louis Lim.



The Boy Diver by Alex Pyren, 2019. Image by Seamus Platt.



Gyre by Torin Francis, 2019. Image by Louis Lim.



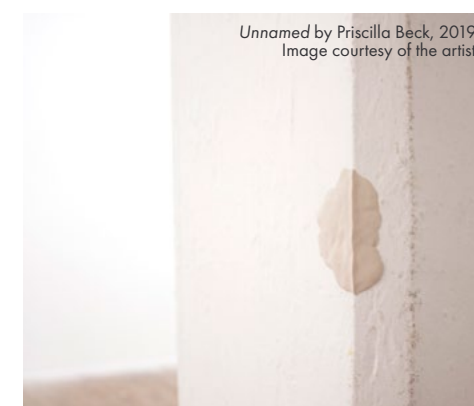
Truthmachine by Counterpilot, 2019. Image by Kate O'Sullivan.

“ I would strongly recommend applying for the exhibition program at Metro Arts. The program provides an opportunity to work with curators, writers and artists in an encouraging and supportive environment. ”

2019 Exhibition Artist



Backyard Reckoning by Sally Molloy, TAP 2019. Image by Dave Kan.



Unnamed by Priscilla Beck, 2019. Image courtesy of the artist.

10 - 21 September

TRUTHMACHINE

Counterpilot

Presented by Brisbane Festival

PERFORMANCE: Theatre Republic, Brisbane

15 - 28 September

Evening Lights

Elisa Jane Carmichael

Presented with Brisbane Festival

TAP ACTIVATION: King Street, Bowen Hills

17 - 21 September

Tyrone & Lesley in a Spot

David Megarrity & Nathan Sibthorpe

Presented by Brisbane Festival

PERFORMANCE: Theatre Republic, Brisbane

18 September - 5 October

The Cities, They Tremble

Alexandra Spence

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

18 September - 5 October

Shy Love

Sophie Bottomley

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

22 - 29 September

TRUTHMACHINE

Counterpilot

Presented by Melbourne Fringe

PERFORMANCE: Trades Hall, Melbourne

5 - 8 October

We Live Here

Flipside Circus

Presented by Brisbane Festival

PERFORMANCE: QPAC, Brisbane

7 - 11 October

Bear With Me

David Megarrity

Presented by Awesome International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things

PERFORMANCE: State Theatre Centre, Perth

11 - 13 October

Between the River and the Cliff

Susan Hawkins

TAP ACTIVATION: Howard Smith Wharves

16 - 26 October

Explain Normal

Daniele Constance

PERFORMANCE: Sue Benner Theatre

7 November - 7 December

Past, Place, Future

Libby Harward, Callum McGrath

& Sancintya Mohini Simpson

EXHIBITION: MARS Gallery, Melbourne

13 - 30 November

The Waitress

Georgia Banks

EXHIBITION: Main Gallery

13 - 30 November

Asset Pack

Baden Pailthorpe

EXHIBITION: Gallery 2

16 - 17 November

Open Actions

Aishla Manning, Kylie Spear, Anthony Baker, Keemon

Williams, Primitive Motion, Aurora Christie-Liddle,

Guyala Bayles & Joella Warkill.

TAP ACTIVATION: Enoggera Reservoir

20 - 30 November

Tower of Babel

Baran Theatre

PERFORMANCE: Sue Benner Theatre

“ Raw, emotive and expanding. Loved the entire production - the actors, the set, the sounds and the feeling I walked away with. ”

Audience member of Explain Normal by Daniele Constance



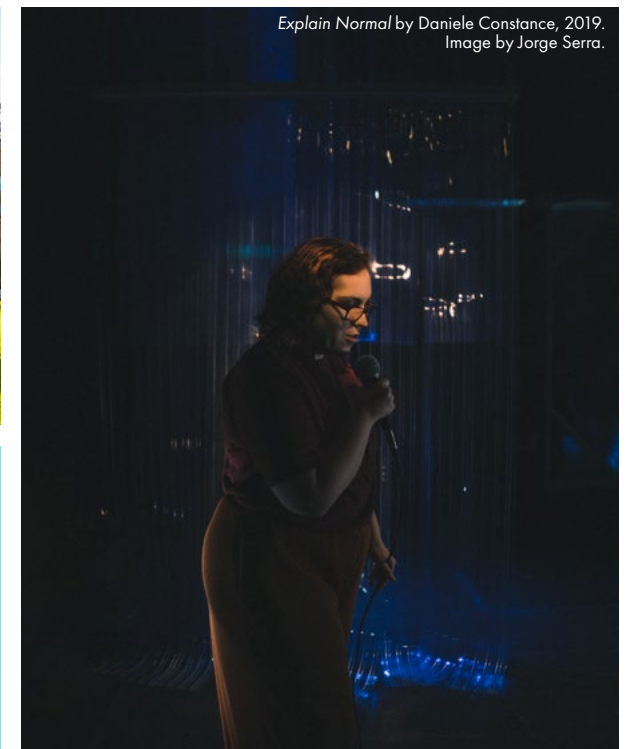
Between the River and the Cliff by Susan Hawkins, TAP 2019. Image by Thomas Oliver.

“ Exhibiting at Metro, and having Kyle introduce me to many other local artists was a really wonderful experience that has again helped with building my networks and helped establish my practice a little within the Brisbane Scene. ”

2019 Exhibition Artist



Water Body by Kylie Spear, at Open Actions, TAP 2019. Image by Dave Kan.



Explain Normal by Daniele Constance, 2019. Image by Jorge Serra.



We Live Here by Flipside Circus, a Metro Arts Commission, 2019. Image by Geoff Lawrence.

“ I really enjoyed the performance. Has inspired me to look for more works from Metro Arts. ”

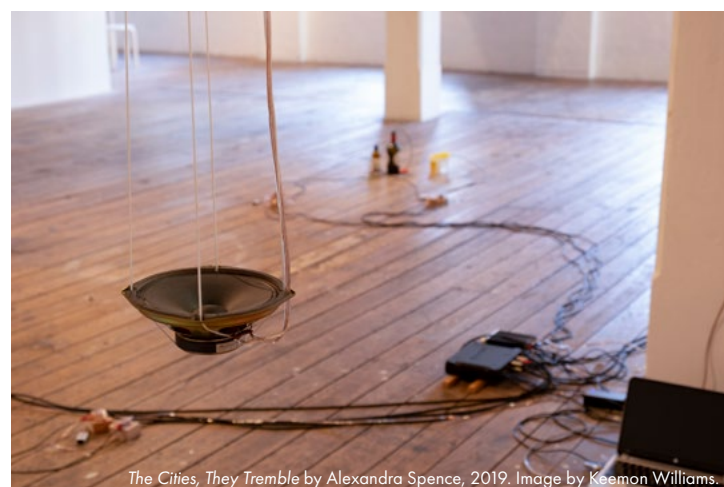
Audience member of Tower of Babel by Baran Theatre



Tower of Babel by Baran Theatre, 2019. Image by Zohreh Kord.



The Waitress by Georgia Banks, 2019. Image by Kyle Weise.



The Cities, They Tremble by Alexandra Spence, 2019. Image by Keemon Williams.

Produced Artists

David Megarrity
Nathan Sibthorpe
Lisa Wilson

BUNKER by Lisa Wilson & Nathan Sibthorpe, 2019. Image by Fenlan Chuang.

Creative Developments

87
days of
creative
development

23
artists
employed

2
works premiered
in 2020

100%
of artists in the
program rate it
as 'Excellent'



White Woman by Jenni Large, 2019. Image by Jade Ellis.

“

Metro Arts' trust in me and corresponding time, energy and space given provided the perfect context for deep diving personal and artistic development.

”

2019 Creative Development Artist

Company in Residence



Robert
The Cat

“

Metro Arts in general is a great organisation, inclusive and exciting.

”

2019 Company in Residence

Love and Information by Carol Churchill, produced by Robert the Cat, 2019. Image by Warrick Fraser.

Our Blood Runs in the Streets by Shane Anthony & Chopt Logic Productions, at Sydney Mardi Gras 2020. Image by Jasmin Simmons.



White Woman
Jenni Large

Demolition
Leah Shelton & Lisa Fa'alafi

Boyle & Waters in LEOTARD
Bridget Boyle & Neridah Waters

Hurricane
Emma Hall & Vidya Rajan

Our Blood Runs in the Streets
Shane Anthony & Chopt Logic Productions

SSHIFTT
Thomas E.S. Kelly & Karul Projects

Metro on the Move Update

On 13 December 2019 Metro Arts publicly announced the sale of 109 Edward Street and the establishment of a ground-breaking new Metro Arts Future Fund (MAFF). Also announced was plans to relocate to new premises amid the thriving and creative community at West Village, along with a major new partnership with Sekisui House and Hutchinson Builders.

As CEO and Creative Director Jo Thomas said:

"In 2020, Metro Arts will celebrate 40 years of creating, developing and presenting new Australian work across performance and exhibitions.

"Metro Arts' new, modern, fit-for-purpose home will allow us to refocus our priorities on supporting more artists, developing more new work, invigorating Brisbane's cultural scene and providing exceptional experiences to audiences. At a time when our federal government appears to be

disavowing the arts, a commitment such as this is even more vital.

"We are ready to create and present bold new multidisciplinary works, to bravely establish new partnerships and foster our existing ones, to daringly contribute to the Australian contemporary arts sector, to reach into more communities and to venture into a new future."

Metro Arts Board Chair Michael Cottier said the sale of 109 Edward Street presented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to drive a new period of creative growth in Queensland through the MAFF.

"We are devoted champions of the local arts community and the sale of this building will allow us to create a new sustainable business model to position ourselves as a creative game changer," Mr Cottier said.



West Village renders by Blight Rayner.

2019 Board & Staff

Alex Anderson
Maintenance Coordinator

Amida Callinicos
Finance Officer

Yaneth Bautista
Finance Officer, from May

Alexander Beard
Box Office Coordinator, from March
Front of House & Bookings Coordinator, from August

Emma Black
Food & Beverage Attendant, from January

Jonathon Coutts
Venue & Facilities Coordinator, until February

Olivia Dean-Jones
Food & Beverage Attendant

Celestine Doyle
Development Consultant

Bri Ellison
Bookings Coordinator, until July

Shani Gould
Programming & Marketing Coordinator

Christine Johnstone
Interim Operations & Business Director

Xanthe Peters
Food & Beverage Attendant, until May

Matt Seery
Associate Producer

Nick Seery
Technical Coordinator

Bella Teggin
Administration Coordinator, until May

Jo Thomas
CEO & Creative Director

Genevieve Trace
Development & Partnerships Officer

Kyle Weise
Curator (Exhibition Program)

Melina Wightman
Food & Beverage Attendant
Administration Coordinator, from May

Verity Woodford
Senior Producer

Patron: Wesley Enoch

CHAIRMAN

John Dunleavy, until April 2019
Michael Cottier, from April 2019

TREASURER

Michael Cottier

DIRECTORS

Brad Coombs, from August 2019
John Dunleavy, until December 2019
James Gauci
Fiona Hawthorne
Brian Lucas
Maira McGarva
Daniel McKewen

Metro Arts acknowledges the traditional custodians of Brisbane, the Turrbal and Jagera people and their unique relationship with their ancestral country. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, and recognise their strength, wisdom and creativity.

2019 Sponsors & Supporters

We've got a whole lot of love for all our 2019 Metro Arts Supporters! Your assistance enables us to continue to support the development and presentation of ambitious contemporary art. Without you, we simply could not do what we do.

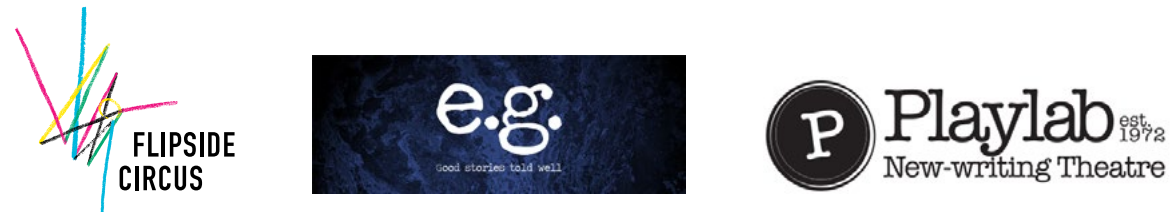
GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Metro Arts is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Metro Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of Environment and Science. Metro Arts is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council. The 2019 Temporary Art Program (TAP) was presented by Brisbane City Council and produced by Metro Arts and people+artist+place.

PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

We wish to acknowledge the following 2019 programming partners.



EDUCATION PARTNER



Metro Arts is proudly supported by TAFE Queensland as Education Partner.

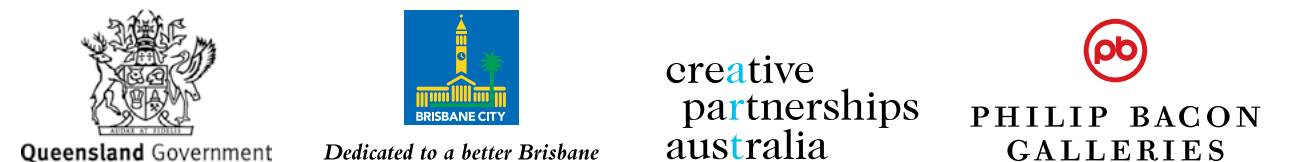
PARTNERS



Metro Arts is proud partner of Bones Accounting, Dendy Cinemas, EPSON, and The Victory Hotel.

LIFT SUPPORTERS

A very special thank you to all contributors to our Lift the Lift Campaign, especially the major supporters.



Michael Cottier Wesley Enoch



Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM John Reid AO

Andrew and Julianna Carey Cleanaway John Dunleavy Interpacific Insurance Brokers

Susan Learmonth & Bernard Curran Andrea Moor Brian Tucker

ART STARTERS

Thank you to our 2019 Art Starters donors who support our Creative Development Program.

Alex Beard, Sam Benjamin, Peta Bryant, Jonathan Butler-White, Andrew and Julianna Carey, Hamish Clift, Kaicie Connors and James Gauci, Michael Cottier, Celestine Doyle, Wesley Enoch, Anna Guenther, Fiona Hawthorne, Unna Liddy and Bret Mannison (Logiqc), Moira McGarva, Andrea Moor and Jo Thomas.



Love Me, Love Me by Olivia Lacey, 2019. Image by Louis Lim.

Metro Arts

+617 3002 7100 | info@metroarts.com.au | metroarts.com.au
facebook.com/metroartsbrisbane | instagram.com/metroarts

2019 Address: 109 Edward Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 | GPO BOX 24, Brisbane 4000
Current Address: 111 Boundary Street, West End QLD 4101 | PO BOX 3187, South Brisbane 4101