Metro Arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

METRO ARTS ACKNOWLEDGE THE JAGERA AND TURRBAL PEOPLES, AS THE CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WE WORK ON, RECOGNISING THEIR CONNECTION TO LAND, WATERS AND COMMUNITY. WE HONOUR THE STORY-TELLING AND ART-MAKING AT THE HEART OF FIRST NATIONS' CULTURES, AND THE ENRICHMENT IT GIVES TO THE LIVES OF ALL AUSTRALIANS.

Above: Welcome to Country by Derek Oram Sandy at the Young Artist Forum, 2021. Image by Benjamin Garcia.
Cover: The Last Bastion of Laziness by David Attwood, 2021. Image by Charlie Hillhouse.

OUR 2021 PROGRAM SUPPORTED THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT, EXPERIMENTATION AND PRESENTATION OF EXCITING AND BRAVE CONTEMPORARY WORK.

12,194 LIKES

9,120 FOLLOWS

7,514 SUBSCRIBERS

OUR FOLLOWERS:
52% LIVE IN BRISBANE
61% LIVE IN QUEENSLAND

674 ARTISTS

16,955 CAFE & BAR PATRONS

73,500 PATRONS

31	EXHIBITIONS
31	PRODUCTIONS
68	COMMUNITY EVENTS
14	WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT
9	ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
5	FESTIVALS
1	COMPANY IN RESIDENCE
1	TOUR

Wilbur the Optical Whale by indelabilityarts, 2021. Image by Nick Morrissey.

CHAIR REPORT

Dr Fiona Hawthorne

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."
Thomas Merton

If ever the time was right for us to find ourselves and lose ourselves in art, it is now. 2021 – 2022 turned out to be quite the roller-coaster for us here at Metro Arts and the world more broadly. However, I can assure you that your Board and management team of Metro Arts remained true to the vision, mission and values. Art did indeed start here.

It is with a mixture of excitement and disbelief that I present my first annual Chair's message and Metro Arts' Annual Report. Excitement because as you read through this report, you will see just how successfully the Board and team at Metro Arts has pivoted, pirouetted, pranced, reimagined and rebounded. I know I speak on behalf of the Board when I say that what the team has achieved in 12 months has been remarkable. None of this would be possible without the formidable leadership of Jo Thomas. Jo's commitment to Metro Arts and artists is never in doubt. Thank you, Jo.

Disbelief because I cannot quite comprehend that it has been 12 months that I have attempted to fill the very big shoes of Michael Cottier, your previous Chair and treasurer. Michael (or Mike as the entire rest of the world knows him) is a generous, quietly-spoken man who gave so much to Metro Arts over many years. His wisdom and talent are missed. However, the show has gone on.

In those 12 months, it was my role to ensure that the huge gains made in the past few years by the Board and organisation were not lost. Despite the floods, pandemic and funding challenges. I can assure you we have not lost ground. The MAFF has continued its overall growth; our financials remained dynamic; and philanthropy greatly appreciated. The team has been able to craft a hybrid approach to safely working from home or on site at West Village, all while ensuring that artists and their creations have remained at the heart of what we do.

There were times when we felt lost, most recently during the floods in February 2022. Yet, we found ourselves again mopping up some water damage in our venues, and then doing what we do best: supporting artists and other local companies by assisting in their flood clean-up, or supporting artists to regroup for an opening at a later date.

Over the next 12 months, your Board will focus on continuing to ensure we work towards our four strategic goals: space for artists, audiences, and local communities; pathways for contemporary artists; growth and innovation in artistic ambition; and diversity, underpinned by a strong organisation. To that, the Board is working on ensuring its membership is as diverse as our community by recruiting new members.

Over the coming months, I look forward to being beside you as you lose yourself and find yourself in the brave, contemporary art developed and created by local emerging and mid-career artists. I know it will be bold and inspiring!

Works presented at *Ctrl+Alt+Del: Shift*, March 2021.
Centre: *Present, Past, Future* by Serge Ah-Wong, 2021.
Foreground: *Welcome Circle & Ochre Ceremony* by Bindmu and Tanya Sinha, 2021.
Image by Kyle Weise.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO REPORT

Jo Thomas

The last show in our 2021 performance season was a remount of the tremendously funny *Leotard* which was first presented at the Edward St Metro Arts in our Farewell Festival in February 2020. Created and performed by two fabulous Brisbane artists, Neridah Waters and Bridget Boyle, it was a fitting end to another rollercoaster year for us all. *Leotard* was a chance to celebrate performance, laugh out loud and remember the joy of play. One scene in this show summed up 2021 for me. In it, Waters as a solo performer re-enacted an acrobatic, dance routine performed by a troupe. As the routine progressed and things started to go awry, character Tracy came to the rescue, catching set pieces, stepping in for injured dancers, reimagining choreography, injecting an epi-pen into a crew member, cleaning up vomit in the audience and yet still managing to deliver the grand finale with an epic costume with flashing lights and wings. After each rescue she'd quietly exclaim.... "Phew. Close one!"

And that was 2021 at Metro Arts– continuing, reinventing, reimaging, cartwheeling, catching, delivering the performances and exhibitions, quietly wiping our brows with a "Phew. Close one!" And onto the next...

Alongside many of our colleagues in the sector we sustained lost income through Covid-19 lockdowns, reduced capacities and rescheduled works but we continued to function at a high level working with 674 artists in 2021. We continued to focus on supporting independent artists in an incredibly difficult time and offering their work to our community when most needed.

The exceptional work of Metro Arts was again honoured this year. Firstly, we were the only Queensland organisation to receive a prestigious Sidney Myer Award for excellence in performing arts. My thanks to Andrew Myer and all at the Sidney Myer Fund for this honour and for their ongoing work recognising and valuing the role art and artists play in affirming identity and community spirit. I also take this opportunity to recognise the work of Sidney Baillieu Myer AC, Co-Founder and Past President of The Myer Foundation, who died early in 2022. The legacy of our great philanthropists, such as Mr Myer, is continuously seen in the development of Australian society and our arts and culture.

Throughout 2021 Metro Arts enjoyed the support of another one of Australia's major philanthropic foundations, the Ian Potter Foundation, for our new two-year pilot program, The Emerging Producer Xchange. The Xchange, in partnership with The Mill in Adelaide, supports the professional development of emerging producers to offer even greater support to independent artists creating new Australian work. Feedback from one of our four emerging producers supported in 2021 shows the foundational benefit of this program. "My local networks have really grown because of the industry contacts I have made through Xchange. When jobs or contracts come up, people are asking me to apply...artists are also asking if I want to collaborate. Xchange has been super useful." This wonderful program continues into 2022 with a further three emerging producers being employed.

I also had the joy of meeting one of Australia's new arts philanthropists in 2021 when Tim Minchin invited Metro Arts representatives to his Brisbane concert and supported the organisation with a generous donation and shout-out for our work supporting contemporary artists. Tim is a prolific, inspiring artist and his concert was a personal highlight for the year.

The Metro Arts artistic program in 2021 boasted many exceptional exhibitions, performances and micro-festivals including *The Mechanics of Adaption* Group Exhibition in September as part of the Brisbane Festival. After 10 successful years and four million trips, the Brisbane CityCycle program ended in 2021 so, of course, Metro Arts commissioned local artists to reimagine the retired bikes! Artists Ross Manning, Kinly Grey, Susan Hawkins, Aishla Manning and Sarah Poulgrain, in collaboration with young people through Traction and The Sycamore School, created our highest attended exhibition to date. Our thanks to all partners and especially JCDecaux.

The inaugural Mad Dance Festival, in partnership with Mad Dance House, in May 2021 was a unique celebration of the Queensland street dance scene. This Festival highlighted hard-hitting performances, workshops, developments and a fantastic gathering of community, again showing Metro taking the lead in contemporary artform development. This festival was also an opportunity for our Company-in-Residence Pink Matter to shine. Under the directorship of Wanida Serce, Pink Matter showcases powerful women and diversity on our stages! The Company was a tremendous addition to our 2021 program presenting three finished works across the year and developing numerous others.

As we continue to navigate a rapidly changing world, collaboration and courage are crucial. Our creative collaborators are our incredible artists and community who work with and support Metro Arts. Of the 674 artists profiled in 2021 just over half were new to Metro Arts. This balance of working with the new and our established creatives is a key feature of the career pathways Metro Arts develops and promotes. Our other vital partners and friends in 2021 included 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, BlakDance, Blaklash, Brisbane Festival, Bus Projects, Camerata, MARS Gallery, Museum of Brisbane, Next Wave, Playlab Theatre and QMF. My thanks as always to our Government stakeholders: Brisbane City Council, Arts Queensland and Australia Council for the Arts for support of Metro's annual program delivery.

The Metro Arts team has continued to be exceptional in extraordinary circumstances. My thanks to all of them including our outgoing team members in 2021: Development Consultant Celestine Doyle, Business Director Christine Johnstone and Producer Matt Seery. The biggest of thank yous to our outgoing Board Chair Michael Cottier. Michael has been a tremendous help to me personally and an incredible Chair for the organisation. I thank Dr Fiona Hawthorne for stepping into the role and all of the Board for their tireless work during a tiring 2021. Wipe your brows! More great art to come.

Genevieve Trace (General Manager), Jo Thomas, Brian Wyborn (Deputy Chair) and Dr Fiona Hawthorne (Chair) with Tim Minchin at his 2021 Back Concert

"Metro Arts has been significant for the development of my practice since first showing there in 2017. Metro Arts supports emerging artists to push their boundaries and will go above expectations to help nurture and foster relationships within the arts community and beyond. I highly recommend getting involved in their program!

Thank You Metro Arts!"

— Exhibiting artist 2021

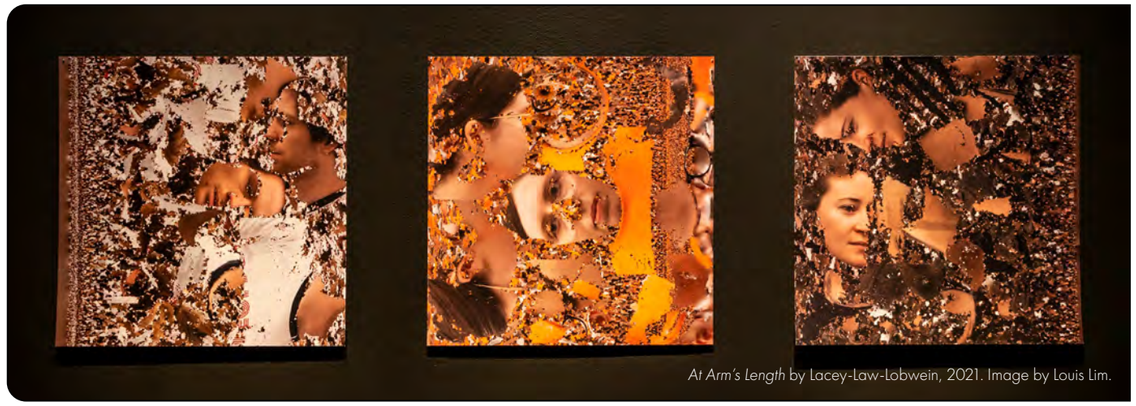
Sludge Bank by Change Collective, *Young Artist Forum*, 2021. Image by Tayla Lauren.

soul-hole by Zara Dudley, 2021. Image by Kyle Weise.

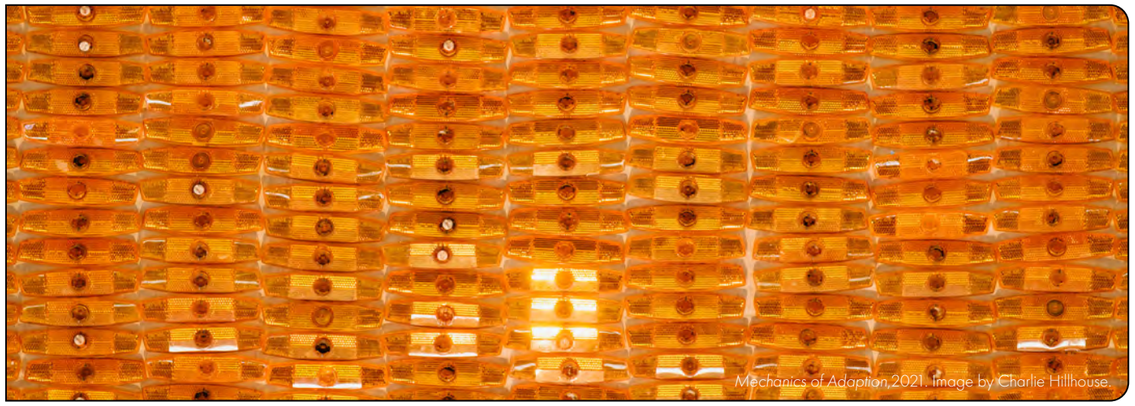
Love Letters in (e)motion by Anti Fischer, *Mad Dance Festival*, 2021. Image by Alex Vincent.

Dot Matrix of Humanity by Artist Boardriders Club, 2021. Image by Chris Bennie.

Weredingo by Karul Projects, *Brisbane Festival*, 2021. Image by Simon Woods.



At Arm's Length by Lacey-Law-Lobwein, 2021. Image by Louis Lim.



Mechanics of Adaption, 2021. Image by Charlie Hillhouse.

Compassionate Grounds by Emily Wakeling, 2021. Image by Kyle Weise.

This Ain't No Pussy Show by Kate Harman, *Brisbane Festival*, 2021. Image by Jade Ellis.

Elektra Orestes by HIVE Collective, 2021. Image by Stephen Henry.

"Our company feels so welcome at Metro and so supported by the whole team, it means so much to us. Metro is a testament to incredible leadership and innovative, respectful planning - so thank you for all that you do. "

— Performance artist, 2021

TREASURY REPORT

Paul Bowker and Brian Wyborn (Chair of Investment Committee)

The Metro Arts operations were heavily impacted by the ongoing fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, as Jo mentions in her CEO / Artistic Director Report, your team at Metro Arts was very effective in adapting operations to ensure the safety and support of its staff and stakeholder groups, as well as managing the business in a fiscally responsible manner.

The business overall returned a profit of $193,636 for 2021, which was an improvement over the loss of $123,757 in 2020. There were several factors that led to the business being able to navigate the pandemic so successfully, and in particular, I would like to highlight:

- The incredible job Jo and her team did in working tirelessly to ensure that the business remained nimble and adaptable to an operating environment that could often change dramatically on a day's notice, such as was the case with lockdowns and capacity restrictions
- The work of all the Board and Management who came before us in protecting the valuable building asset in Edward Street that was sold in 2020 with the funds forming the Metro Arts Future Fund
- The strong and tight management of the ongoing operational expenses to minimise any negative financial impacts during periods in which the venues were unable to operate at capacity, or at all; and
- A robust investment philosophy underpinning the Metro Arts Future Fund ("MAFF") that ensured strong returns were achieved throughout 2021.

Metro Arts Future Fund

In a year that saw the continued effects of Covid-19, the investment classes in which the MAFF was deployed faired broadly well through 2021. We have seen unemployment rates fall, global supply chains tighten and inflationary pressures seeping into the market. Mid-year we saw the Delta variant spread, lockdowns being enforced across the globe impacting economies and decimating businesses, not to mention the human toll. Throughout all this, global economies performed well, reopening continued, and market forecasters were surprised on the upside reflecting strong economic fundamentals.

The MAFF was a beneficiary of some of the positive impacts in these markets. As at 1 January 2021, the MAFF Portfolio was valued at $6,189,833 invested across broadly a 40/60 split of growth vs defensive assets. Throughout 2020, the Board adopted a defensive weighting of the MAFF in response to the volatile markets of 2020 when the MAFF was created. In early 2021, the Board sought to review the strategic asset allocation and increased the allocation to growth assets

Joining Multiples by Susan Hawkins, from the Mechanics of Adaption exhibition, 2021. Image by Dionne Pettingill.

in order to reflect the long-term strategy and organisational needs of Metro Arts in supporting artists. Through additional contributions to the MAFF and positive market returns in the portfolio, the MAFF was valued at $7,338,073 as at 31 December 2021 reflecting a 50/50 growth vs defensive asset allocation. In 2022 we hope to continue our growth trajectory with a keen eye on downside risk management.

Operations

The underlying operations of the business, comprising production and performance fees and royalties, café and bar sales and venue hire, grew to $318,130 in 2021 up from $175,008. This was driven partly from the more severe impacts of Covid-19 in 2020, but also a result of the operations now being embedded in the new West End location with a full year of trading having taken place. Subject to any ongoing Covid-19 related restrictions and effects, we would expect some growth in this revenue number in 2022.

The second of the core funding streams for Metro Arts has historically been income derived from government subsidies, grants and donations. In 2021, the business received $1,207,007 from these sources, appearing to be down from $1,325,134 in the year prior. Although the figures indicate a slight reduction, income from grants was strong in 2021with some funds (notably a $400,000 federal Government RISE grant) held over for expenditure in 2022. The business will continue to focus on ensuring subsidies, grants and donations are an ongoing source of funding as this provides a direct and very important contribution to our artistic community. It is heartening to note the 2021 figures also encompass a significant increase in donations / philanthropy which is a growth area for Metro Arts.

The third key revenue source for the business is the Metro Arts Future Fund, described [above]. This Fund had positive returns of $656,268 for the year which provides the business with a long-term source of equity and income to underpin the business and allow for long term strategic decision making.

Off the back of strong growth in 2021 of operating revenue, an ongoing valuable contribution from subsidies and grants, as well as a sound strategy to grow the Metro Arts Future Fund, Metro Arts enters 2022 confident and positive that it is on a sure footing to continue to invest in and develop the arts sector, whilst growing its overall balance sheet strength to ensure a long-term sustainable operation.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Genevieve Trace, General Manager

2021 did not represent the reprieve from Covid-19 that many of us hoped for, nevertheless the Development Department worked hard to garner significant support across a body of sponsors, donors and key bodies to allow Metro Arts to navigate through significant hurdles over the course of the year. The following is a snapshot of such support, but we remain greatly appreciative of all who have given and supported the organisation through this time.

2021 saw Mr Tim Fairfax AC and Mrs Gina Fairfax make the first major donation into the Metro Arts Future Fund ('MAFF'). Additionally, Mr and Mrs Fairfax also contributed to the continued creative development of new Australian work across the 2021 period. We thank Mr and Mrs Fairfax for their generous and timely support of both new work for today and the artists of tomorrow. Metro Arts was also fortunate to gain the support of another leading philanthropist in 2021 with Tim Minchin recognising the importance of Metro Arts to the independent arts and wider arts ecology. His donation to the organisation was the proceeds of VIP charity tickets purchased for the Brisbane leg of his BACK tour, and greatly contributed to philanthropic awareness of Metro Arts. The year also saw the Sidney Myer Fund recognise Metro Arts' achievements by awarding the organisation the 2020 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award for a Group in Queensland. We thank the Fund for their recognition of independent artists and their importance in a thriving performing arts ecology.

Recognition for the importance of the behind the scenes action at Metro Arts came in the form of funding from Perpetual's IMPACT Philanthropy Application Program, which allowed the organisation to undertake key capacity building work in marketing and digital communications towards audience development. This type of capacity building support is hard to come by, and Metro Arts thanks Perpetual and the Trusts they represent for identifying this need for not-for-profits across the many sectors with which they work. Metro Arts also garnered a significant funding amount from the Australian Government's RISE Fund, which will see the development and implementation of the MAVA Substation and Program at satellite venue, Norman Park, to build the capacity of mid-career visual artists, whilst also fostering the use of workshop space, tools and resources for the wider arts community.

The year also saw the continued rollout of our Education Partnership with TAFE Queensland. 2021 was a momentous year for this Partnership, as Metro Arts made a concerted effort to focus on emerging artists/arts workers as the sector continued to contract under the pressure of the ongoing pandemic. This included the presentation of the *Young Artist Forum*, the *Honours Degree 2021 Exhibition*, the *Industry of Practice Night* and the creative development of *Sunny Tribe* *District* by TAFE alumni company Robert the Cat. Another key facet to the support of emerging artsworkers was the rollout of the inaugural *Emerging Producer Xchange* made possible with the support of The Ian Potter Foundation.

The year saw our Partnership family continue to grow. West Village and Hutchinson Builders entered into the second year as Founding Venue Partners having supported the building of Metro Arts' new home in West End in 2020. Bricklane Brewing Co came onboard as a Strategic Partner to support our bar offering, and Heritage Conveyancing joined as key legal support for the organisation. Once again, we would like to thank Bones Accounting for their partial in-kind services and Hall Chadwick for their continued support of Metro Arts.

The year saw our Partnership family continue to grow. Mad Dance House, led by Director Meg Cooper, came on board to partner in the presentation of the inaugural Mad Dance Festival. We thank Meg for partnering with us on this important addition and recognition of Queensland's Street Dance scene. West Village and Hutchinson Builders entered into the second year as Founding Venue Partners having supported the building of Metro Arts' new home in West End in 2020. Bricklane Brewing Co came onboard as a Strategic Partner to support our bar offering, and Heritage Conveyancing joined as key legal support for the organisation. Once again, we would like to thank Bones Accounting for their partial in-kind services and Hall Chadwick for their continued support of Metro Arts.

Metro Arts thanks all our funding stakeholders, donors and sponsors for their continued support during an unprecedented time.

Members of Metro Arts' Board and team host Mr Tim Fairfax AC in the New Benner Theatre.

Young Artist Forum Interns (Left to Right): Rebecca Day, Peta Kishawi, Charlee Carthew-De Looze and Josh Welter. Image by Benjamin Garcia, 2021

Meg Cooper and Loic Robillot of Mad Dance House host guests at the *Mad Dance Festival* closing night event. Image by Alex Vincent, 2021.

PRESENTATIONS

PERFORMANCES

3 –13 FEBRUARY
Rising
Playlab Theatre
THEATRE | New Benner Theatre

17 – 27 FEBRUARY
The Bull, The Moon & The Coronet of Stars
HIVE Collective
THEATRE | New Benner Theatre

3 – 13 MARCH
Elektra / Orestes
HIVE Collective
THEATRE | New Benner Theatre

17 – 27 MARCH
Conviction
HIVE Collective
THEATRE | New Benner Theatre

1 MAY
When We Speak:
Camerata
MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

18 – 29 MAY
Anatomy of a Suicide
BC Productions QLD
THEATRE | New Benner Theatre

25 – 29 MAY
Fertile Ground
Ashleigh Musk & Michael Smith
THEATRE | The Ice Cream Factory & West Village

14 – 18 JULY
Collision
Casus Circus
CIRCUS | New Benner Theatre

22 JULY
Firestarter – The Story of Bangarra
Bangarra Dance Theatre
FILM | New Benner Theatre

23 JULY
Lesbian Love Stories
The Local Lesbians
CABARET | New Benner Theatre

29 JULY
An Intimate Evening with Architects of Sound
Architects of Sound & Friends
PERFORMANCE | New Benner Theatre

30 JULY
The People's Dance Party
Bring A Plate Dance Company
DANCE | New Benner Theatre

23 OCTOBER
Pink Matter B'Day Battles
Pink Matter
DANCE | New Benner Theatre

9 – 18 DECEMBER
Boyle and Waters in LEOTARD
Bridget Boyle & Neridah Waters
PERFORMANCE | New Benner Theatre

20 DECEMBER
Pink Inc
Pink Matter
DANCE | The Ice Cream Factory & West Village

YOUNG ARTIST FORUM

8 & 10 APRIL
Tangerine Hour
NDRNCE
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

9 – 10 APRIL
Sludge Bank
Chance Collective
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

10 APRIL
Music and Motion: Patterns in the Soil
Tess King
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

8 – 11 APRIL
Organic Algorithm
Bella Deary
EXHIBITION

8 – 11 APRIL
Non Sense
Nicholas Tossman
EXHIBITION

8 – 11 APRIL
Transliteration
Paean Sarkar
EXHIBITION

8 – 11 APRIL
Engkanto
Rhanjell Villanueva
EXHIBITION

8 – 11 APRIL
Journey of the Self
Nimue Dreaming
EXHIBITION

8 – 11 APRIL
Born Under A Tree
Kyra Mancktelow
EXHIBITION

8 APRIL
Technology Meets Art
TALK

8 APRIL
Behind the Art
TALK

9 APRIL
Inside ARIs & Collectives
PANEL

9 APRIL
Creative Brainstorming
WORKSHOP

10 APRIL
Digital Presence
WORKSHOP

11 APRIL
Taking Care of YOU
WORKSHOP

11 APRIL
Creative Pathways
WORKSHOP

11 APRIL
Art + Activism
PANEL

Art + Activism Panel, *Young Artist Forum* 2021. From left: Madeleine Little, Ella Tupua, Keemon Williams, Lamisse Hamouda (Facilitator). Image by Benjamin Garcia.

MAD DANCE FESTIVAL

6 & 8 MAY
M.I.N.D.E.D.
Elements Collective
DANCE | New Benner Theatre

6 – 7 MAY
Double Bill: Cool Asian Mum's Guide to Life and *Love Letters in (e)Motion*
Amy Zhang and Anti Fischer
DANCE | New Benner Theatre

7 – 8 MAY
Betwixt and Peach Papaya
Pink Matter and Golden Coastline
DANCE | New Benner Theatre

8 MAY
Street Dance: Histories and Futures in Brisbane and Beyond
ARTIST TALK | The Studios

8 MAY
Shake Down: Free Community Dance Class
Sheru Bharadwaja
DANCE CLASS | The Common, West Village

Peach Papaya by Golden Coastline, *Mad Dance Festival*, 2021. Image by Alex Vincent.

"For both of the performances in the double act, the audience was so engaged, part of the whole dance experience. It seemed they were all part of the dance... it made the whole experience phenomenal."

— Audience member of Mad Dance Festival, 2021

Cool Asian Mum's Guide to Life by Amy Zhang, 2021. Image by Alex Vincent.

Bentley String Quintet performs in front of *Arcana for a Season of Separation* in the New Benner Theatre, at Restrung Festival, 2021. Image by Nick Bleeker.

RESTRUNG FESTIVAL

14 OCTOBER
Killing Music by Topology
Topology
MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

14 OCTOBER
Hope's Beautiful Symphony
Featuring Aunty Delmae Barton with Vanessa Tomlinson, Erik Griswold and Samuel Pankhurst

MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

15 OCTOBER
Dots + Loops
Connor D'Netto, Kieran Welch and Flora Wong
MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

15 OCTOBER
Dreaming in the Sand
Composed by Robbie James | Performed by the Bentley String Quintet
MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

16 OCTOBER
David Bentley Trio with Shenzo and Danielle
David Bentley Trio
MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

16 OCTOBER
Double Bill: Tess King + Voltfruit
Tess King + Voltfruit
MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

14 – 16 OCTOBER
Arcana for a Season of Separation
Pat Hoffie and Stefan Purcell
ART INSTALLATION | New Benner Theatre

14 – 16 OCTOBER
Annihilation
Leah Barclay & Briony Luttrell
ART INSTALLATION | New Benner Theatre

16 OCTOBER
Closing Night Party with Estampa
MUSIC | New Benner Theatre

QLD CABARET LONG WEEKEND

29 OCTOBER
My Funny Valentine
Josh Daveta and The Sequins
CABARET | New Benner Theatre

29 OCTOBER
Ùmbriel
CABARET | New Benner Theatre

30 OCTOBER
1971 - The Music
With Nadia Sunde
CABARET | New Benner Theatre

30 OCTOBER
Hunky Dory
Alison St Ledger
CABARET | New Benner Theatre

In the Cuts by Azadeh Hamzeii, 2021. Image by Kyle Weise.

EXHIBITIONS

6 FEBRUARY – 18 MARCH
Adapt
Paula Dunlop
Window Gallery

6 – 27 FEBRUARY
Flight Into The Unknown
Nicholas Aloisio-Shearer
Gallery Two

6 – 27 FEBRUARY
A Drowning Sim's Cry for Help
Ursula Larin
Gallery One

12 FEBRUARY
Hinterland Valerie
Rebecca Ross and Erika Scott
Ferryman's Hut

6 – 21 MARCH
At Arm's Length
Lacey-Law-Lobwein
Gallery One

6 – 21 MARCH
The Last Bastion of Laziness
David Attwood
Gallery One

25 – 28 MARCH
CTRL+ALT+DEL: Shift
Curated by Conscious Mic, Bindimu & Fern Collective
Window Gallery, Gallery One & Gallery Two

10 – 17 APRIL
LOL
Curated by Sarah Werkmeister for Outer Space
Gallery Two

10 – 24 APRIL
against perfection (fissures and dust)
Marisa Georgiou
Window Gallery

10 APRIL – 1 MAY
Dungeon Master
Spencer Harvie
Gallery One

5 – 16 MAY
Light Affection
Helle Cook
Ferryman's Hut

6 – 9 MAY
Open Studio: Helle Cook
Helle Cook
Ferryman's Hut

8 – 30 MAY
Bridging the In-between
Torin Frances
Gallery Two

8 – 30 MAY
Ambit
Tay Haggarty and Holly Bates
Metro Arts

8 – 30 MAY
Co-existing Pollinators
Lillian Whitaker
Window Gallery

29 – 30 MAY
Open Studio: Aaron Chapman
Aaron Chapman
Norman Park Substation

5 – 26 JUNE
Subtitle Iran
Katayoun Javan
Gallery Two

5 – 26 JUNE
Old Haunts
Anthem ARI
Gallery One

6 – 24 JULY
Wun-ga-li Ngurrambaa Winanga-li
Debbie Taylor-Worley
Gallery One

6 – 24 JULY
The Weatherman
Callum McGrath
Gallery Two

9 – 28 AUGUST
Compassionate Grounds: Ten Years On in Tōhoku
Curated by Emily Wakeling
Gallery One, Gallery Two + Window Gallery

11 SEPTEMBER
Open Studio: Olivia Lacey
Olivia Lacey
Ferryman's Hut

3 – 26 SEPTEMBER
Mechanics of Adaption
Metro Arts & Brisbane Festival
Gallery One + Gallery Two

2 – 30 OCTOBER
Conversations on Shadow Architecture
Curated by Ineke Dane
Gallery One + Gallery Two + Window Gallery

4 – 14 NOVEMBER
Graduate Showcase Exhibition Honours Degree 2021
Presented by University of Canberra in partnership with TAFE Queensland
Gallery One + Gallery Two

5 – 14 NOVEMBER
Brisbane Portrait Prize 2021
Window Gallery + The Ice Cream Factory

20 – 27 NOVEMBER
soul-hole
Curated by Nextdoor ARI | Artwork by Zara Dudley
Gallery Two

20 – 27 NOVEMBER
Dot Matrix of Humanity
Artist Boardriders Club (ABC), curated by The Walls ARI
Gallery One

2 – 18 DECEMBER
Maelstrom
Harrison Hall and Luca Dante, curated by MARS
Gallery Two

2 – 18 DECEMBER
In the Cuts
Azadeh Hamzeii, co-presented with 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art
Gallery One

2 DECEMBER – 9 JAN 2022
777-Eleven
Joaquin Gonzales
Window Gallery

"Our show at Metro Arts provided space for us to experiment with new ideas and explore different types of research within our practice. This has contributed to the development of new ideas and exciting new works in progress."

— Exhibiting artist, 2021

"The generosity and reliability of Kyle and the resources of the galleries are both wonderful. The generous artist fee has meant that I was able to afford to experiment with unfamiliar materials and techniques without fear of running into debt with no artwork outcomes."

— Exhibiting artist, 2021

"I gained more experience and confidence with audio-visual artworks and had a really positive experience working alongside Kyle. His high level of professional care is a model I wish to follow."

— Exhibiting artist, 2021

PRODUCED ARTISTS

David Megarrity
Nathan Sibthorpe
Lisa Wilson

BUNKER by Lisa Wilson & Nathan Sibthorpe, 2021. Image by Fenlan Chuang.

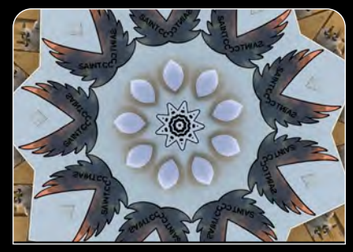
COMPANY IN RESIDENCE

Pink Matter

Betwixt by Pink Matter, *Mad Dance Festival*, 2021. Image by Alex Vincent.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Joseph Burgess
NORMAN PARK SUBSTATION



Rebecca Ross & Erika Scott
FERRYMAN'S HUT

Alicia Melonie Jones
NORMAN PARK SUBSTATION

Voltfruit
FERRYMAN'S HUT

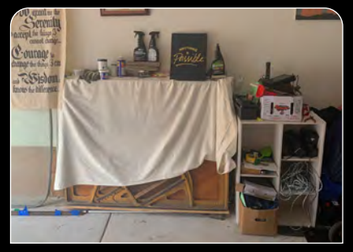
Aaron Chapman
NORMAN PARK SUBSTATION

Helle Cook
FERRYMAN'S HUT

regroup
FERRYMAN'S HUT

LittleBitts
FERRYMAN'S HUT

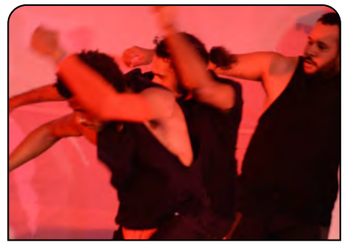
Olivia Lacey
FERRYMAN'S HUT



James Hazel
NORMAN PARK SUBSTATION

Joshua Pether
FERRYMAN'S HUT

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS



On the Shoulders of Giants
eXcelsior

Cold Ghost
Sandro Colarelli

BATSHIT
Leah Shelton

DEMOLITION
Polytoxic

Triptych & Postscript
Eve Klein, Taitu'uga Kitch Wesche and Ravi Glasser-Vorai

Ghost Story
Kristen Maloney

138 days of creative development

93 artists employed

2 works to premiere in 2022

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

"I was able to develop a collaborative framework for working with digital and embodied processes, resulting in a clearer pathway forward for new work creations."

— Creative Development artist, 2021

Collision by Casus Circus, 2021. Image by FenLan Chuang.

"I thought the Auslan integration was the best accessibility integration I've ever seen. And also the pre-show workshop was a wonderful expansion of the show."

— Audience member of Fertile Ground, *2021*

"It spoke to how I've felt for many years... Such a potent relevant conversation displayed through an accessible, inclusive and gentle story. Thank you."

— Audience member of Weredingo, *2021*

"This performance was illuminating, exciting, polished, brave, diverse, challenging and so full of technical dexterity and textural interest. Loved the multi-media elements."

— Audience member of When We Speak, *2021*

"The show is a dialogue of my generation. The questioning, the uncertainty, the effervescence. It was beautiful and I can't wait to see it evolve."

— Audience member of Tangerine Hour, *2021*

"The no pressure approach compared to other organisations with all their outcome expectations is so freeing and conducive for creative development."

— Artist-in-Residence, 2021

"My experience was perfect."

— Artist-in-Residence, 2021

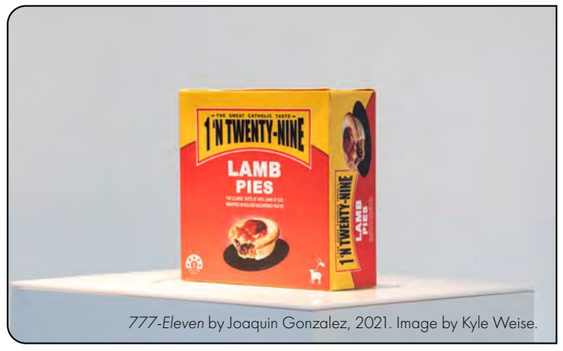
Fertile Ground by Ashleigh Musk and Michael Smith, 2021. Image by Jade Ellis.

"Gorgeous, powerful work. Such an accessible approach to audience interaction and really engaging. Still thinking about it days later. Well done!"

— Audience member of Fertile Ground, 2021

"Everyone from backstage to the box office was super accommodating and supportive."

— Performance artist, 2021



777-Eleven by Joaquin Gonzalez, 2021. Image by Kyle Weise.

" I really appreciate and enjoy the visual and performing arts programs being offered at Metro Arts... I'm feeling very privileged to have Metro in my local neighbourhood."

— Audience member of Firestarter, 2021

Conviction by Zoe Dawson, 2021. Image by Stephen Henry.

"More power to Metro Ars for taking on some tough subjects and presenting independent theatre that matters and makes us even a little uncomfortable."

— Phil Brown in The Courier Mail, Tuesday 18 May 2021, in reference to Anatomy of a Suicide

A Drowning Sim's Cry for Help by Ursula Larin, 2021. Image by Dean Swindell.

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LIBBY JEISMAN
Duty Manager

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BACK OF HOUSE
Natalie Callaghan, Tia-Hanee Cleary, Steven May, Mia McGavin, Ben Mills, Zac Neville and Sophie Watkins

BOARD

BRADLEY COOMBS
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DANIEL MCKEWEN
JAMES GAUCI
MICHAEL COTTIER
MOIRA MCGARVA (resigned April 2021)
FIONA HAWTHORNE
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BRIAN WYBORN
SUSAN CHENOWETH (elected by Board April 2021)
LIESEL ZINK (elected by Board April 2021, resigned July 2021)

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WESLEY ENOCH

2021 SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

We are truly grateful for the support of all our partners in 2021, whose assistance enables us to continue to back the development and presentation of ambitious contemporary art. Work created at Metro Arts goes on to national and international platforms, connecting with audiences from around the globe.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Australian Government | Australia Council for the Arts | Queensland Government | Brisbane City — Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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 Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. Metro Arts' Artist in Residence Program is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council. Norman Park Substation No. 9 and Teneriffe Ferryman's Hut are assisted by Brisbane City Council.

FOUNDING VENUE PARTNERS

West Village Brisbane | Hutchinson Builders Established 1912

Metro Arts welcomes West Village and Hutchinson Builders as Founding Venue Partners.

EMERGING PRODUCER XCHANGE

The Ian Potter Foundation

The Emerging Producer XChange is supported by The Ian Potter Foundation.

PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

BAD | Brisbane Festival | Brisbane Portrait Prize | Bus Projects | Centre for Contemporary Asian Art | [MARS] | mch mad dance house | Next Wave | Playlab Theatre | Queensland Music Festival

EDUCATION PARTNER

MAKE GREAT HAPPEN tafe Queensland

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

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Metro Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax for their contribution to the Metro Arts Future Fund.

ART STARTERS

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

Peta Bryant, Daryl Clifford, Hamish Clift, Brad Coombs, Michael Cottier, Jo Eager, Douglas and Elaine Eager, Leanne de Souza, Deborah & Stephen Green, Tara Hastings, Fiona Hawthorne, Donna Orazio, Danielle and Jason Organ, Margaret Ridley, Jo Thomas, Danielle Wood.

Mad Dance Festival Closing Party in Factory Lane, 2021. Image by Alex Vincent.

Metro Arts

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