

# ACE



2021

# Annual Report



**ACE tampinhi, ngadlu Kurna yartangka panpapanpalyarninhi (inparrinhi). Kurna miyurna yaitya mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku. Parnaku yailtya, parnaku tapa purruna, parnaku yarta ngadlu tampnhi. Yalaka Kurna miyurna itu yailtya, tapa purruna, yarta kuma puru martinhi, puru warri-apinhi, puru tangka martulayinhi.**

**ACE respectfully acknowledges the traditional country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.**



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2021

# About ACE

Located in Adelaide's iconic Lion Arts Centre precinct, Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE) is South Australia's leading independent contemporary visual arts organisation, proudly supporting artists to develop and present work on Kurna Yarta (Kurna Country).

Established through the merger of Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia (CACSA) and the Australian Experimental Art Foundation (AEAF) in 2017, ACE builds upon the legacy of over 100 years of innovative experimental arts practice in South Australia. Through our exhibitions, studios, public programs, professional development opportunities and publications, ACE expands the edges of contemporary visual art practice, embraces diversity and provides a space for artists to take risks.

## Our Approach to Programming

ACE prioritises socially minded and politically engaged art practices. We recognise that contemporary art takes many forms, and have built a reputation for presenting new and important processes and methodologies to artistic practice.

## Our Audiences

ACE believes everyone has a right to access artistic expression and take part in South Australia's cultural life. We invite audiences to experience contemporary art in an environment that is simultaneously engaging, challenging and welcoming. ACE is committed to ensuring our programs and activities are as accessible as possible, for as many people as possible.

## Our Role in the Sector

ACE plays a vital role within the South Australian arts sector and cultural ecology, and champions best practice in a wide range of arts activities. We serve as a scaffold for building local artists' careers and are quickly growing a legacy of new work commissions which continue to circulate in galleries and collections across Australia. We believe that, by strongly supporting local artists and communities, and connecting them to our national and international peers, we can create greater opportunities and more expansive contexts for a diversity of art practitioners in South Australia.

## Vision

To understand, expand and transform our world through contemporary art.

## Mission

To be South Australia's leading contemporary art space, nationally renowned for supporting artists, promoting artistic excellence and enriching audience experience.

We will achieve this by:

- Presenting and premiering new works from local, national and international artists
- Nurturing the careers of artists to elevate their practice
- Fostering conditions for critical engagement and exploration
- Making art and spaces that are accessible, respectful, and reflect Australia's diversity
- Encouraging, stewarding, and rewarding philanthropic support
- Securing a sustainable future through strong management practices and strategic partnerships

## Values

**Openness:** We believe in making contemporary art accessible to everyone, inviting artists and audiences to experience contemporary art in an environment that is as engaging and challenging as it is welcoming.

**Artistic Freedom:** We respect and nurture creative and cultural processes. We believe in the rights of artists to express themselves freely, as well as the general public's right to access artistic expressions and take part in cultural life.

**Diversity:** We believe in providing equal opportunities regardless of race, colour, gender, identity, sexual orientation, religion, age or disability. We are committed to making our activities inclusive and celebrating diversity in our programming, workforce and audiences.

Image: Exhibition opening, *WATER RITES* (2021), ACE Open. Photography Thomas McCammon.



In 2021, ACE continued to provide informative, engaging and critical programming for our community, despite the ongoing disruptions wrought by the pandemic. Our key areas of growth and achievement were partnerships, exhibitions and artist development.

## Partnerships

Through the growth of existing partnerships and development of new partnerships, ACE was able to do more for artists and audiences in 2021:

- Significant investment from Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art supported the creation of new work for *WATER RITES*, along with sponsorship from SA Water which saw comprehensive public programs delivered in regional communities with First Nations artists.
- A new education partnership with the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) resulted in the development of an online teaching resource, *Contemporary Art in the Classroom*, and delivery of an educator's day across ACE and AGSA.
- An exhibition partnership with Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) brought Sidney McMahon: *Of sorrow and release* to Adelaide. Initially commissioned by ACCA as part of a group exhibition, McMahon's work was reimaged for the ACE gallery with adapted lighting, sound and a new text-based installation.
- Ongoing partnerships with the City of Adelaide and Helpmann Academy, along with vital and fundamental contributions of the Studio Donors Circle, supported the continued growth of ACE's one of a kind Studio Program.
- A new media partnership with Solstice Media saw ACE's media presence grow, providing valuable opportunities to promote and profile artists in our programs.

Image: Exhibition opening, *The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)* (2021), ACE Open. Photography by Thomas McCammon.



## Exhibition Program

Bouncing back from reduced programming in 2020, we were able to present a year-long suite of exhibitions in 2021:

- ACE was the presenting partner for the *2021 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition*. This new partnership also involved ACE's Artistic Director, Patrice Sharkey, mentoring emerging project curator Eleanor Amor to realise the exhibition.
- Presented as part of the 2021 Adelaide Festival, *The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)*, was a group exhibition that explored the ways in which acts of nuclear trauma, Indigenous genocide and cultural erasure have been memorialised by artists and others. The exhibition premiered at ACE before touring to Melbourne's Living Museum of the West and Margaret Lawrence Gallery, The University of Melbourne.
- *Sidney McMahon: Of sorrow and release* brought together moving sculpture, video and sound to create an immersive encounter that addressed the personal experience of mourning and celebration that has accompanied the artist's own unfolding queer narrative. This exhibition was listed as 1 of 4 standout exhibitions nationally for 2021 by *Art Collector* magazine.
- *Bridget Currie: Message from the Meadow* was a meditative exploration of how artworks can trigger sensory affect. As the inaugural outcome of the Porter Street Commission, *Message from the Meadow* exemplified how the Commission can amplify contemporary art and artists in South Australia. A tour of this exhibition has been confirmed for Penrith Regional Gallery (NSW) in 2022, as we continue to explore further opportunities for presentations of Bridget's work across Australia.
- Featuring sculptural assemblage, moving image, sound and fermentation, *WATER RITES* was the result of a research-based, multi-part project by guest curator Danni Zuvella that explored water as culture, concept and commodity.
- The year concluded with *Studios: 2021*, which featured new work by ACE's five studio artists: Sundari Carmody, Anna Gore, Jonathan Kim, Oakey and Loren Orsillo. This annual exhibition serves as the culmination of the Studio Program residency and was accompanied by a substantial catalogue featuring new writing on each artist.

## Artist Development

Opportunities for artists and arts workers to develop skills and professional pathways was a key outcome in 2021, achieved through a range of projects and programs:

- The Studio Program continued to grow in 2021 as a key component of ACE's activities, with the strength and reputation of the Program demonstrated by the number and strength of applications for 2022's intake. Amongst other professional development opportunities, current studio artists benefited from studio visits with Sebastian Goldspink (curator of the 2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art), Miriam Kelly (Curator, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art) and Oliver Watts (Senior Curator, Artbank).
- 2021 Curator-in-Residence Eleanor Scicchitano undertook a 12-month residency in which she served as the project curator for *Bridget Currie: Message from the Meadow* and co-curated *Studios: 2021*.
- A new 12-month development role for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Curator-in-Residence was made possible through funding from the City of Adelaide and Arts South Australia. Tikari Rigney was appointed to the role in August, supporting the delivery of *WATER RITES* and associated public programs.
- A 3-day workshop titled *Togetherness* was held in June in Port Elliot, which brought together queer identifying artists from across Australia for a weekend of collectively, intimacy, affinities and collaboration. *Togetherness* was presented as part of *Of sorrow and release* and co-facilitated by Sidney McMahon and Frances Barrett.
- As part of the development of *WATER RITES*, the Barngarla Artist Exchange saw artists travel to Galinyala (Port Lincoln) to undertake field trips with Barngarla traditional knowledge-holders and friends. During the workshop, held at the Nautilus Arts Centre, artists shared time, food, paints, brushes, canvases and stories, finding points of connection through a mutual love of southern saltwater Country, and its resident flora and fauna.

On behalf of the ACE board and leadership team, we would like to acknowledge the important and continuing contributions of all our staff, artists, volunteers, supporters, sponsors and audiences, and thank you all for your ongoing support.

# Artists

Kathy Aigner  
Lur Alghurabi  
Lucien Alperstein  
Eleanor Amor  
Betty Apple,  
Jen Atherton  
Eric Avery  
Bin Bai  
Tamara Baillie  
Virginia Barratt  
Ashley Bartsch  
BEAST MODE  
Renee Bell  
Aly Bennett,  
Sissel M. Bergh  
Mareike Bernien  
Kerstin Schroedinger  
Blast Rhombus  
BLECK  
Kumanara Boogar  
Jacqueline Bradley  
Alicia Butt  
Sundari Carmody

Shuriken Cell  
Phil Collins  
Megan Cope  
Trent Crawford  
Claude Creighton  
Amber Cronin  
Lucille Crowder  
Nici Cumpston  
Bridget Currie  
Brad Darkson  
Chloe Darkson  
Isobel Davies  
Pat Diment  
Martha Dimitriou  
Stephanie Doddridge  
Chantelle Fey  
fine print  
Con Gerakaris  
Anna Gore  
Dennis Grauel  
Dominic Guerrera  
Tay Haggarty  
Libby Harward

Niki Hastings-McFall  
Lisa Havilah  
Wes Hill  
Skye Hopinka  
Matt Huppatz  
inhabitants/  
Margarida Mendes  
Rosie Isaac  
Jonathan Kim  
Jessa Kloeden  
Daria Kolijanin  
Korpys/Löffler  
Rosemary Laing  
Karina Lester  
Lok.  
Monte Masi  
Thomas McCammon  
Julie Mcinerny  
Sidney McMahan  
Rio Mignone  
Sean Miles  
Hayley Millar Baker  
Archie Moore

Ellis Moseley  
Natasha Naveu  
Arjuna Neuman  
Will Nolan  
Oakey  
Uncle Michael  
'Mickey' O'Brien  
Tyrone Ormsby  
Loren Orsillo  
Sanja Pahoki  
Taylor Parham  
Warren Paul  
Ashley Perry  
Maiko Pettman  
Bianca Pibworth  
Mark du Potiers  
Kate Power  
Hannah Presley  
Melanie Pryor  
Mandy Quadrio  
Melinda Rackham  
Lisa Radford  
Dani Reynolds

Tabita Rezaire  
Evelyn Richards  
Jenna Richards  
Lavinia Richards  
Vera Richards  
Francesca da Rimini  
Chris De Rosa  
Tricia Ross  
Autumn Royal  
Iran Sanadzadeh  
Nina Sanadze  
Sandra Saunders  
Dr David Sequeira  
Yhonnie Scarce  
Melissa Shinn  
Denise Ferreira  
da Silva  
Marlee Silva  
Lisa Slade  
Sam Songailo  
Asha Southcombe  
Costa Stefanou  
Jessica Stephens

Major 'Uncle Moogy'  
Sumner  
Caitlin Swan-Taylor  
Candace Swan-Taylor  
Ian Taylor  
Lane Taylor  
LJ Taylor  
Jelena Telecki  
Unbound Collective  
Mark Valenzuela  
Hen Vaughan  
Tanya Voges  
Henry Jock Walker  
Samantha Wilson  
Judy Watson  
Su Yu-Hsin  
Maria Zagala  
Emmaline Zanelli  
Azza Zein  
Meng Zhang  
Ghil'ad Zuckermann  
Danni Zuvela



# Donors

ACE's programs are supported by a great number of generous donors. In 2021 we concentrated donor support on our Studio Program and the commissioning of a new mural in the studio stairwell by artist Sam Songailo, titled *Headphones on, phone down, in bed, dark room, eyes closed*.

We thank all of our donors for their support of ACE and commitment to South Australian artists.



## Benefactors

David McKee AO  
and Pam McKee

## Commissioning Donors

Andreyev Foundation

## ACE Studio Program Donors Circle

Susan Armitage

Jane Ayers

Sally Ball

Candy Bennett

James Darling AM

Julia Dowling

Lesley Forwood

Rick & Jan Frolich

Stephanie Grose

Andrew Henderson

Kate Irving

Hon Diana Laidlaw  
AM

James Lake

# 17

Brigitte Lane

Stephen Lane

Edwina Lehmann

David McKee AO

Pam McKee

Ministry of Clouds

Aidan Rigoni

Louise Rigoni

Venetia Rigoni

Thelma Taliangis

## Studio Stairwell Mural Donors

John & Jane Ayers

Sally Ball

Candy Bennett

James Darling AM

Julia Dowling

Lesley Forwood

Rick & Jan Frolich

Stephanie Grose

Andrew Henderson

Kate Irving

Hon Diana Laidlaw  
AM

James Lake

Brigitte Lane

Stephen Lane

Edwina Lehmann

Ministry of Clouds

Mary-Jean  
Richardson

Aidan Rigoni

Louise Rigoni

Leigh Robb

Thelma Taliangis

Image: Donor Support Group, from left to right: Andrew Henderson, Sally Ball, James Darling AM, Candy Bennett, Brigitte Lane. Photography by Thomas McCammon.

# Statistics

**138**

Artists Engaged

**33**

New Works Premiered

**8**

Exhibitions and Projects Presented

**15891**

Exhibitions visitors

**29**

Public Programs Delivered

**1643**

Public Programs Participants

**107**

Media Mentions

**5150**

Instagram Followers

**3969**

Facebook Followers

**4704**

EDM Subscribers

**3**

Publications Released

## Annual Report

Image: Bridget Currie, *Message from the Meadow* (2021), exhibition view, ACE Open. Photography by Sam Roberts.



# Exhibition Program



Image: *The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)* (2021), exhibition view, ACE Open. Photography by Josh Geelen.

29 January - 13 February 2021

## Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition

The *Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition* is an annual showing of the next generation of South Australia's contemporary creative voices.

As first time presenting partner in 2021 over twenty emerging artists from Flinders University and the University of South Australia showcased their graduate works in the ACE gallery.

The *Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition* continued to provide a visible platform for emerging artists to launch their creative careers, which also provided the wider arts community with an insight into the future of art in South Australia.

Curator  
Eleanor Amor

Artists  
Bin Bai, Ashley Bartsch, Renee Bell, Alicia Butt, Amber Cronin, Lucille Crowder, Isobel Davies, Martha Dimitriou, Stephanie Doddridge, Chantelle Fey, Jessa Kloeden, Lok., Rio Mignone, Ellis Moseley, Taylor Parham, Maiko Pettman, Bianca Pibworth, Tricia Ross, Melissa Shinn, Asha Southcombe, Jessica Stephens, Meng Zhang

Exhibition Days: 17  
Attendance: 863



Image: Exhibition opening, *Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition* (2021), ACE Open. Photography by Thomas McCammon.





Image: Unbound Collective, *Sovereign Acts | REFUSE* (2018), Digital video loop, 10:15 minutes, *Sovereign Acts | In the Wake* (2019), banana paper, archives, song and poetry dimensions variable. ACE Open (2021). Photography by Josh Geelen.

**The Image is Not Nothing (Concrete Archives)** is a complex, contemplative exhibition that tears at the soul and raises valuable questions.

26 February – 24 April 2021

## The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)

*The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)* was a group exhibition that explored the ways in which acts of nuclear trauma, Indigenous genocide and cultural erasure have been memorialised by artists and others. It comes as the result of research by curators Lisa Radford and Yhonnie Scarce whose fieldwork encompassed sites of significance including Auschwitz, Chernobyl, Fukushima, Hiroshima, Maralinga, New York, Wounded Knee and former Yugoslavia.

In the wake of the historic devastations that have occurred at these sites, architecture (brutalist buildings, monuments and memorials) and imagery (photographs, diarised accounts) remain an archive of human history and loss scattered across the globe. They are the physicality of immeasurable atrocities and attempts at representing the intangible. When acts of genocide that have occurred in Australia since colonisation are routinely overlooked or disregarded, *The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)* ultimately looked here and elsewhere in order to grapple with traumas that Australia as a nation has not processed.

The exhibition presented new and existing work in a range of material forms by over 20 emerging and established artists from the lands that make up Australia and abroad.

Exhibition Days: 40  
Attendance: 1462

# The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)

## Curators

Lisa Radford & Yhonnie Scarce

## Artists

Mareike Bernien and Kerstin Schroedinger (DE),  
Kumanara Boogar (Yalata, AU), Phil Collins (DE),  
Megan Cope (Quandamooka), Trent Crawford (Naarm,  
AU), Pam Diment (Ceduna, AU), Niki Hastings-McFall  
(Aotearoa/ W. Samoa), Korpys/Löffler (DE),  
Rosemary Laing (AU), Hayley Millar Baker (AU),  
Sanja Pahoki (Woiwurrung, AU), Warren Paul,  
aka Ebay (Yalata, AU), Ashley Perry (Quandamooka),  
Nina Sanadze (AU), Jelena Telecki (AU),  
Unbound Collective (Kurna Yarta, AU),  
Judy Watson (Waanyi)

Image: Nina Sanadze, *100 Years After, 30 years On, 3rd Tbilisi Triennial* (2018), plaster models, moulds, fragments and traces, plaster, acrylic paint, 600 x 600 x 600cm. ACE Open (2021).  
Photography by Grant Hancock.



ADELAIDE  
FESTIVAL **AF**  
28 Feb - 14 Mar 2021



CREATIVE VICTORIA

Presented as part of the 2021 Adelaide Festival. This project has been made possible by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, The Centre of Visual Art (CoVA) at the University of Melbourne and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria – Creators Fund.

14 May – 3 July 2021

## Sidney McMahon: Of sorrow and release

Sidney McMahon's installation, *Of sorrow and release*, choreographed the diverse and complex emotional registers that evolve over time when processing experiences of loss, change and revelation.

Bringing together moving sculpture, video and sound, *Of sorrow and release* addressed the personal experience of mourning and celebration that has accompanied the artist's own unfolding queer narrative.

Monumental sail cloths rise and fall from ropes and pulleys suspended from the ceiling, while a performative two-channel video documents the artist searching for something they both do and do not wish to find. Dynamic, variable and in a constant state of settling and unsettling, McMahon's installation interweaves human, psychological and computational perspectives to ultimately respond to the question: 'How do I celebrate the person I am now whilst expressing sorrow for my previous self?'

Exhibition Days: 37  
Attendance: 360

Image: Sidney McMahon, *Of Sorrow and Release* (2021), exhibition view, ACE Open. Photography by Thomas McCammon.



acca

THE MACFARLANE FUND



Presented in association with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, this project was initially commissioned by ACCA for Overlapping Magisteria: The 2020 Macfarlane Commissions, supported by the Macfarlane Fund. The development of this work was additionally supported by Create New South Wales.

“By the time it was shown at ACE, the fragility of breath was on our minds for a number of reasons. McMahon makes space for this precious act. A deep breath in. And release.”

Art Collector



16 July – 4 September 2021

## Bridget Currie: Message from the meadow

*Message from the meadow* was an exhibition alert to the both the proximities and boundaries between bodies, objects and space: organic, abstract forms made intuitively by the artist serve as physical koans (things that exist to ask a question), displayed amongst an ecology of bespoke domestic furniture that privileges intimacy and tactility. Currie also constructed a sonic landscape of ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response) and spoken text (poetry, storytelling and new age guided meditation) to accompany the viewer and assist in short circuiting the logical mind. Alongside this physical grammar of objects, *Message from the meadow* premiered Currie's new film, *soft insides* — a non-linear documentation of pre-language encounters.

Developed across 2020 under digitally fragmented and socially distanced conditions, *Message from the meadow* therapeutically encouraged a deeper engagement with place and the self.

Bridget Currie was the inaugural recipient of the Porter Street Commission – ACE's newly established annual art award supporting new artwork commissions by South Australian artists.

Exhibition Days: 31  
Attendance: 572

Image: Bridget Currie, *Message from the Meadow* (2021), exhibition view, ACE Open. Photography by Sam Roberts.

“Currie immerses visitors in a slow and attentive space, redolent of the meadow's intertwined ecology.”

Art Guide

guildhouse

SALA



Government of South Australia  
Arts South Australia

Presented as part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival. This project has been generously supported by the South Australian Government through Arts South Australia. *soft insides* 2018-2020 is supported by the Guildhouse Catapult mentorship program. Furniture made in collaboration with Dean Toepfer of Mixed Goods Studios.



24 September – 20 November 2021

## WATER RITES

Water is the common element connecting and sustaining all living beings: we are all made of water. As sweat, tears and the ocean, saltwater indexes pleasure and pain, effort, escape and exaltation. Seemingly ubiquitous, but also increasingly scarce, fresh water is at the centre of a growing virtual marketplace of speculative futures, and is now the world's most valuable commodity. There is a lot of weight on water.

*WATER RITES* explored the ways water performs, works, manifests and asserts itself in human and other worlds through artworks, knowledge production and embodied acts. Featuring sculptural assemblage, moving image, sound and fermentation, the exhibition is the result of a research-based, multi-part project engaging with environments and communities of coastal significance in South Australia.

Exhibition Days: 41  
Attendance: 822



Image: *WATER RITES* (2021), exhibition view, ACE Open.  
Photography by Grant Hancock.

“ACE and guest curator Danni Zuvella have provided a safe haven for experimental and yet provocative work that initiates hard conversations around our relationships with water”

Artlink

# WATER RITES

Curator

**Danni Zuvela**

Lead Artists

**Libby Harward, Archie Moore, Mandy Quadrio**

Barngarla Artists

**Jenna Richards, Vera Richards, Evelyn Richards,  
Candace Swan-Taylor, Caitlin Swan-Taylor**

Screen Artists

**Tamara Baillie, Sissel M. Bergh,  
Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman,  
Libby Harward, Sky Hopinka, inhabitants/  
Margarida Mendes, Natasha Naveau, Tabita Rezaire,  
Su Yu-Hsin, Henry Jock Walker**

Sound Program

**Betty Apple, Costa Stefanou**



Government of South Australia  
Arts South Australia



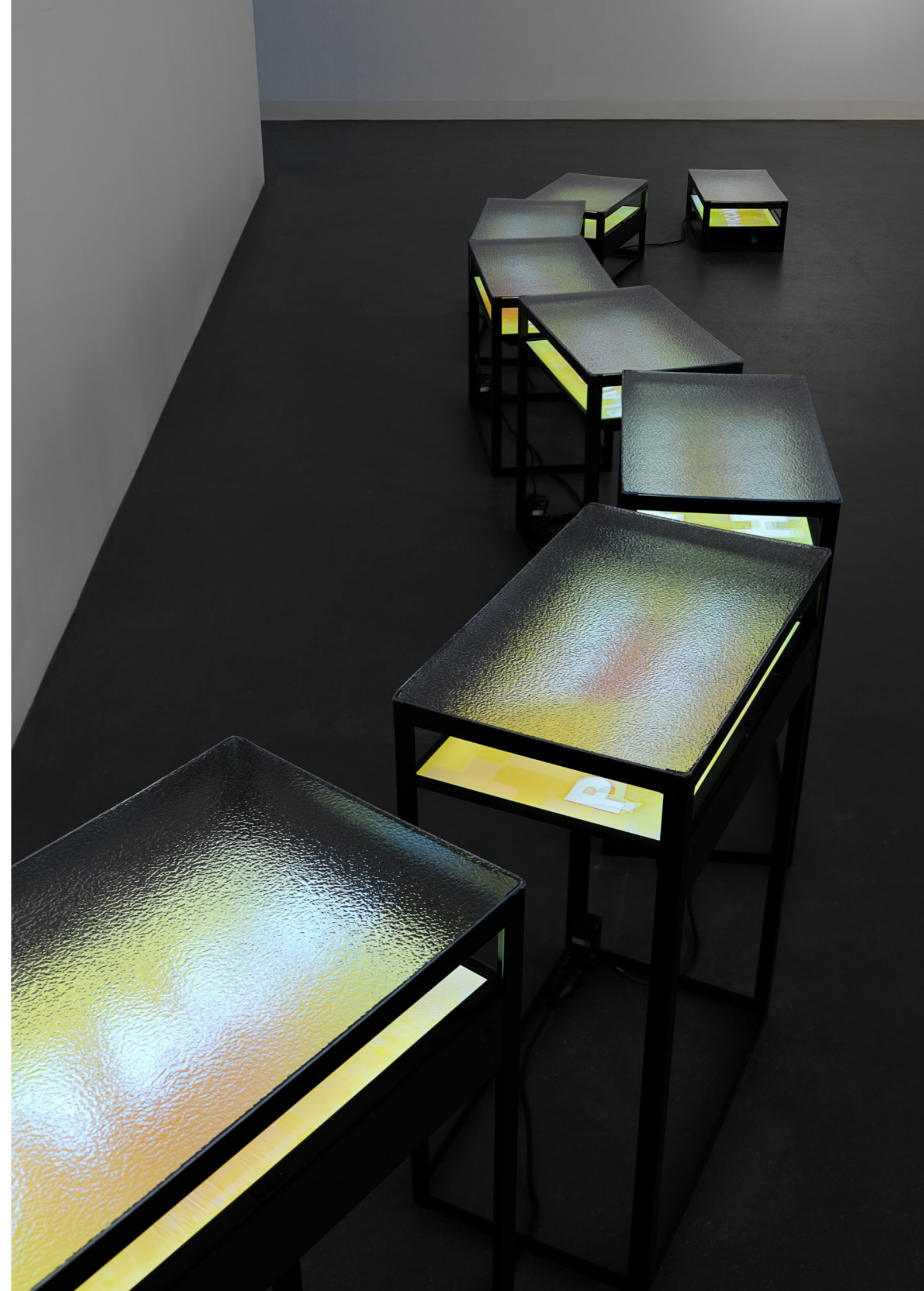
Australia Council  
for the Arts

**AGSA** tarnanthi **BHP**  **SA Water**

Presented as part of Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art. This project is supported by SA Water, Arts South Australia and the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Annual Report

Image: Archie Moore, *Lake Massacre 2021* (2021), digital animation, TV monitors, rippled polycarbonate, metal stands, dimensions variable. ACE Open. Photography by Grant Hancock.



4 - 18 December 2021

## Studios: 2021

*Studios: 2021* provided audiences with a snapshot of work developed out of the ACE studios over the past two years.

Sundari Carmody works across sculpture, photography, installation and video to explore cosmic architecture, and the natural cycles that shape our lives.

Anna Gore is a painter who works both in the traditional format of paint on canvas, and in the expanded field of sculpture and installation. Her practice is engaged with painting's capacity for inwardness, experimentation, idiosyncrasy, dynamism, mystery and indefinableness.

Jonathan Kim incorporates installation, sculpture and painting to explore the relationship between the viewer, the space they inhabit and the objects that occupy that space. Drawing on cultural elements from his many homes across the world—South Korea, China and Australia— Kim combines ancient traditions with elements of arte povera, minimalism and contemporary art theory.

Oakey creates sculptural and installation works for both gallery and public spaces. Her practice explores themes of deep ecology and plant intelligence as she seeks to make visible the hidden connections and environments beyond the perceived world. Her featured work, *Resonance*, was created in response to a 2021 Nature Festival Residency.

Loren Orsillo's unconventional painting practice embraces objecthood and meaning embedded within materials. With one foot in modernist tradition and the other firmly in the experimental, her paintings dabble with assemblage, installation and the tradition of the ready-made.

Exhibition Days: 12  
Attendance: 199



Curators  
Eleanor Scicchitano &  
Patrice Sharkey

Artists  
Sundari Carmody,  
Anna Gore, Jonathan Kim,  
Oakey, Loren Orsillo



The 2020-21 Studio Program is supported by City of Adelaide, Helpmann Academy and the ACE Studio Donors Circle.

Image: Anna Gore, *Studios: 2021* (2021), exhibition view, ACE Open.  
Photography by Grant Hancock.

26 September 2020 - 31 October 2021

## Sera Waters: Domestic Arts (Touring Exhibition)

Originally presented at ACE in July 2017, *Domestic Arts* gave audiences the opportunity to unravel the complex histories and traditions of homemaking in Sera Waters' practice.

Tour dates

**Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery**

6 February—14 March 2021

**Murray Bridge Regional Art Gallery**

20 March—2 May 2021

**Walkway Gallery, Bordertown**

19 July—5 September 2021

**Riddoch Art Gallery, Mount Gambier**

11 September—31 October 2021

Exhibition Days: 150

Attendance: 11,525



Image: Sera Waters, *Telling Tales on Terry Towelling: The Lost Flock (Foxy Tales)* (2017), 75cm (W) x 120cm (H), 2017, towel, wool, cotton, fox fur, found beads, found fabric, ACE Open. Photography by Grant Hancock.



The tour of Domestic Arts has been made possible in partnership with Country Arts SA.

# Special Projects



ACE

## Sam Songailo: *Headphones on, phone down, in bed, dark room, eyes closed*

Launched: 3 June 2021

Sam Songailo was commissioned to create a mural that transformed ACE's rear stairwell into a more welcoming studio entrance for studio artists and visitors to the studios and residential apartment. It was commissioned by ACE in 2020 and installed across May 2021.

Sam's work takes form in painting, installation, video, sound and sculpture. He is deeply influenced by digital technology and electronic music, adopting algorithms and concepts from these disciplines to shape his approach to both physical and pictorial space.

Supported by the Studio Stairwell Mural Donors

Image: Sam Songailo, *Headphones on, phone down, in bed, dark room, eyes closed* (2021), ACE Open. Photography by Sam Roberts.

## Matt Huppatz: *Dreamachine21*

31 August – 4 September 2021

Matt Huppatz continued his exploration of altered states by re-creating the legendary 'Dreamachine,' first invented in 1962 by artist Brion Gysin (collaborator of William S. Burroughs) and mathematician Ian Sommerville (Burroughs's "systems adviser"). This strobic light device purportedly induces dream-like visions in the mind's eye of "viewers," who watch with eyes closed.

Gysin promoted the 'Dreamachine' as a technology of liberation, with the potential to replace both television and recreational drugs. The spinning cylinder of the device creates a flickering effect that mimics the brain's alpha waves and triggers a "threshold consciousness" like that experienced in the transition from wakefulness to sleep.

Huppatz drew on his own historical research, and a plethora of DIY YouTube videos, to build a communal machine for a new generation of psychonauts. Visitors were invited to make themselves comfortable in the gallery, settle back, close their eyes, and experience the old/new world that the 'Dreamachine' offered.

Number of exhibition days: 5  
Attendance: 88

Commissioned for the inaugural Illuminate Adelaide festival, Dreamachine21 was presented in the front room of the ACE gallery during the last week of Bridget Currie: Message from the meadow.



# Publications



Image: Detailed image of *Studios: 2021* catalogue.  
Photography by Thomas McCammon.

# The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)

Print copy catalogue made in response to the evolving and open digital archival project and exhibition *The Image is Not Nothing (Concrete Archives)*.

Authors

Karina Lester, Lisa Radford, Yhonnie Scarce,  
Dr David Sequeira, Patrice Sharkey, Azza Zein

Editor

Lisa Radford

Copy Editor

Lisa Radford

Design

Tyrone Ormsby & Thomas McCammon

Published by

ACE & Person Books

Edition

1000

ISBN

978-1-875751-21-1

Exhibition Catalogue

51 pages, 22 x 15.5cm



ACE

## Bridget Currie: Message from the meadow

Accompanying artist book to Bridget Currie's  
*Message from the Meadow*- the inaugural Porter  
Street Commission exhibition outcome.

Concept  
Bridget Currie

Artist Book  
24 pages, 10.4 x 14.8cm

Authors  
Bridget Currie, Patrice Sharkey

Design  
Person Books

Published by  
ACE & Person Books

Edition  
150

ISBN  
978-1-875751-22-8





# Studios: 2021

Accompanying exhibition catalogue to *Studios:2021*, featuring written responses to our current studio artist's practice.

Authors

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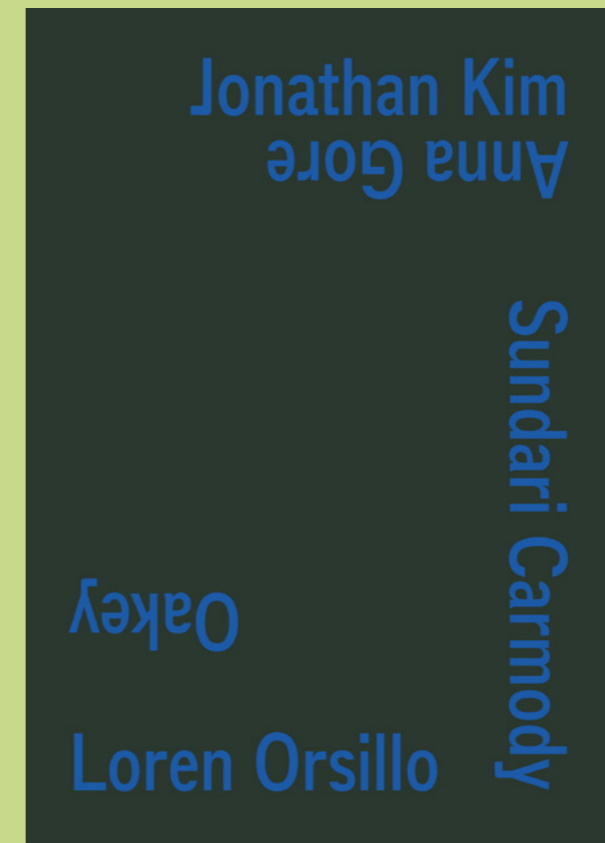
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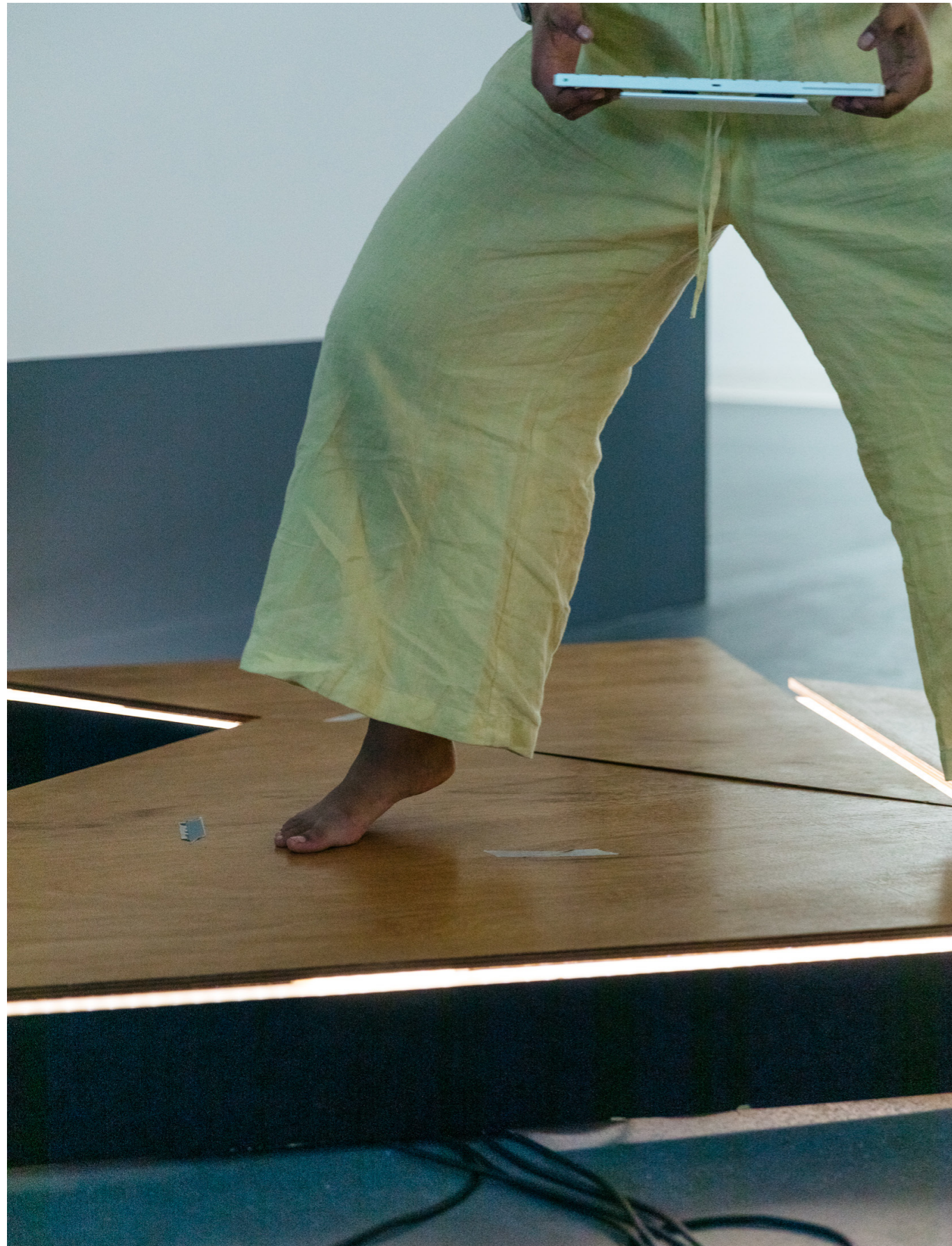
Exhibition Catalogue  
115 pages, 21 x 14.8cm



# Public Programs

Image: Melinda Rackham, *Cold Case* (2021), performed by Virginia Barratt for *Follow That Feeling*, ACE Open. Photography by Thomas McCammon.





## Concrete Archives: Symposium

10/04/21 Nexus Arts 51 attendees

Speakers

Kathy Aigner, Rosemary Laing, Karina Lester

Facilitator

Lisa Slade

Screening

*Australian Atomic Confessions* (2005)  
directed by Kathy Aigner & Greg Young

Presented in partnership with Nexus Arts

## Artbank Unpacked

21/04/21 ACE studios 20 attendees

Speakers

Zoe Rodriguez, Oliver Watts

Presented in partnership with Artbank

## fine print Reading Circles #1

15/04/21 ACE gallery 59 attendees

Written works

Lur Alghurabi, Melanie Pryor, Marlee Silva

Live performative responses

Dominic Guerrera Julia Mayer, Britt Plummer,  
Yasemin Sabuncu, Louise Wellington

Image: fineprint Listening Circles #2, ACE Open. Photography by Sia Duff.

**fine print Reading Circles #2**

17/04/21 ACE gallery 24 attendees

Sound works

Eric Avery, Rosie Isaac, Iran Sanadzadeh,  
Marcus Whale

Reading Circles was presented as part of The Image is Not Nothing  
(Concrete Archives)

**Open Studio #1**

17/04/21 ACE studio 58 attendees

Studio artists

Sundari Carmody, Anna Gore, Jonathan Kim, Oakey,  
Loren Orsillo

Music

Blast Rhombus

Presented as part of SALA Festival

**Educators Day**

14/08/21 ACE gallery 59 attendees

Artist Talk

Bridget Currie

Workshops

Emmaline Zanelli and Will Nolan

**AGSA**

Presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of South Australia

Image: Meditation and tactile tour, Bridget Currie, Message from the Meadow (2021), ACE Open. Photography by Grace Marlow.



## Message from the meadow — Meditation & Tactile Tour

21 & 28/08/21 ACE gallery 7 & 8 attendees

Meditation guides

Bridget Currie, Monte Masi, Kate Power

## Message from the meadow — Finissage & Catalogue Launch

04/09/21 ACE gallery 24 attendees

## WATER RITES Film Screening Part 1 — Outgoing Tide

20/10/21 Online 23 attendees

Screening artists

Tabita Rezaire, inhabitants/Margarida Mendes,  
Libby Harward, Denise Ferreira da Silva and  
Arjuna Neuman

Speakers

Libby Harward, Danni Zuvela

## Follow That Feeling — Sirens Calling

03/11/21 ACE gallery 32 attendees

Artists

Aly Bennett, Shuriken Cell, BEAST MODE

Developed as part of a Carclew Fellowship awarded to Grace Marlow

## Follow That Feeling — Slip of the Tongue

10/11/21 ACE gallery 50 attendees

Artists

Melinda Rackham (performed by Virginia Barratt),  
Francesca da Rimini, Hen Vaughan

Developed as part of a Carclew Fellowship awarded to Grace Marlow

## WATER RITES Film Screening Part 2 — Incoming Tide

17/11/21 Online 10 attendees

Screening artists

Skye Hopinka, Su Yu-Hsin, Sissel M. Bergh,  
Natasha Naveau

Speakers

Nici Cumpston, Danni Zuvela

## Studios 2021 — Open Studio

09/12/21 ACE gallery 50 attendees

Studio artists

Sundari Carmody, Anna Gore, Jonathan Kim,  
Oakey, Loren Orsillo

Presented as part of Studios: 2021

## Artist Led Workshops

### Storytelling through digital assemblage

Hayley Millar Baker

24/04/21 5 attendees

Adelaide College of the Arts,  
Level 1, 39 Light Square,  
Adelaide

### Drawing through movement

Tanya Voges

26/06/21 6 attendees

ACE studios

### Transforming found materials into sculpture

Jonathan Kim

21/08/21 9 attendees

ACE studios

### Explore sea living organisms to create print-based works

Chris De Rosa

09/10/21 12 attendees

ACE studios





## Perspectives: shaping the world through visual culture

Perspectives is an annual initiative, inviting artists, makers and cultural thinkers to reflect on some of the most compelling and current topics in contemporary culture.

All talks presented at Allan Scott Auditorium, UniSA.

### Constructive Memory & Storytelling

Hayley Millar Baker

23/04/21 167 attendees 97 online views

### Reframing The Institution

Lisa Havilah

16/06/21 195 attendees 157 online views

### Curator/Confidant

Hannah Presley

16/10/21 91 attendees 322 online views

## Talks

### The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)

Lisa Radford, Yhonnie Scarce

13/03/21 Curator Tour 32 attendees

### Of sorrow and release

Sidney McMahan

15/05/21 Artist Talk 13 attendees views

### Bridget Currie in conversation with Eleanor Scicchitano

Bridget Currie, Eleanor Scicchitano

14/08/21 Artist Talk 11 attendees

### Sweat and Tears and the Ocean Artist Talks

Mandy Quadrio, Tamara Baillie, Lucien Alperstein,  
Candace Swan-Taylor, Caitlin Swan-Taylor,  
Ghil`ad Zuckermann

16/10/21 Artist Talk 39 attendees views

Curator tour with Dani Zuvela

Live performance by Constantine Stefanou

Image: Artist Talk, Mandy Quadrio, *WATER RITES*, ACE Open.  
Photography by Thomas McCammon.





## Accessible Tours

### Auslan only event: tour *Of sorrow and release*

16/05/21 ACE gallery 2 attendees

Featuring artist talk by Sidney McMahan

### Accessible tour of *WATER RITES* exhibition

12/10/21 ACE gallery 2 attendees

Led by Danni Zuvella

### Deaf-led Auslan tour of *WATER RITES*

14/10/21 ACE gallery 20 attendees

Led by Samantha Wilson



Image: Artist Talk, Sidney McMahan, *Of sorrow and release*, ACE Open. Photography by Grace Marlow.

## Exchanges and offsite projects

### Togetherhness

15/04/21 The Waverley Estate, Port Elliott 10 participants

A group of 8 artists spent time together developing a collaborative video document, sharing meals and making connections. The selected participants were Sean Miles (online), Tay Haggarty (online), Jen Atherton, BLECK, Claude Creighton, Daria Koljanin, Mark Du Potiers and Dani Reynolds. The weekend was structured around a series of 'sharings', with each participant developing an informal presentation on a personal interest topic to give to the group. Delivered as part of *Sidney McMahon: Of sorrow and release*.

Co-facilitated by Sidney McMahon and Frances Barrett

### Barngarla Artist Exchange

20–23/06/21 Nautilus Art Centre, Port Lincoln  
11 participants

As part of *WATER RITES*, an artist exchange was held in Port Lincoln involving Barngarla artists from Galinyala (Port Lincoln) and Goordnada (Port Augusta), Adelaide-based artists Henry Jock Walker and Emmaline Zanelli, and Gold Coast-based curator Danni Zuvela. Under the guidance of Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, who has worked with the Barngarla people for over a decade on the watershed reclamation of their 'sleeping beauty' language, artists learned about the Barngarla language and its critical role in continuing culture and cementing bonds to Country.

Barngarla artists

Jenna Richards, Vera Richards, Lavinia Richards, Candace Swan-Taylor, Caitlin Swan-Taylor, Ian Taylor, Lane Taylor, LJ Taylor



Image: Kurangk Listening, Kurangk/Coorong, Photography by Thomas McCammon.

### Kurangk Listening, Seaweed and Kayaking

18/09/21 Hindmarsh Island 40 participants

*Kurangk Listening, Seaweed and Kayaking* was an off-site, outdoors public program of embodied activities on land and water that was held as part of *WATER RITES*. Participants took part in a guided forage of Basham's Beach at Goolwa with artist Chris de Rosa and scientist Chloe Darkson, followed by a kayaking tour on the Coorong from Sugars Beach to the Murray River Mouth, led by Canoe the Coorong's Brenton Carle and artist Brad Darkson. Through the shared acts of collective walking, talking, listening, looking, gathering, drawing and paddling together, participants developed an enhanced appreciation and respect for this land and its waters.

# Studio Program



Image: 2021 Studios Artists, left to right: Sundari Carmody, Jonathan Kim, Anna Gore, Loren Orsillo, Oakey. Photography by Jessica Clark.

## Annual Studio Program

ACE's annual Studio Program supports five South Australian artists through a fully funded onsite studio residency. It is the only program of its kind in the state and is an invaluable pathway for artists to gain national recognition. Working as part of a cohort of fellow artists, the Studio Program allows artists to experiment and develop new artwork.

The ACE Studio Program provides professional development opportunities including studio visits with Australian and international curators; participation in public programs; mentorships by ACE staff, and prominent profiling and promotional opportunities. Visiting curators in 2021 included Sebastian Goldspink (2022 Adelaide Biennial Curator), Miriam Kelly (Curator, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art) and Oliver Watts (Senior Curator, Artbank).

The 2021 studio artists benefited from an extended residency due to ongoing interruptions from the pandemic which resulted in the 2020 Studio Program that commenced in April 2020 being extended to the end of 2021.

## Studio Program



Image: Oakey, *Resonance* (2021), Monterey Pine, earth, quartz, moss, gold leaf, wire, sound recording, 300 x 250 cm, ACE Open. Photography by Grant Hancock.

**“My time in the ACE studios was invaluable to my practice, I cannot stress enough how important it was. As a fresh graduate from university, the residency taught me how to be a practising artist in the 'real world'...”**

**Oakey**



“...The ACE studio program fills a much-needed gap in Adelaide. I’m so grateful for the time that I had there. I felt incredibly privileged to have a free studio for over a year! Each morning I looked forward to arriving at the studio, having a coffee, and getting to work. I didn’t realise how much the space itself encouraged me to take myself seriously. .”

Sundari Carmody



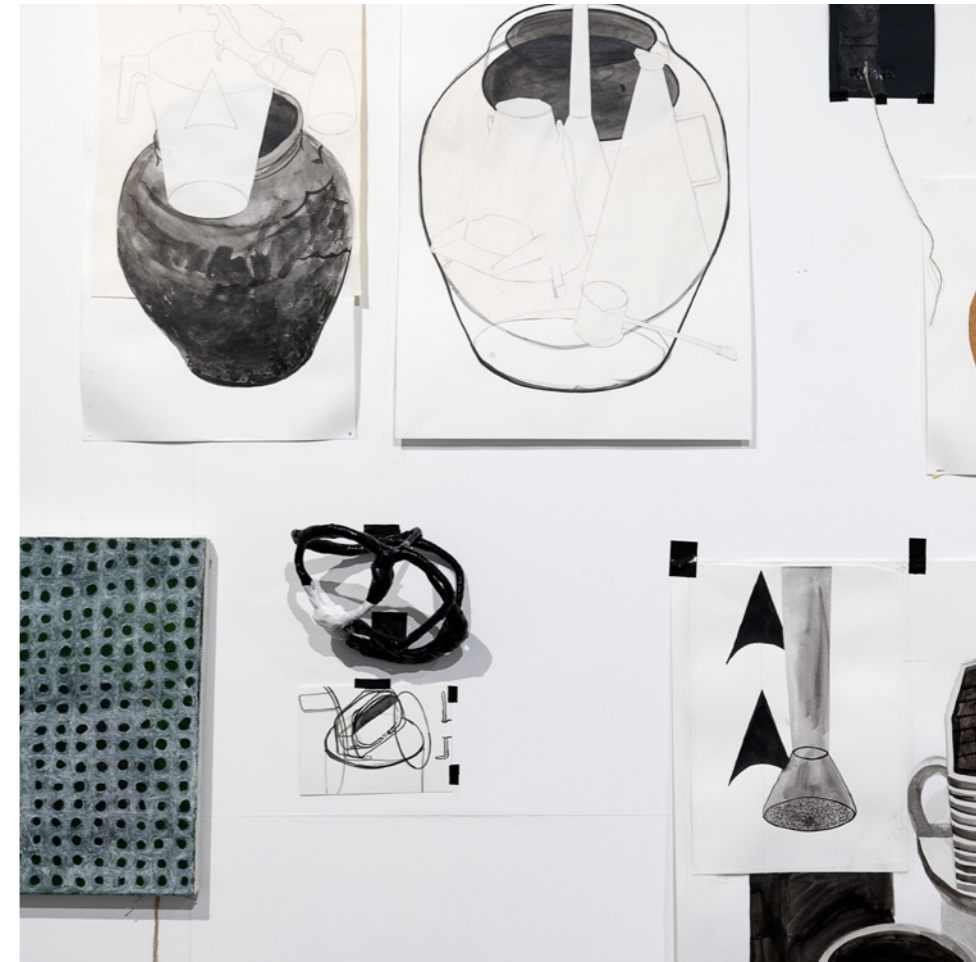
“I gained the opportunity to meet curators and other art industry professionals, and their advice helped me broaden my artistic perspective and insight. ...”

Jonathan Kim



“Reaching the end of the residency, I have a much greater and more secure understanding of my own practice and its intentions, and have gained a lot of confidence in my decision making....”

Loren Orsillo



“At this point, I see that the past 18 months at ACE have been a very reflective time, with a big emphasis on experimenting with different forms and ways to express my ideas’...”

Anna Gore

## The Porter Street Fund

From 1964 until 2016, CACSA was the longest running contemporary art space in Australia. It was created by the young artists of the Contemporary Art Society (CAS) — itself dating back to 1942. These artists recognised the need for a space of their own to freely experiment and present work to the public. So, in 1964, they purchased a four-bedroom villa at 14 Porter Street, Parkside to convert into an art gallery, and there it operated until the property was sold in 2018. The proceeds were invested to establish the Porter Street Fund, which honours the vision of the CAS artists and the legacy of CACSA. Clear constitutional guidelines —determining that 50% of revenue be reinvested and the remainder spent to support artists and art practice — ensure that the fund serves the community for whom ACE exists, and that it will benefit South Australian artists for decades to come.

Announced in October 2020, the Porter Street Commission awards \$20,000 to a South Australian artist at any stage of their career to create an ambitious new work for presentation at ACE the following year. Made possible by the Porter Street Fund, it is open to those working across all contemporary art forms and is designed to support a significant next step in a South Australian artists' career and exhibiting trajectory.

Inaugural recipient Bridget Currie's exhibition outcome, *Message from the meadow*, opened at ACE in July. This ambitious presentation was complemented by a robust suite of public programs and an exhibition catalogue, and will tour to Penrith Regional Gallery in 2022. Following this success, ACE announced Allison Chhorn as the recipient of the 2022 Commission.

Applications for the 2022's Porter Street Commission were considered by a selection panel composed of ACE's Artistic Director Patrice Sharkey (Adelaide); Dr Léuli Eshrāghi (Curator, TarraWarra Biennial 2023, and Affiliate Researcher, The Space Between Us, University of Winnipeg); and Louise O'Kelly (Founding Director & Curator, Block Universe, London).

Image: Allison Chhorn in her studio (2021).  
Photography by Anastasia Comelli



“The Panel welcomed the opportunity to engage with a wide range of South Australian practitioners at many different stages in their careers, as well as a range of media, including performance and multi-disciplinary practices. Conceptually, we appreciated the substantial number of proposals critically exploring ideas of non-human subjecthood, territory and settler colonialism.

The Panel was especially taken by Allison's cinematic language, exhibition conceptualism, and clear vision of her career trajectory as both an artist and filmmaker. After taking a number of years away from the gallery arena, the Porter Street Commission is a pivotal opportunity for Allison to establish her place within the visual arts community”.

2022 Porter Street Commission Selection Panel Statement

## Fundraising & Development

In 2020 a new advisory group was established to guide fundraising. The Donor Support Group is chaired by ACE board member James Darling, AM, and includes Sally Ball, Candy Bennett, Andrew Henderson and Brigitte Lane. The group supports donor stewardship, advises on fundraising campaigns, and champions existing and new fundraising initiatives.

The Donor Support Group launched their first campaign in late 2020 to raise funds for a new mural by Sam Songailo in ACE's rear stairwell leading to the studios. 23 donors supported the project, raising \$7,500 for Sam's artist fee and materials. The mural was launched in June 2021 by Christie Anthony, Associate Director City Culture, City of Adelaide.

In October ACE secured Plus 1 funding through Creative Partnerships Australia to match funds raised through a new campaign to grow the Studio Donors Circle for 2022, led by the Donor Support Group. The campaign runs until May 2022 and ACE has already raised 60% of the fundraising target at the end of 2021.

ACE donors are provided with exclusive opportunities throughout the year to meet artists and curators, invitations to ACE Public and VIP events, and are acknowledged on signage in the ACE front room, in print and online. Executive Director Louise Dunn leads ACE's philanthropic programs and those interested in more information are encouraged to contact her on (+61 8) 8211 7505.



Image: VIP Opening, *Studios: 2021* (2021), ACE Open.  
Photography by Thomas McCammon.



# Financial Statements

## Contemporary SA Incorporated

### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Grant revenue	3	743,588	608,181
COVID 19 Government revenue		44,000	156,416
Other income	3	257,451	176,040
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>1,045,039</b>	940,637
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Communication expenses		21,442	28,424
Depreciation		9,705	5,049
Employee expenses		575,936	432,336
Exhibitions		131,338	103,899
International projects		-	12,000
IT Expenses		15,000	-
Legal Fees and Governance expenses		13,810	13,553
Marketing and promotion		59,143	65,924
Office expenses		20,637	44,672
Other expenses		108,346	99,527
Other program costs		18,995	9,410
Resources		10,919	10,093
Studio program expenses		1,489	14,117
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>986,760</b>	839,004
<b>TRADING ACCOUNTS</b>			
Retail sales		7,449	2,889
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>65,728</b>	104,522
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>65,728</b>	104,522

## Contemporary SA Incorporated

### Statement of Financial Position As At 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	566,866	542,083
Trade and other receivables		10,219	4,290
Porter Street Investment	5	1,237,995	1,172,200
Prepayments	7	3,000	4,163
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,818,080</b>	1,722,736
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	25,588	21,877
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>25,588</b>	21,877
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,843,668</b>	1,744,613
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	52,338	108,326
Provisions	9	17,825	12,666
Income in advance	10	307,777	223,621
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>377,940</b>	344,613
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>377,940</b>	344,613
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,465,728</b>	1,400,000
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Porter Street Reserve		33,573	33,630
Porter Street Establishment Fund		1,194,741	1,149,287
Accumulated Surplus		237,414	217,083
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>1,465,728</b>	1,400,000

## ACE Team

### Board

<b>Rainer Jozeps</b>	(Chair)
<b>Leigh Robb</b>	(Deputy Chair from April)
<b>Gemma Harris</b>	(Treasurer)
<b>Anton Andreacchio</b>	(Investment Sub-Committee)
<b>Hannah Andreyev</b>	(from August) (Investment Sub-Committee)
<b>James Darling AM</b>	(Investment Sub-Committee and Chair of Donor Support Group)
<b>Mark Fitz-Gerald</b>	(til April) (Deputy Chair) (Investment Sub-Committee)
<b>Becci Love</b>	
<b>Mary-Jean Richardson</b>	
<b>Jared Thomas</b>	(til November)

### Staff

<b>Patrice Sharkey</b>	Artistic Director
<b>Louise Dunn</b>	Executive Director
<b>Sharmonie Cockayne</b>	Publicity & Digital Content Manager
<b>Tara McHenry</b>	Marketing & Communications Manager (from November)
<b>Mairead Hooper</b>	Gallery & Office Manager
<b>Brad Lay</b>	Exhibition & Studio Coordinator
<b>Grace Marlow</b>	Public Programs Coordinator
<b>Stephanie Mitchell</b>	Marketing & Communications Manager (til October)
<b>Tikari Rigney</b>	First Nations Curator-in-Residence (from August)
<b>Eleanor Scicchitano</b>	Curator-in-Residence

### Casual Staff

**Eleanor Amor, Thomas Buchanan, Gus Clutterbuck, Steve Cybulka, Olivia Kathigitis, Andrew Long, Cassandra McKenzie, Oakey, Loren Orsillo, Lee Salomone, Ava Viscariello**

Work Integrated Learning students (Adelaide Central School of Art)

**Shaye Dương, Abbey Murdoch**

### Intern

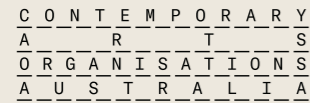
**Ava Viscariello**

### Volunteers

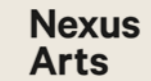
**Eliza Abejo, Yuthika N. Addina, Asley Bartsch, Isabelle Byrne, Tanaka Chikwati, Georgia Fox, Ayesha Haq, Nix Herriot, Lauren Hesselschwerdt, Enas Hussain, Isabel Margot, Renee Pastore, Emily Savage, Izzi Selfe, Miriam Sims, Katey Smoker, Zuzanna Synusas, Ava Viscariello, Imogen Ziemek**

# Support for ACE

ACE is supported by the South Australian Government through Arts South Australia and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments. ACE is also assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. ACE is a member of Contemporary Arts Organisations Australia.



## Cultural Partners



## Sponsors



Image: Exhibition opening, *WATER RITES* (2021), ACE Open. Photography by Thomas McCammon.



**Adelaide**

**Contemporary**

**Experimental**

Lion Arts Centre  
North Terrace (West End)  
Kaurna Yarta  
Adelaide SA 5000