



ABOUT ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

Arts Project Australia was founded in 1974 as an organisation dedicated to supporting people with disabilities to become practitioners in the visual arts and to promoting their work as integral to the broad spectrum of contemporary arts practice.

Since its inception, Arts Project Australia has continued to strive for excellence, both in the exhibitions presented and the quality of the innovative studio program. Artists come to the studio each week where they have the opportunity to work in an array of media within the visual arts such as drawing, painting, ceramics, textiles and animation. While the participants are supported by artworkers, there is a focus on the individual artists, their autonomy of artistic expression and sense of control and ownership over their work.

Exhibitions are integral to Arts Project Australia. The ground floor gallery stages a full annual

program of changing exhibitions featuring work by artists from Arts Project Australia as well as the broader community. Arts Project Australia continues to be involved in many exhibitions locally, nationally and internationally and artists from Arts Project Australia are also represented in many private and public collections.

Arts Project Australia has a unique history and approach and has long been recognised as a model for innovative services for people with disabilities. It is committed to providing sustainable programs in an environment dedicated to visual arts practice.

Mission

To support people with disabilities to become practitioners in the visual arts and to promote their work as integral to the broad spectrum of

contemporary arts practice.

The following principles underpin the mission of the organisation:

- To provide the means by which people with disabilities can participate fully in the visual arts at their level of interest
- To promote and broaden the understanding of art by people with a disability as integral to the broad spectrum of contemporary arts practice amongst artists and the general public
- To support and provide high quality community based education, training and employment in the visual arts
- To focus on and support personal development which will enhance and enrich their ability in arts practice and in other aspects of their lives
- To build an organisational culture that reflects the values of Arts Project Australia

PRESIDENTS REPORT

This year Arts Project Australia has seen some significant new horizons in the exhibition of work extending beyond our gallery. This broader exposure of the artists work foreshadows the directions of our planning at Arts Project Australia.

Our first priority continues to be the Studio. Over the next few years we are keen to see the opportunities for artists broadened, in terms of the media, creative experiences and collaborations available. We hope to see the potential for exhibiting work expanded, with information about the Artists and their work more available particularly through the Web and publications.

We will also focus on the Collection, to undertake some of the work to conserve and record it, and to set a framework for it to be further developed and exhibited.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the staff. This year a number of staff have moved on and we wish them well for their future. We appreciate very much the commitment and efforts of the staff, particularly in the Studio, to ensure

the organisation continues to run efficiently and that the artists are supported and have the resources they need to work freely and creatively. I would also like to thank Brendan Lillywhite, the Executive Director, who has shown great capacity in managing the many demands of a small organisation, as well as developing the vision and opportunities for the future.

Our thanks for the support of our funding bodies, the State Departments of Human Services and Adult, Community and Further Education and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. We also appreciate very much the long-standing financial support from the Bruce and Jane Dyson Foundation, the J.T Reid Charitable Trusts and the Amelia Eliza Holland Trust. This year Alan Rimmer and ARA Consultants joined as supporters and we welcome their commitment. Our thanks to the many individuals who support us with financial and product donations, or who volunteer their time.

I also want to pay tribute to Pat Feilman AM who passed away this year. Pat, via the Ian Potter Foundation, was responsible for the major philanthropic support for our building acquisition.

In completing my term as President of the Association, I would like to thank my fellow Board members. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Catherine Easton (Vice President) and Patrick O'Connor (Treasurer/Secretary), for their support and contribution.

Every one who is part of the Arts Project Australia community is passionate, committed and enthusiastic. We are inspired by the Artists, by their commitment to their art and their fresh, exciting, marvellous work.

Heather M. Scovell

Heather Scovell
President

DIRECTORS REPORT

The demonstrable enthusiasm of the artists continued to enrich the fabric of Arts Project Australia throughout 2007 – 08. During Term breaks there is a noticeable lull in the vibrancy and it is as if the building pauses waiting for their return; this is the cycle of energy that radiates from the Studio space and is at the core of our engagement.

This palpable force is enhanced by the artworkers who consistently contribute their skills and continuously demonstrate their commitment to the philosophy of Arts Project Australia and to the artists.

The creation of work is complemented by an

active exhibitions schedule. Staff have managed competing schedules and tight timelines with composure to execute a dynamic and professional program.

The year has been exciting and challenging and it remains a pleasure to be associated with this artistic endeavour.

Thank you to all the individuals and organisations that have supported us throughout the year, to the volunteers and staff.

I am particularly encouraged by the return of Cheryl Daye and welcome the opportunity of working with her as Cheryl's experience and skill add a further dimension to retaining and

building on the philosophy, ethos and practice that embodies the culture of Arts Project Australia.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the departure of Megan McEvoy. Megan worked at Arts Project Australia for 17 years and generously gave her time and effort. Much of the success that we enjoy today can be attributed to Megan's vision and support to the arts workers and artists.

Brendan Lillywhite

Brendan Lillywhite
Executive Director

THE STUDIO

The Studio continues to bustle and it is wonderful to see the artists continuing to develop their practice. The team of art workers provide a stimulating, professional and supportive studio environment. This year has been one of consolidation in the Studio. Physical changes such as new storage, office space and painting have enhanced the workspace and increased the storage for confidential records and worker planning. Artists are the core of the Studio, so it is appropriate to share their views, and that of a long term carer, in assessing the past year.

Our artists have been working in several mediums this year: painting, drawing, model-making, animation and ceramics. All of our artists have different preferences. Chris Mason, who's been attending Arts Project Australia for over ten years remarked **"Ceramics is my most favourite thing. I have been making big big girls and safari animals"**.

Many of our artists continue to work mainly with paint. Jodie Noble said that

"I like painting best because I am really good at it". Dorothy Berry, one of our longest serving artists paints pictures of **"birds, people and fish; I am proud of all the work I have done here"**. Kelvin Heffernan told us **"I like painting and drawing pictures from my head"**.

We have also been participating the ever-popular life drawing classes at RMIT. Valerio Ciccone, another long-term Arts Project Australia

artist who has been participating in these sessions told us **"I like working with James and going to RMIT"**.

We are also continuing to make the studio a more creative environment in which our artists can work. Peter Ben described the studio as **"peaceful, nice, enjoyable, no trouble"**. Whilst Lisa Reid commented **"It's a good place to work at, I enjoy coming here"**.

Artists told us how they enjoyed the way Arts Project Australia studio allowed them to express themselves. Erica Berechree, a new artist at Arts Project Australia said **"I absolutely love Arts Project, It's my creative outlet"**.

The support provided by staff here at Arts Project Australia is greatly appreciated. Jodie told us **"the staff are nice, on my first day here, the staff took me to the shops and helped me settle in"**. Erica also said that **"I like the fact they help you, they help you with material choice; I didn't know about gouache until today"**.

This has not gone unnoticed either. Dan Silk, a long term carer for several of our artists, commented that **"The artists have freedom to work with support in the background. The artists' concentration has developed and I have seen them mature over time"**.

The social aspect of coming to Arts Project Australia is also highly regarded by our artists. Paul Hodges said **"I like the friendly people and talking to other artists"**. Chris O'Brien also

links his friendships to his work: **"I have friends here, Paul and Chris, I like their work and they like mine"**. Artists' carers and families have also commented on this, as Dan Silk said: **"The friendships they [the artists] make here are great, there's a good social aspect, the Christmas party is great"**.

Of course, our artists also take great pride at seeing their work on display at exhibitions, particularly when their work is appreciated and sold! As Chris Mason said **"I like selling my work to get money and because people appreciate them"**. Another Arts Project Australia artist, Rebecca Scibilia spoke about how she feels when her paintings are sold: **"I enjoyed Artfair, I sold 5 paintings. I felt fantastic"**.

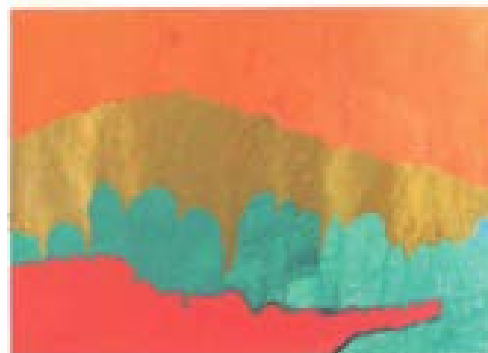
Next year, we hope to further consolidate and really strengthen the culture in the Studio to better support our artists. Our artists readily give us ideas for what they would like to do next year, with photography and screen printing being two early favourites.

Heather Carline Lyon

Heather Carline Lyon
Acting Studio Manager



Dorothy Berry *Not titled (Birds)* 2007 Acrylic on Canvas 1220 x 1220



Rebecca Scibilia *Not titled* 2006 Texta 250 x 350



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BOARD, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Board of Management

Heather Scovell	President
Catherine Easton	Vice President
Patrick O'Connor	Secretary/Treasurer/Public Officer
Barbara Ajzenberg	Member
Rosemary Brennan	Member
Jonah Jones	Member
Stuart Purves AM	Member
Colin Rhodes	Member
Kay Ronec	Member
Norman Rosenblatt	Member

Staff

Brendan Lillywhite	Executive Director
Samantha Roberts	Business Manager
Jordan Crugnale	Studio Manager (commenced Oct 07)
Megan McEvoy	Studio Manager (until Jul 07)
Heather Lyon	Acting Studio Manager (commenced May 08)
Sue Walker	Gallery Manager (commenced Aug 07 until June 08)
Cheryl Daye	Artistic Consultant
Clinton Greenwood	Exhibitions Coordinator (until Nov 07)
Monica Syrette	Archivist and Cataloguing Coordinator (until Mar 08)
Melissa Petty	Gallery Receptionist/Administration Assistant (commenced Sep 07)
Sarah Strickland	Gallery Receptionist/Administration Assistant (until Sep 07)
Rachel Derum	Gallery Receptionist/Administration Assistant (Casual) (commenced Mar 08)
Marieke Dench	Artswoker – Operations (until Feb 08)
Simone Ewenson	Artswoker – Ceramics, Outreach and General (until May 08)
Rachel Gorman	Artswoker – Volunteer Coordinator
Joanne Mott	Artswoker – Outreach and General (until Oct 07)
Christina Hayes	Artswoker – Materials
Cathy Blanchflower	Artswoker – Materials (until May 08)
James McDonald	Artswoker – Occupational, Health and Safety
Abi Temby	Artswoker – Occupational, Health and Safety (until Sep 07)
Emily Bissland	Artswoker – Animation (commenced Dec 07)
Kate Riedel	Artswoker – Animation (until Dec 07)
Michelle Mills	Artswoker – Animation (until Feb 08)
Hilary Green	Artswoker – General (commenced Aug 07)
Moya McKenna	Artswoker – General (Casual) (until Jan 08)
Heidi Stewart	Artswoker – General (Casual) (commenced Oct 07)
Lucreccia Quintanilla	Artswoker – General (Casual) (commenced Jan 08)
Sandra Espinoza	Artswoker – General (Casual) (commenced Apr 08)
Nathan Gray	Artswoker – General (Casual) (commenced Apr 08)
Jakob Schmitt	Artswoker – General (Casual) (commenced Apr 08)
Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman	Artswoker – General (Casual) (commenced Apr 08)
Lyn Young	Artswoker – General (Casual) (commenced Apr 08)
Andrew Harry	Artswoker – General (Casual) (until Aug 07)
Danielle Houghton	Studio Administration Assistant (commenced Apr 08)
Lucreccia Quintanilla	Studio Administration Assistant (commenced Oct 07 until Dec 07)
Lian Low	Studio Administration Assistant (commenced Jul 07 until Aug 07)
Jennifer Crosbie	Project Officer (commenced Aug 07)

Volunteers

Fleur Stevenson
Marion Rouxel
Andrea Griffin
Fiona Scottney
Carly McNaught
Hugh Bowmann Neithorpe
Debra Garrett
Kim McGuire
Camille Hannah

Life Members

Cheryl Daye
Kitty Ginter
Rita Mantell
John Northe
Sally Shrimpton

COLLECTIONS REPORT

Over the past twelve months Arts Project Australia has sought to review the nature and purpose of its collections. Comprising the Arts Project Australia Art Collection which is supported by the Dyson bequest, the Sidney Myer Fund Permanent Collection and the Arts Project Australia Historical Collection together they form a vital part of the organisation's focus and identity, as well as its artistic and social history.

The review process has included the preparation of a Collections discussion paper designed to guide policy and practice in relation to future directions for the Collections' development and use. Part of this review has involved initiating a "collections mapping" project to provide an overview of the all the work Arts Project Australia currently holds. This in itself is a major undertaking as there are archives of artists' work covering over 20 years in some cases, much of which is undocumented.

The exhibition *Bold Enigmas* provided not only a wonderful opportunity to show some seldom-seen works from the Sidney Myer Fund Permanent Collection but also to commence the implementation of necessary conservation measures to ensure its preservation. Many works were removed from old acidic mounts and restored according to archival standards.

In October 2007, Arts Project Australia hosted a Preservation workshop with funding received from a Community Heritage Grant. Organised by

Arts Project Australia archivist Monica Syrette, the one day workshop was conducted by Detlev Lueth, Assistant Director of Preservation at the National Archives of Australia (NAA). The workshop was a hands-on introduction to the conservation of a wide range of materials including paper, textiles, photographs, CDs and DVDs and wooden, glass and ceramic objects.

It was an invaluable introduction to the field for participants and has provided Arts Project Australia with some important guidelines for the care of the Permanent Collection, in particular the framed Sidney Myer Fund Permanent Collection.

Another exciting initiative was the continuance of the Arts Project Australia oral history project by oral historian Francis Good who generously donated his time and expertise in conducting the interviews. It is hoped that transcripts will be completed in the near future.

In the coming year Arts Project Australia will continue to introduce measures which will enhance the care and development of its collections and preserve and promote its unique heritage.

Dr Cheryl Daye
Artistic Consultant

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Profit & Loss Summary for Year ended 30 June 2008

	\$ 2008	\$ 2007
INCOME		
Total Grants	706,245	829,444
Exhibition/Sales	84,386	138,486
Sponsorship/Trusts	41,563	45,605
Interest Received	11,919	7,790
Other	62,391	59,497
Total Income	906,504	1,080,822

EXPENSES

Administration	38,078	39,019
Building & Equipment	52,599	50,974
Gallery	102,956	36,710
Programs	32,267	132,584
Employment	633,159	524,105
Other	49,567	39,050
Total Expenses	908,626	822,442

Opening retained profits	1,522,341	1,263,961
Closing retained profits	1,520,219	1,522,341

Balance Sheet Summary for Year ended 30 June 2008

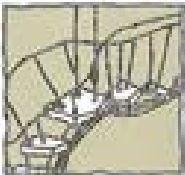
	\$ 2008	\$ 2007
Total Current Assets	381,847	421,728
Total Non-Current Assets	1,515,463	1,510,794
Total Assets	1,897,311	1,932,522
Current Liabilities	208,092	241,181
Non-Current Liabilities	169,000	169,000
Total Liabilities	377,092	410,181
Net Assets	1,520,219	1,522,341
Members Funds	1,520,219	1,522,341

ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

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ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA EXHIBITIONS



Peter Weatherly *Not titled (Three figures)* 2007
Acrylic 700 x 995

Colour Fields

19 July – 25 August 2007

Presented artists who participate in Arts Project Australia's outreach program at Plenty Residential Service: Alan Roberts, Robert Vickery, Malcolm Vincent, Terry Roadley and Peter Weatherly. Curated by Simone Ewenson.



Dinner Party Installation

The Dinner Party

19 July – 25 August 2007

An installation of dinner setting and ceramic masks by Valerio Ciccone, Alan Constable, Paul Hodges, Ruth Howard, Jodie Noble, Cameron Noble, Tim Noble, Rebecca Scibilia and Kaye McDonald. Curated by Simone Ewenson.



Valerio Ciccone *The Fox* 2007
Pencil on canvas 510 x 510

Stretch

30 January – 1 March 2008

Group exhibition of works on canvas. Artists included Valerio Ciccone, Chris Jackson, Chris Mason and Georgia Szmerling. Curated by Cathy Blanchflower.

EXHIBITIONS REPORT

The past year has again seen the completion of an exciting exhibition program both at the Arts Project Australia gallery and at high profile external venues. These exhibitions included a range of media reflecting the depth and diversity of the works produced by studio artists. This year, a number of artists from Arts Project Australia have also been included in public exhibitions alongside established contemporary artists.

Nine exhibitions were presented at the Arts Project Australia gallery, including both solo and group exhibitions. The annual end of year group exhibition, in which all Arts Project Australia artists are represented, continues to be highly popular with our audiences resulting in strong sales and visitor numbers.

This year has also seen a number of significant developments for individual artists. Lisa Reid's portrait of Peter Fay was entered in the

Archibald Prize and was later hung in the *Salon des Refuses* at the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney. Julian Martin and Kelvin Heffernan both entered work in the annual *Linden Postcard Show* and had their work acquired by astute collectors. The Queensland exhibition *A Day on Earth* resulted in six works being acquired for collections in that state.

Focused marketing initiatives, including eNewsletters and media releases, have increased awareness of Arts Project Australia's activities. This, in turn, has led to strong audience numbers and artwork sales.

Arts Project Australia also operates an artwork leasing program that leases artworks to corporate, private and public agencies.

The exhibition calendar for the next year promises to be just as exciting with a number of dynamic exhibitions and events planned. We look forward to further promoting the work of our artists and sharing their creative talents with both our new and established audiences.



Chris O'Brien *Simone No 2 and Chris' house* 2006
Mixed media 120 x 220 x 380

Marjorie Street

30 August – 13 October 2007

Sculptural works by Chris O'Brien. An installation of 36 model houses exploring architectural and town planning themes. Curated by Marieke Dench.

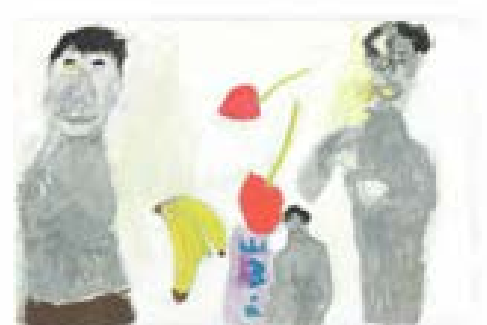


Chris Mason *Michelle* 2007
Mixed media 2540 x 1620 x 40

Michelle

18 October – 24 November 2007

After many years in the making, Chris Mason's monumental sculpture, *Michelle*, the south east Asian reticulated python, made her public debut alongside a selection of Chris's voluptuous ceramic women. Curated by Megan McEvoy.



Alvaro Alvarez *Not titled (Cherries and bananas)* 2007
Pencil & gouache 190 x 285

Studio Days

1 – 15 December 2007

The traditional salon style survey, heralding the festive season and concluding the year's program, built on last year's success of representing individual artists who have worked within Arts Project Australia's studio by a single artwork.



Shirley Warke (*Not titled*) 1994 Crayon 385 x 565

Bold Enigmas: Works from the Sidney Myer Fund Permanent Collection

13 March – 19 April 2008

Opened by Christine Edwards, CEO of the Myer Foundation, this exhibition featured 62 works from Arts Project Australia's Sidney Myer Fund Permanent Collection, many of which had not been shown previously at Arts Project Australia. Curated by Dr. Cheryl Daye.

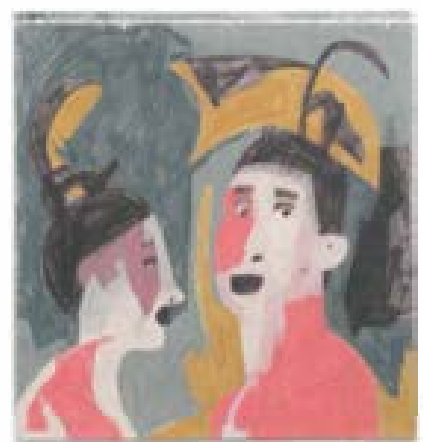


Fiona Longhurst *Not titled (Rainbow figure)* 1998
Pastel 660 x 500

Out There

24 April – 31 May 2008

This bold and colourful exhibition was opened by local MP Fiona Richardson and featured works on paper by Fiona Longhurst, Wayne Marnell, Steven Perrette, Dionne Canzano, Jodie Noble and Catherine Staughton. Curated by Jordan Cugnale.



Anthony Romagnano *Not titled (Models from a magazine)* 2005 Coloured Pencil 415 x 385

Anthony Romagnano/ Recent work from the Studio

5 June – 12 July 2008

Participating artists were Anthony Romagnano, Boris Cipusev, Simon Madaffari, Miranda Millane and Adrian Lazzaro. Curated by Dr. Cheryl Daye.

METROPOLITAN AND NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

BloodLines: Art and the Horse – Hawkesbury Regional Gallery (then touring)

2 August – 14 October 2007

Arts Project Australia artists included Valerio Ciccone, Alan Constable, Ann Lynch, Leo Cussen and John Northe among 80 other artists. Curated by Peter Fay.

Continuing the Journey

DHS Conference September 07

Participating artists included Alan Constable, Paul Hodges, Cathy Staughton, Leo Cussen, Valerio Ciccone and Chris Mason.

Linden Postcard Show – Linden Gallery, St. Kilda

2 February – 8 March 2008

Julian Martin and Kelvin Heffernan participated in this well-known annual exhibition.

A Day On Earth Gallery, Brisbane

15 February – 2 March 2008

Participating artists included: Alan Constable, Chris Mason, Chris O'Brien, Cathy Staughton, Dorothy Berry, John Bates, Julian Martin, John Button, Leo Cussen, Lisa Reid and Paul Hodges.

Salon des Refuses

– S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney

8 March – 4 May 2008

Congratulations to Lisa Reid whose painting "Portrait of Peter Fay" was included in the "alternative selection" to the Archibald and Wynne prizes. This work was also featured on the cover of Art Monthly magazine.

Reaching Out – County Court Melbourne

National Law Week 30 March – 5 April 2008

Participating artists included:

Alan Constable, Cathy Staughton, Chris Mason, Dorothy Berry, Fulli Andrinopoulos, John Bates, Georgia Szmerling, Julian Martin, Leo Cussen, Paul Hodges, Miles Howard-Wilks.

Pearls of Arts Project Australia – Stuart Purves Collection – Ivan Dougherty Gallery, University of New South Wales

17 April – 24 May 2008

This exhibition highlights a selection of works by 43 artists from this remarkable collection. The work shows the richness of the creative expression of these artists who explore their practice with individual integrity. Artists include: Dorothy Berry, Julian Martin, Chris Mason, John Northe and Lisa Reid.

Without Borders – Monash Museum of Modern Art

16 April – 21 June 2008

Arts Project Australia artists Alvaro Alvarez and Lisa Reid were shown alongside Slim Barrie, Morton Bartlett, Lee Blenkinsop, Howard Finster, Rolfe Hattaway, Colin Korovin, John Patrick Mckenzie, Bill Payne, Jose Dos Santos, Judith Scott, Amy Szostak, Reece Tong and Alfred Wallis in this important exhibition.