

Contemporary Art Socially Engaged Incubator (CASE Incubator) Year One Overview



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Supported by the Create NSW
Service Needs Strategic Fund



The Cad Factory lives on the ancient, unceded Wiradjuri lands of the Nurrungderah people who have taken care of this country for over 60,000 years. This place and its deep history contributes to how we understand the world.



OUR MISSION

The Cad Factory is an artist led organisation creating an international program of new, immersive and experimental work guided by authentic exchange, ethical principles, people and place.



OUR ESSENCE

Re-imagining the world through contemporary arts practice.



OUR PURPOSE

To connect and share with people and places while valuing difference.



OUR COMMITMENT

To create new artistic work, provide professional development opportunities for artists, initiate partnerships and collaborations, and contribute to understanding artistic practice by producing resources and contributing to talks and conferences locally, nationally and internationally.



Year one CASE Incubator artists. Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith, Sunita Bala, Harriet Body and Diane Busuttill

CASE Incubator

The Contemporary Art Socially Engaged (CASE) Incubator is a professional development, knowledge-sharing and mentorship program aimed at socially engaged artists who are seeking to develop their practice, engage with their peers, create networking opportunities with diverse partners, and contribute back to the sector through the creation of resources.

The CASE Incubator will run between 2021-2023, with four NSW based artists employed in the first 12 months, and another four in the second year.

The program, supported by the Create NSW Service Needs Strategic Fund, will allow the artists to undertake collaborative problem solving, knowledge sharing forums and professional upskilling activities.

VIC MCEWAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THE CAD FACTORY

The Cad Factory CASE Incubator program offers a unique professional development opportunity for experienced artists working in socially engaged practice to help build a community of practitioners while contributing to the development of this field. This diverse field of artists acknowledges that socially engaged practice isn't restricted to any specific artform, instead we see it as art making that is in relationship to the ethical consideration of people and place. The Cad Factory is excited to work with these exceptional artists and to present a range of outcomes to the broader sector.



Artistic Director, Vic McEwan with first year artists

Partner Profiles

The CASE Incubator program invites in local, national and international partners to share case studies, experiences and approaches to engage in conversations that aim to assist in expanding our community of practice.

These partners include:

1. Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Dr Susan Coulson, Sydney Facial Nerve Clinic
- Shoalhaven Health and the Arts

2. Advocacy

- Arts & Health Network NSW/ACT
- Western Riverina Arts, Leeton NSW

3. Arts and Disability

- The Art Factory Supported Studio, Wagga Wagga
- Blue Room at Bluecoat, Liverpool UK

4. Education

- Clontarf Academy, Narrandera High School

5. Practice

- Dr Lindy Hume, 10 Days on the Island
- Dr Clive Parkinson, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Artists



Sunita Bala

The CASE Incubator program! What an exciting opportunity to connect and share ideas with other artists committed to genuine social change. I'm looking forward both to the challenges of examining, questioning, and consolidating my own practices, as well as being inspired to make new work collaboratively. Taking part in this residency is my way of practicing self-care and compassion for my creative self.

Sunita Bala is a mid-career, socially engaged artist focused on original, experimental, multi art form making that specialises in inclusive practices that inspire community to use the arts to engage in innovation, critical thinking and advocacy. Based in the Northern Rivers, Sunita's engagement in the arts has spanned over 10 years, both nationally and internationally. She is President of Lismore based post disability arts company Realartworks, creative facilitator at the experimental and inclusive arts, technology and media centre SeeSpace and is engaged with the University Centre of Rural Health to deliver the Art Based Compassion Focused Training (ABCFT) Project with Indigenous communities and health care professionals.

Artists



Harriet Body

I am so honoured to be one of the first participants in the CASE Incubator program. I am looking forward to exchanging ideas and insights with others working in this field, and to deepening my understanding of socially engaged art practice.

Harriet Body's art practice is centred around care, slowness, and community. In her studio she works with media that broadly cross textiles, ceramics, and installation. Her creative process is slow and meditative. Through the repetition of mark-making or form-shaping, her work is all about watching something grow, and then end. Harriet's socially engaged practice involves supporting communities to explore these concepts of slowness and mark-making to tell their story and exert their power.

Artists



Diane Busuttil

I've no doubt this program will kick start some great ideas with the other participants and strengthen each of our artistic missions to create socially engaged practices.

Diane is a dance artist, educator, and filmmaker whose work is recognised in Australia and internationally. In 2000, after studying BODY at the International Women's University in Germany, she relocated to Berlin and toured major dance and theatre festivals in Germany, Asia, USA and Europe with various leading dance and theatre companies. Her experimental short films, including screendance works, have toured to over thirty international film festivals. After returning to Australia in 2015, she made her first documentary, *Without Consent*, then in 2020 made *Together We Dance* produced by FORM Dance Projects. In 2021 she completed a one-minute short film, *Seen*. In 2018, Diane founded Creative Caring, bringing dance and music interventions to seniors.

Artists



Dr Sarah

Penicka-Smith

I hope the CASE Incubator residency will help me find pathways to open participation in my own art form of classical music to a wider diversity of people. It's my passionate belief that all art forms are at their best when they reflect the full spectrum of humanity, rather than being seen to belong only to particular cross-sections of society.

Versatile, perceptive, and a passionate advocate for music as a force for change, Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith is a unique and innovative voice in Australian music. Currently, Sarah holds the positions of Artistic Director & Principal Conductor of River City Voices, Head of Creative Arts at St Andrew's College, Principal Conductor with the Macquarie Singers & Macquarie Chamber Orchestra, and Artistic Director of Pacific Pride Choir. She founded the Lifehouse Volunteer Orchestra, bringing music to patients and their families at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. As an alumna of the Hart Institute for Women Conductors at the Dallas Opera, Sarah made her international debut in Dallas in 2018. Sarah's current projects include libretto development for The Klein-Arkininstall Project, a new one-woman opera about living with OCD, Festival Choir Director for the Blackheath Choral Festival, and a recording/performance project with Club Weld and River City Voices.



Year One CASE Incubator artists in the hairy panic at the Cad Factory studio

What Happened

Residency Dates

The Rex Cramphorn Theatre, University of Sydney
2-3 December 2021

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery and Library
18-21 February 2022

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery
25-27 February 2022

The Cad Factory, Narrandera
24-27 June 2022

CASE Incubator Public Programs

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery
19 February 2022
New Work Ahead: No Lines Marked
In person and live streamed

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery
26 February 2022
Creative Workshop



'New Work Ahead: No Lines Marked' at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery



Sunita Bala participating in a workshop by Diane Busutil at the Cad Factory



Workshop materials at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery



Sarah Penicka-Smith co-delivering a workshop at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery as part of the "Yours" exhibition by Harriet Body and local community



'New Work Ahead: No Lines Marked' at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Artist Feedback

Sunita

I have had the opportunity to take part in four rewarding professional development residencies in Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Goulburn and Narrandera. The opportunity to spend time with like-minded creatives engaged in the same practice has been invaluable. The residencies have helped to me to:

- *Articulate to myself and to others the way in which I work as a socially engaged artist.*
- *Connect and hear about practice and projects from other artists and arts organisations locally and internationally to better understand how this work impacts communities.*
- *Share and develop a model for best practice in the field of socially engaged arts.*

Harriet

My art practice is centered around care, slowness, and community and it involves working and collaborating with different community groups to explore these concepts. I am also the Lead Artist Educator for Access Programs at the National Gallery of Australia, providing workshops and gallery experiences for people with access needs, and supporting Access at the gallery.

The CASE Incubator artists have met physically four times over the past seven months. These meetings were intensive, two to four day residencies where Vic and Sarah supported us to deeply interrogate our socially engaged art practices, discuss ethical parameters, engage in participant-led creative workshops and exercises, discover new ways of working and connect with socially engaged artists and thinkers from across Australia and the UK. This experience has been absolutely transformative for my practice.

Spending this time with The Cad has undoubtedly cemented my opinion that The Cad Factory is vital to representation of socially engaged art practice within Australia. The Cad Factory continues to produce creative projects within their community and beyond, but - importantly - the organization is also a pioneering voice in the whole-of-Australia context for socially engaged arts practice, able to provide support, consultation, and space for artists and organizations, nationally, to explore these ways of working.

Diane

The program has solidified my understanding of a socially engaged artists and presented a wealth of knowledge and resources that are vital to my professional development.

The various residencies have strengthened my practice and created a solid community of like-minded artists whom I have no doubt will lead socially-engaged programs together in the future. Through constant sharing of our ideas, approaches and through play, we were able to gain further insight into how this practice can be articulated.

I'm deeply grateful to everyone for sharing their insights and experiences with me throughout the CASE Incubator residency program. I'm full of inspiration from all the wonderful speakers and presenters that were introduced to us throughout the program. All these connections help to further develop my socially-engaged practice through exchange and collaborations.

Sarah

My inclusion in the first CASE Incubator program changed my artistic practice (and my outlook on my life). It revolutionised how I thought about my career options, opened me up to a wealth of possible modes of practice and future collaborations, and consolidated my commitment to building a career around excellence, social justice and community.

Every artist - across many disciplines - to whom I mentioned the program said something like, 'I wish I could be a part of something like that'. One even said, 'I'm getting goosebumps just hearing about it'.

From this I concluded two things: that we needed to find a way for more artists to experience what I was experiencing - an intensive residential experience to develop practice and build a cross-disciplinary cohort. And second, that it would be helpful to have a site dedicated to offering this specifically to socially engaged artists, not just an arts site where all kinds of things happen, some of which are socially engaged. A space in which ethics and respectful community are prerequisites for engagement.

Throughout the CASE Incubator, Sarah and Vic McEwan have demonstrated the highest levels of ethical, respectful, considerate, and community-minded conduct, as well as an excellence and innovativeness in practice which is inspiring.



Year one CASE Incubator artists in residence at the Cad Factory