

CASE Incubator

A Hub for the
Exploration of
Socially Engaged
Art Practices

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



About the Cad Factory

The Cad Factory is an artist-led organisation based in Sandigo, NSW. This regional hub serves as both our administrative and our creative home, where we run residency and studio spaces. We also operate a small satellite studio in the inner-city suburb of Rosebery, Sydney. From our rural and urban locations, we aim to reimagine the world through contemporary art practices, developing projects across Australia and internationally.



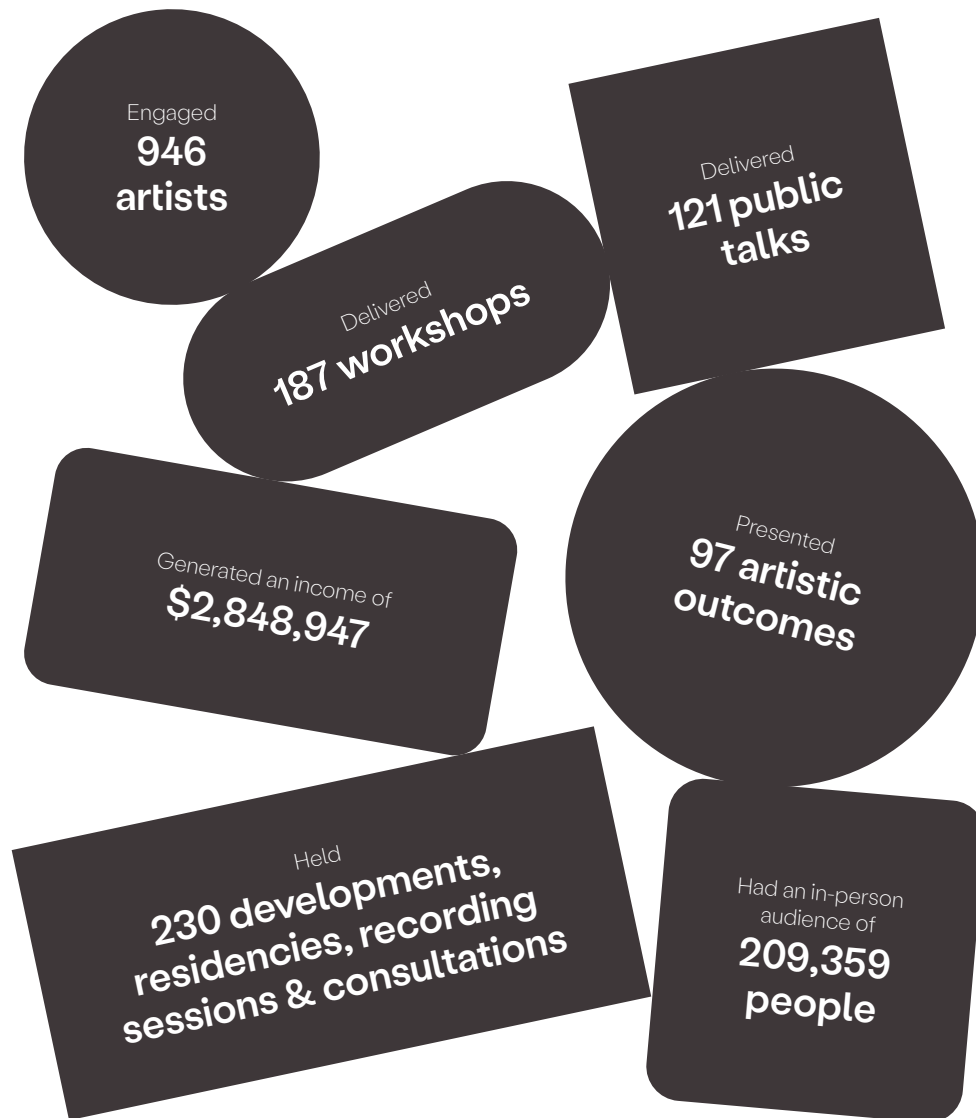
The Cad Factory establishes partnerships with a diverse range of arts and non-arts sectors, partners, collaborators, and communities. These collaborations enable us to deliver a comprehensive program that includes the creation of new artworks, professional development opportunities for artists, and contributions to talks, conferences and strategic development initiatives with our local, national, and international communities.

Recognising the increasing number of artists that are exploring artmaking beyond traditional studio-based practices, we acknowledge the need to create new ways to support the valuable qualities inherent in socially engaged art. Through these efforts, we aim to rethink the role of the arts in contemporary society while ensuring that artistic practice is not only sustained, but also nurtured, as it is increasingly called upon to nurture others.

The Cad Factory's website offers a transparent overview of our governance structures and a comprehensive archive of past projects, including partnerships with the Department of Primary Industries (*Wirramarri: Long Way from Home*), SunRice (*A Night of Wonder*), the Murray Darling Basin Plan (*Tipping Point*) and Clinical Care (*The Harmonic Oscillator* and *Face to Face: The New Normal*).

Our Impact

Between 2014 and 2023,
the Cad Factory achieved
the following.



Socially Engaged Art

‘Socially engaged art practices’, ‘creative recovery’ and ‘arts and health’ are increasingly becoming part of our contemporary art vocabulary. The growth in these types of processes raises important questions about the implications of this ‘social turn’ for arts practitioners, partners and communities.

Artists involved in ‘the social turn’ immerse themselves in others’ specific social, cultural and economic contexts. In these spaces, ethics are brought into conversation with artistic practice as socially engaged artists collaboratively explore diverse realities and navigate the complex challenges facing our world.

The unique and open-ended nature of socially engaged art practices, creative recovery, and arts and health raises many questions about the adaptability of our traditional art world structures to support the needs of these socially engaged processes. Important questions include: *How do we allocate the necessary time and resources to manage complex community and environmental engagements? How do we care for artists who are caring for our communities? How do we nurture, rather than instrumentalise, artmaking when working in these contexts?*

These questions highlight the need for investment in the development of socially engaged art practices. Such investment can create opportunities for peer-to-peer support, professional development, and the establishment of guidelines and standards. Through this focused approach, we can contribute to the development of socially engaged art practices in a way that is meaningful, safe and sustainable.



Pangala: Returning Home, 2023, a collaboration between Elders and Traditional Custodians of Kinchega National Park, the Cad Factory, Narrandera Fisheries Centre, Menindee Central School, National Museum of Australia. Image courtesy of the National Museum of Australia. Photo: Jackie Cooper

CASE Incubator Studio

The CASE Incubator Studio has been launched as a central hub for the cultivation of cross-disciplinary, socially engaged art practices.

Over the past fourteen years, the Cad Factory has emerged as a world leader in socially engaged art practices. Our projects have consistently delivered high-quality outcomes that not only advance critical art practices, but create social connection, build cultural capital, and develop complex cross-sector partnerships.

Since 2018, we have focused on understanding the needs of socially engaged artists, identifying critical gaps in the structures and networks that catalyse and support collaboration between arts and non-arts practitioners, communities and organisations.

In 2020, we launched the Contemporary Art Socially Engaged (CASE) Incubator Program, a dynamic platform for professional development, knowledge sharing and mentorship for socially engaged artists. The program has contributed meaningfully to our sector by assisting participants to develop their practice and to establish connections with peers to create a community of practice, and has provided networking opportunities with diverse partners.

In 2024, the CASE Incubator is evolving into a studio hub to create ongoing opportunities. Through this studio, we will host an annual program that includes new artworks, professional development, and resource creation. A series of workshops, projects, network events and residencies will contribute to cultivating cross-disciplinary, socially engaged art practices for both experienced and emerging artists, as well as arts and non-arts partners.

Socially engaged artists often work independently, resulting in limited opportunities to build communities of practice to engage in professional development, and to advance their field collectively and individually. The CASE Incubator Studio represents a significant commitment to the collective and individual development of a vibrant, safe and artistically adventurous, socially engaged ecosystem.

Outcomes

New work

The CASE Incubator Studio will create productive partnerships with artists, communities and organisations to deliver an array of new, multi-artform, artistic work in site-specific locations, galleries and theatres.

Resources

The CASE Incubator Studio will launch a series of mentorships, residencies and workshops to support the development of socially engaged artists, delivered by the Cad Factory and CASE Incubator alumni.

Opportunities

The CASE Incubator Studio will release an ongoing program of resources for artists, organisations and partners. In 2024, these include:

- ↳ An eight-month public program of conversation events called 'The PEEP Papers'.
- ↳ The establishment of an international exchange between organisations in the UK and Australia to further our collective practices.
- ↳ A partnership program that brings together arts and non-arts perspectives.
- ↳ And more.

We

Are

the

Resource

We Are the Resource

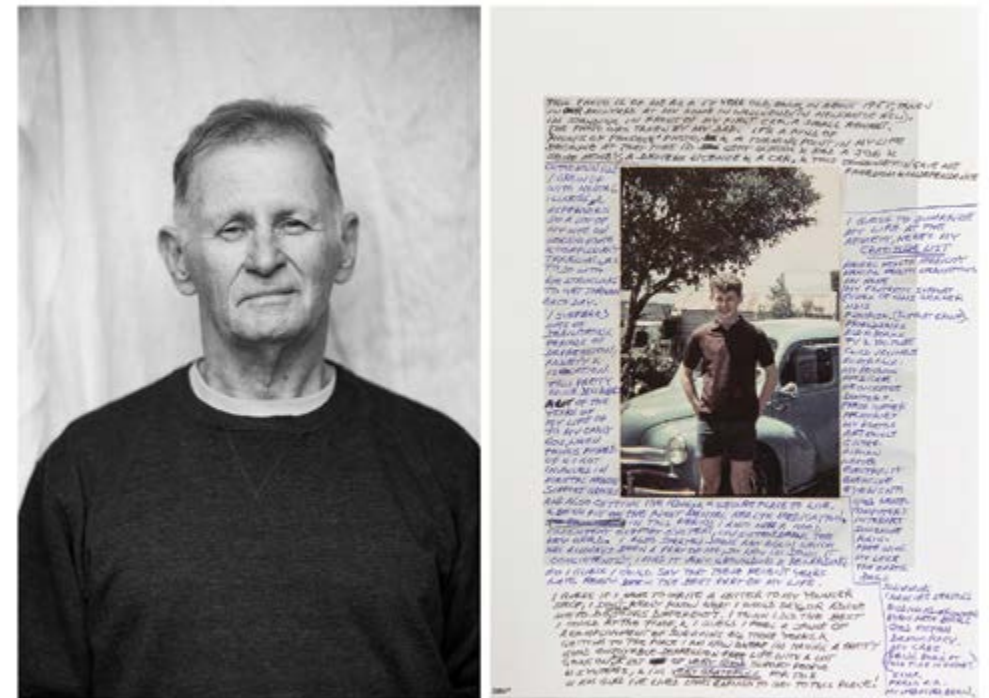


Rhae Kendrigan, *The Hill*, 2022. Site-specific performance response to camera in Nuggety, Victoria, using Bodyweather methodologies. Video still: Rhae Kendrigan

Between 2021 and 2023, Create NSW supported the Cad Factory to establish the CASE Incubator program.

This professional development, knowledge-sharing and mentorship program supported socially engaged artists to work with the Cad Factory 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.

In 2024, the CASE Incubator Studio is excited to be releasing a series of resources dedicated to supporting artists, partners and communities in the exploration of socially engaged art practices. We begin by proposing that a valuable resource lies within the artists who are already, actively and independently, forging their own unique socially engaged practices. Therefore, 'We Are the Resource' begins by honouring the CASE Incubator alumni artists, acknowledging their experience in navigating complex questions in the pursuit of their work. Simultaneously, we acknowledge the countless other artists who have actively contributed to the evolution of socially engaged art practices over the years.



And Then, They Were No Longer Invisible, 2022. An image-making collaboration in Newcastle, NSW with Don and And Then



Diane Busuttil

Diane Busuttil 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, the United States and Europe with various leading dance and theatre companies. Her experimental short films, including screendance works, have toured to over thirty international film festivals.

In 2015, Diane returned to Sydney to be her father's carer. In 2018, she initiated Creative Caring, which uses dance and theatre programs that focus on the union of arts and health to remedy personal and social ills. These collaborative community programs are regularly delivered to aged care facilities, dementia care units and at the Sydney Opera House for the monthly *Spring for Seniors* dance theatre sessions.

creativecaring.com.au

The Sri Lankan seniors dance class, 2019, hosted by SydWest Multicultural Services, Blacktown, NSW. Photo: Darinka Maja





Harriet Body

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 about watching something grow and then end.

Harriet's socially engaged art practice involves exploring collaborative artmaking in a range of different contexts. She received major project funding from Create NSW in 2015, 2018 and 2021 with which she explored collaboration and disability within the supported studio context, and embarked on a twelve-month community engagement project with Goulburn Regional Art Gallery. Her practice extends to her role in community programming and museum/gallery education, specialising in access and inclusion. She is currently the Creative Learning Programs Convenor at the National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra.

harrietbody.com

Yours, 2021/2022. Detail of the installation exhibited at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, created by Harriet Body with Goulburn community members: Amy, Ali, Maree, Bushy, Catherine, Gordon, Fiona, Jazelle, Lilith, Manny, Oscar, Sally, Hinia and Tommy. Photo: Karlee Holland



Dr Sarah

Penicka-Smith

A passionate advocate for music as a force for change, Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith is a Western Sydney-based conductor and socially engaged artist. She holds positions with River City Voices and Willoughby Symphony, and runs a number of pioneering projects with her wife Melanie Penicka-Smith. Currently, these include: Pacific Pride Choir, a queer touring choir that has visited Germany, Poland, Vietnam and Cambodia; and commissioning and producing Eve Klein's *OCDiva*, a new one-woman opera for mezzo-soprano and mental health advocate Yasmin Arkinstall.

penickasmith.com

Pacific Pride Choir tour to Vietnam and Cambodia, 2019. Sarah Penicka-Smith with Monk Hun Renngsey, Melanie Penicka-Smith, Pacific Pride Choir members and Lolei villagers in Wat Lolei, Cambodia. Photo: Lisa Chanell





Sunita Bala

Sunita Bala is a mid-career, socially engaged artist focused on original, experimental, multi-artform making that specialises in inclusive practices that inspire communities to use the arts to engage in innovation, critical thinking and advocacy. Based in the Northern Rivers district of NSW, Sunita's engagement in the arts has spanned over ten years, both nationally and internationally. She is President of Lismore-based post-disability arts company RealArtWorks. Inc and creative facilitator at the experimental and inclusive arts, technology and media centre SeeSpace. She 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.

postdisabilityarts.wixsite.com/realartworks

When the Strange Becomes Familiar, 2020. Sunita Bala with RealArtWorks. Inc and The UnUsuals (Artists of varying ability from Lismore, Bermagui and Wagga Wagga). This multi-arts installation and performance was commissioned by Regional Arts NSW for ARTSTATE Wagga Wagga 2020. In this image, Sunita Bala is 'Rosie the House Bot', inviting audiences 'on tour' to take part in the performance. Photo: Jason Richardson



And Then

Hannah Robinson and Melanie Muddle are the founders of And Then, a social-arts agency. They engage in photography as a social practice, inviting participation and connection with communities to support them to tell their own stories. Hannah and Melanie collaborate and create with a community rather than for an audience; in doing so, they aim to shift power dynamics, open dialogue, foster social change and make space for new forms of a collective voice. And then...

and-then.com.au

And Then, They Were No Longer Invisible, 2022. Eve viewing the large-scale paste-up exhibition installed at the East End Village Laneway, Newcastle, NSW showcasing the collaborative work made by Nancy, John, Maree, Jean, Don, Helen, Sally, Joan and And Then. Photo: And Then





Karenza Ebejer

Karenza Ebejer is a socially engaged filmmaker and educator based on Bundjalung country in the Northern Rivers district of NSW. She has a passion for finding unique stories within diverse communities and finding ways to make filmmaking inclusive and rewarding for participants. Her process involves spending time building trust and developing concepts with the people involved. Themes in her films include artmaking, nature, family relationships and connection to place. Karenza collaborates with a range of creatives, producing screen content for both live community events as well as for online and gallery viewing. More recently, projects with First Nations organisations and artists have led to exciting and innovative collaborations and a chance to facilitate important film recordings of Elders' stories.

karenzaebejer.com



Rhae Kendrigan

Rhae Kendrigan is a practising artist, community development worker and regenerative practitioner from the Mallee region of south-east Australia. They have worked for grassroots community activists, not-for-profit organisations and local government on a wide variety of projects, delivering community development, event and project management, curation and creative production. Their work as a practising artist and creative producer explores the intersections between body and place, serving as a process for understanding systems awareness. Rhae is passionate about building strong rural and regional communities by manifesting a strong sense of place.

regenerativecommunities.com.au

Nested workshop, 2023 – deepening our connection to – and understanding of – how we are nested within community, place and self. Sunraysia Community Health Services Executive leadership team at the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, Buronga, NSW. Photo: Rhae Kendrigan





Dr Tom Isaacs

Dr Tom Isaacs is a Sydney-based contemporary artist working primarily in the fields of textiles and performance art. His practice engages with ideas of mental health, suffering and the human condition, and explores the potential efficacy of art. He draws inspiration from philosophy, psychoanalysis, religious writings and practices and art history and theory. Tom recently completed a PhD at the University of Sydney, researching the relationship between ritual, psychoanalysis and body art, and how these different streams of thought address the problem of alienation.

tom-isaacs.com

Tom Isaacs, *Emergency Blankets (Appliqué)*, 2023. Live performance as part of 'Spirit Wave', a group exhibition curated by Cassandra Hard Lawrie for Art Space on the Concourse, Chatswood, NSW. For this performance Tom Isaacs invited audience members to participate in the process of sewing crosses onto his grandfather's RAAF blanket. Photo: Isabel Brison. Also pictured: Nuno Rodrigues de Sousa



Sarah McEwan

Sarah McEwan is the Creative Producer of the Cad Factory. She has been working and volunteering at the Cad Factory since 2006. Sarah is an artist, musician and artist-curator who lives and works between Sandigo, within the Wiradjuri Nation, and in Sydney, within the Eora Nation. She likes to time-travel through the past in order to learn from what has happened before and to understand, navigate and create the world she wants and needs in the present and the future. In the spirit of ethically engaged practices, she values community, collaboration, gentleness and embracing differences.

sarahmcewan.com

cadfactory.com.au

Solidarity, 2023, Sarah McEwan with Rosslyn Ferry, Diana Ferry, Ross Brealey, Cheryl Blore and Julie Montgarrett. Created for Gawler Laneway Art and Music Festival, Broken Hill, NSW, a West Darling Arts event on 8 April 2023. This artwork was inspired by the Broken Hill Trades Hall Trust collection. Photo: Vic McEwan





Vic McEwan

Vic McEwan is the Artistic Director of the Cad Factory, which he co-founded in 2004. He is an interdisciplinary artist working with sound, video, photography, installation and performance. He was the first artist to receive a practice-led PhD through the Faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Sydney (2023). Throughout his career, Vic has created dozens of contemporary art outcomes while contributing to broader conversations about the role that the arts can play within our communities. He works nationally and internationally, with diverse partners, to explore difficult themes within lived experience, for which he has received multiple fellowships and awards.

vicmcewan.com

cadfactory.com.au

Vic McEwan, *The Face That Your Face Feels*, 2021. Photography series of ten; 869mm x 1214mm. This series was created through a three-step process of creating portraits of Facial Nerve Clinic patients Susan Andrews and William Maish, then projecting them onto the hands of one of their treating clinicians, Dr Susan Coulson, and re-photographing these images.

Welcome Flags and Imagine if we were all peace-makers, 2015, Narrandera Common for the Cad Factory project 'On Common Ground'. Sarah McEwan with 10 students and a teacher from Narrandera High School; 13 students and a teacher from Narrandera Public School; and 12 students from St Joseph's Narrandera. Photo: James T Farley



Our Purpose

Reimagining the world through contemporary art practices.

Our Mission

The Cad Factory is an artist-led organisation that collaborates ethically with people and place to create a local, national and international program of experimental work.

Our Vision

To be a leader in contemporary ethically engaged art practices, celebrated at home and recognised internationally.

Our Values

- ↳ co-devising
- ↳ authentic partnering
- ↳ building connections
- ↳ sharing opportunities
- ↳ embracing the unknown
- ↳ enthusiastically adventurous
- ↳ high-quality artistic outcomes

Donate to the Cad Factory

We are a charity, and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. More details on our website.

The Cad Factory Team

Vic McEwan	Artist, Artistic Director
Sarah McEwan	Artist, Creative Producer
Kimberley Beattie	Office Manager, Project Assistant

The Cad Factory Board

Keith Besgrove & Kirsten Wehner	Co-Presidents
Sablene Heindl	Vice-President
Tahni Froud	Treasurer
Sarah McEwan	Secretary
Vic McEwan	Public Officer
Beate Duesterwald	Director
Lisa Middlebrook	Director

Credits

Adele Packer	Designer
Chambers Whyte	Printer
Melanie Penicka-Smith	Launch Event Producer
Lachlan Herd	Thanks

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