

THIS PROJECT IS PRESENTED BY CURATORIAL COLLECTIVE,
ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA AND FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS
WITH SUPPORT FROM ARTISTS CO-OP AND MEKONG CULTURAL HUB

INTERPLAY INTERPLAY INTERPLAY

13 SEP - 29 OCT 2022

GABRIEL GALLERY, FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS



InterPlay **INSTALLATION ART EXHIBITION | AN ARTISTIC JOURNEY OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY.**

Originally intended to take place in 2021, the **InterPlay** exhibition is a reimagining of a project designed to respond to how artists and art initiatives have been affected by the myriad crises caused by environmental and community issues, in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Emerging international artists, Anita She, Bixiao (Frankie) Zhang, Rosina Yuan and Sherry Liu, have been invited to express their views and thoughts on this critical moment through artistic creation. Four EFFA-selected shorts, *A Demonstration*, *Petrichor*, *The Pit* and *Wishing Well*, will accompany these works. **InterPlay** focuses on ecosystems, sustainability and multicultural communities. Participating in ecological recording, socially engaged practice and creative analysis, **InterPlay**'s artists have initiated cross-disciplinary collaboration with art, science, digital media and sociology. Their works reflect on how both creations and actions now can influence the future, both for our environment and our communities' cultural development.

As you join us in the Gabriel Gallery, you are invited to enter a secret garden; where our artists have distilled the external natural world (including sound, texture, scenery and energy) into an intimate personal world. This exhibition is a collective experiment that challenges our artistic traditions, nature, institutions and life. Here, nature, humanity, creativity and technology work together; while the time of day, weather, momentary thoughts and emotions all **InterPlay** with the space and your perception of it.

The curation is inspired by the concept of '**InterPlay**' by philosophers and performers Cynthia Winton-Henry and Phil Porter. They see **InterPlay** as a global community that believes in the ability to change the world through creative expression. It is a practice that leads individuals and collectives to use their artistic authority and actions to influence others. **InterPlay** is an active, creative way to unlock the wisdom of your body. The exhibition integrates the interior and exterior spaces throughout the Gabriel Gallery, including corridors and common areas, in a participatory and interactive way. The inside and outside of the exhibition will become a small amusement park integrating body, soul and spirit through artistic videos, printing, interactive art installations and text creation.

Launch Event | 15 Sep, 18:30-20:30

Artist Chats | 16, 30 Sep & 7, 14, 21 Oct, 14:00-17:00

Book Launch | *Sustainability Art in Hong Kong* | 16 Oct, 16:30-18:00

Workshop | 'The Nomadic Collective', part of the Mekong Cultural Hub: Meeting Point 2022 | 29 Oct, 14:00-17:00

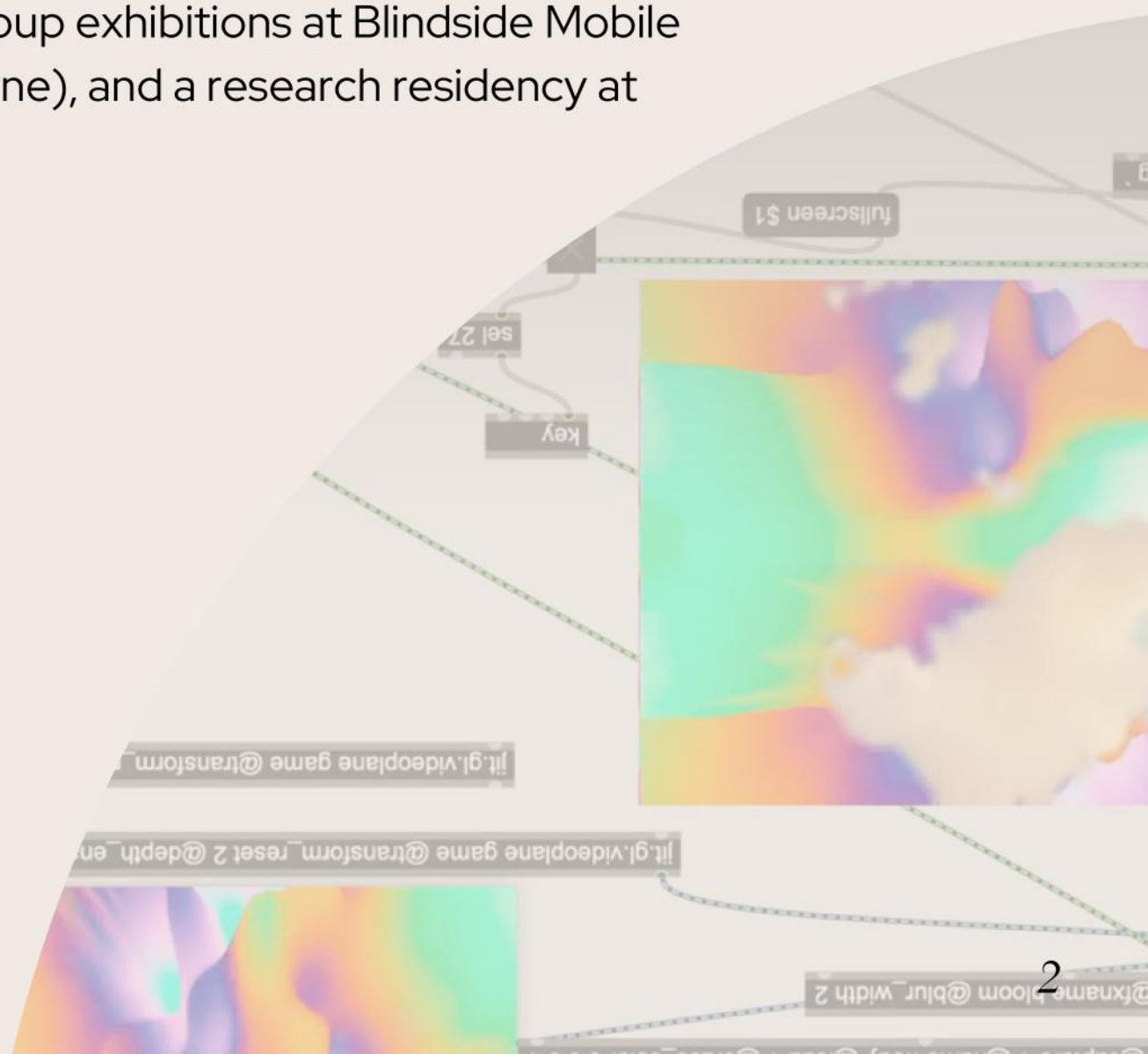
E-motion Cloud | **BIXIAO (FRANKIE) ZHANG (2022)** **INTERACTIVE VIDEO INSTALLATION.**

In this project, The ElectroPoetics perform the emotional flux of social media that traverses across media and users through interactive video installations. Situating the social media sentiment as a digital weather/atmosphere that affects users' emotions as the users affect the emotional field simultaneously, and seeing such exchange of energy as intersubjective and trans-corporeal phenomena, the project not only explores how human emotions play into the flux of digital "weather" but also takes particular interests in how the sentiments of social media bots, AI and algorithm partakes in such digital emotional energy field. Incorporating data collection algorithms, AI sentiment analysis, and real-time interactive design, this project explores co-constitution across digital entities including data, AI, and users.

The project development of digital weather is inspired by Emily Dickinson's telegraph-related poetry, with lines like "success in circuit lies" in *Tell all the truth but tell it slant-*, which see the electric media as sets of both literal and figurative circuits that connect other circuits of networks. This material-discursive environment transduces cultural discourse through machines supported by electricity. Electronic media becomes a blending of cultural, technological, and natural dimensions, a world of overlapping worlds. Traversing such a circuitous electronic media environment, the ElectroPoetics' digital weather performs the blending of culture, nature, and technology worlds in process of digital intra-action, situating a reverberating field of emotive energy and electronic signals. Through such Dickinsonian poetic blending, the project is simultaneously a generative fabulation regarding the transference of emotional energy amongst machines/humans. A co-constituted re/imagination of the more-than-human electronic worlds, towards a sympathetic and symbiotic electronic field rather than dystopian media.

Bixiao (Frankie) Zhang is a digital artist and PhD candidate at RMIT University. Her practice-led research, a fluid entity that she termed "The ElectroPoetics", explores a cross-pollination of eco-poetic, post-humanist readings of Emily Dickinson and aspects of Buddhism, for guiding performative engagements with the emergent subjectivities of the digital environment. Bixiao mainly engaged in public art projects and residencies in the Asia Pacific, such as Hong Kong Cattle Depot Art Village (2017), JMMK #12 media festival Indonesia (2020), and Hua Niao Island International Art Festival, China (2021). These projects are interested in the influence of the digital environment's emergent subjectivities on a specific physical site. Bixiao won the 2021 Dean's Award for her Master of Fine Art project at RMIT University and holds a Bachelor of Media Arts at Flinders University. Her latest project in 2022 includes group exhibitions at Blindside Mobile (Melbourne), an upcoming project at Testing Grounds (Melbourne), and a research residency at Posthumanist Art Network (San Francisco).

the-electropoetics.com



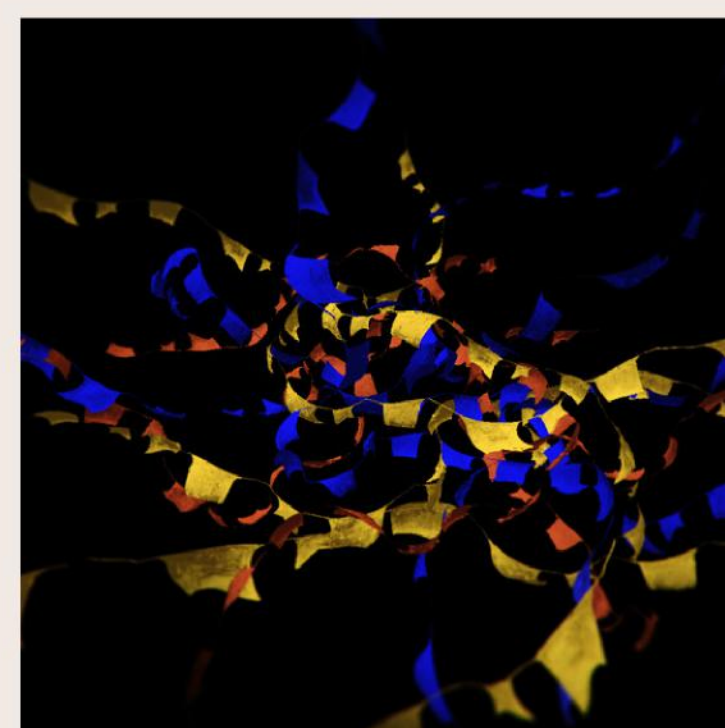
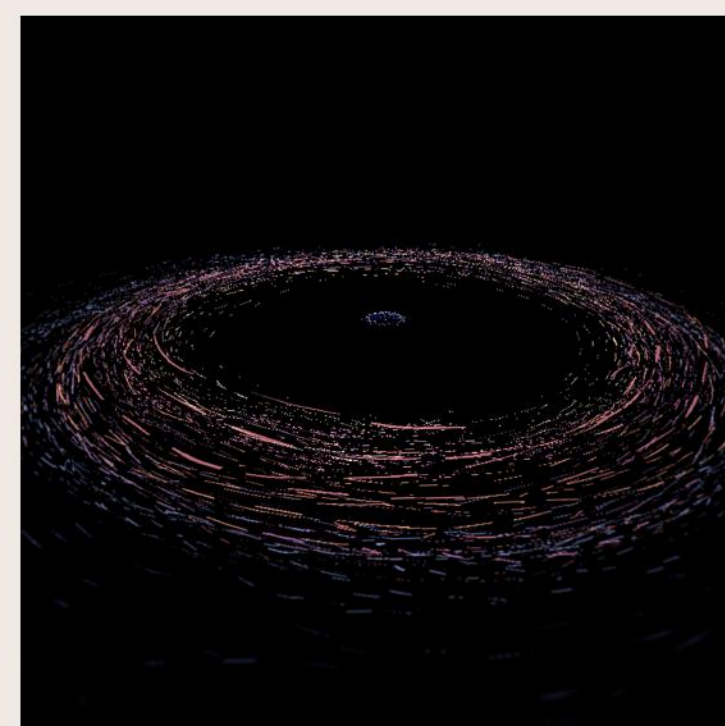
Where are we going today? | **ROSINA YUAN (2022)** **PROJECTION INSTALLATION.**

This artwork uses the question 'Where are we going today?' as a stimulus, to encourage the audience to generate a virtual landscape of where they want to go and to share them with others. With care and wit, simple shapes and lines on paper can be manifested as rocky mountains, beaches, forests and beyond...

Here, Yuan leans into **InterPlay**, using the creation and sharing of these virtual environments to cultivate a deeper appreciation of our real natural environments. Using light, drawing, and installation Yuan creates a scene that takes the audience to a temporary environment by inviting them to co-create a virtual landscape through play. Using familiar objects and material, Yuan sets out an intimate scene and asks the audience to reminisce and fantasize about their own pleasant landscape. The horizon line is where the sky ends and where an illustration begins; it establishes a sense of continuity in the landscapes and evinces a sentiment of our co-existence in a shared space.

Rosina Yuan is a New Zealand artist of Chinese descent who works across drawing, painting, digital mediums, and installation to explore modes of interactivity in both public and private spaces. Rosina moved to Melbourne, Australia in 2017 and completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours at RMIT University. She is continuing her artistic practice as a PhD candidate at RMIT University, her research investigates different modes of spatial relationships through artistic practices by working with local and natural environments.

rosinayuan.com



I can't lose my smiles | **SHERRY LIU (2022)**
PRINTMAKING INSTALLATION AND SOCIAL PRACTICE

From the beginning of the outbreak in 2020, I began a long period of quarantine until one day in April, I was able to get out of the room and start moving around the apartment.

The feeling was pretty good.

From that day on, I have been wandering around the community, collecting memories of space and place, and learning about others' stories. Fading from uneasiness, I was attempting to seek more possibilities within this unstable state - the chance to meet people and the environment in a new time and space. I always want to walk so that I could build new relationships with others and places and create a sense of connection.

In 2022, I return to Melbourne. These (clothes) are still here but with lots of stains on them. They are as if the traces of the past two years and life mapping in this city. I settle here again, and my life is moving forward. Now I'm starting to wander around Footscray! – Sherry Liu

Sherry Liu is a current PhD candidate in the School of Art, RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. Sherry's artistic practice investigates how affective engagement operates for rebuilding connections among nature, people and the community, and how creative practice illuminates the value of multicultural communities. Her works focus on affect, socially engagement, community reshaping, exploring the relational aesthetics and connective aesthetics to challenge the public to reconsider our community and environment.

Recently, Sherry collaborated with the art director of the Huaniao Island International Public Art Festival and initiated the socially engaged art project on the island. She is exploring how multicultural communities live together and adjust to the new community environment. She pursues affective dynamics among people, community and the environment in her social practice, which is impelled by her affection for the natural environment, and a desire of perceiving life and build connections with others. Her texts have appeared in the Public Art Journal (China) and Journal of Artistic Research.

Secret Chatting | ANITA SHE (2022) PERFORMANCE / VIDEO

Through this living, breathing artwork, Anita She focuses on the personal experience of cultural identity in her home country. The whole story narrates the process of knowing her own family history and story, beginning with a coincidental incident.

As a minority member who has been disconnected from their original community for two generations, she brings the wild buckwheat seed, one of the most crucial daily staple foods of the community, back to the city where she lives and cultivates it on the apartment balcony. Buckwheat plays a metaphoric and intimate role, evoking She's community, where she belongs but never belonged. As an "outside insider", She has been gradually healed after expressing "the secret" and engendering a cross-spatial interaction with her clansmen through propagating buckwheat on different sites. Besides being willing to trace an individual cultural retour, She also tends to remain in a parallel angle to position the relationship between the culture and the world.

Anita She is an emerging contemporary artist living in Australia and China. She completed her undergraduate studies in Theatre Art before pursuing a Masters in Curating and Cultural Leadership at UNSW in 2020. Currently, Anita is a HDR student at RMIT University.

In the recent research, She focuses on interdisciplinary research in performance art, sociology and anthropology (autoethnography) to discuss her own cultural identity as a member of a minority group in Southwest China and expound on the significant traditions. Through her practice methods such as walking, cooking and planting a variety of buckwheat, she digs into emotional connections among individual stories and collective memories, which are embedded into the natural landscape and ancient philosophy.



EFFA SHORTS

| *51 mins in total*

This collection encourages and viewers to appreciate our environment, reflecting on the enigmatic relationship we share with the planet.

Communicating by means both visceral and indelible, offering a haunting and artful inspection of the organising principles that inform how our worlds are constructed and inhabited, including gender, essentialism, sound, time, space, utilitarianism and memory.

Petrichor | **SHIRIN SHAKHESI (2019)****2 MINS | AUSTRALIA**

A vibrant sensory experience, Melbourne-based artist Shirin Shakhesi draws you through a vivid, jewel-toned ecosystem which is home to several insect and animal species threatened by population decline. Though brief, we are left to reconcile with the knowledge that these tiny universes can soon become mere memories in our rapidly deteriorating climate crisis.

A Demonstration | **BENY WAGNER, SASHA LITVINTSEVA (2020)****25 MINS | THE NETHERLANDS**

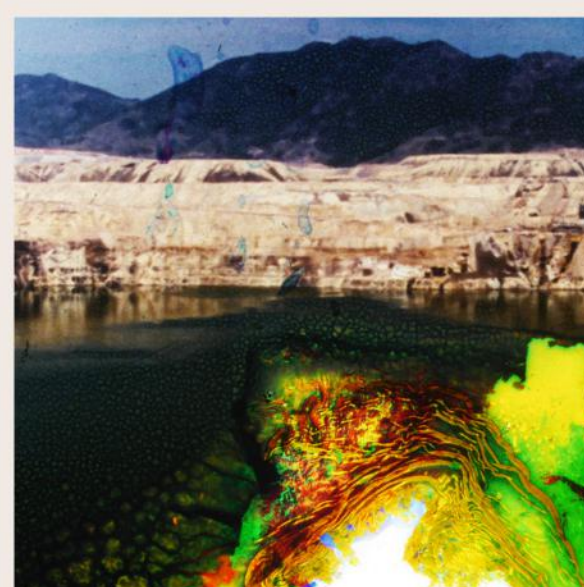
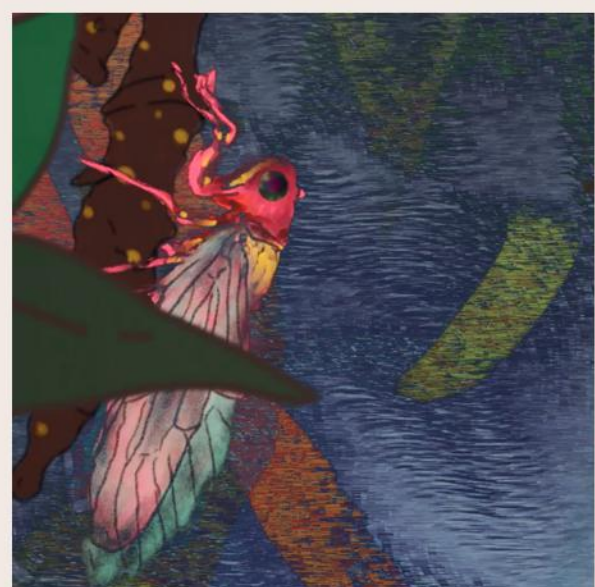
Exploring the attempts of early European scientists to understand the natural world, this experimental wonder steps away from dissection and classification to work in the grey area between what is known and unknown, through a contemplative collage of sound and images. Pointing more to the unyielding mystery of life than to any clear resolutions brought by early naturalists or even current knowledge, A Demonstration shakes the foundations of what we think we know.

The Pit | **JONA GERLACH (2019)****11 MINS | UNITED STATES**

Filmmaker Jona Gerlach takes us on a journey to a former copper mine in Butte, Montana: the Berkeley Pit. Bear witness to what mining (and its waste) can do in film, literally, as Gerlach has crafted a unique experience presenting hand-manipulated original and found footage using the same contaminants that were found in the water of the pit. The Pit serves as a stark reminder of the impacts of mining, while also providing a distorted portal to the past. Juxtaposing then with now, the film offers striking context for our future.

Wishing Well | **SYLVIA SCHEDELBAUER (2018)****13 MINS | GERMANY**

*Staccato perambulations through a technicolour forest; a tactile, hypnotic journey through temporality, memory and consciousness. Wishing Well taps into the sense of inhabiting the wild. In evoking the sense of awe, curiosity and wonder that these spaces inspire, the film hints at the magnitude of real loss - physical and cultural - as these spaces disappear. **This film contains fast flashing images that may cause discomfort or trigger seizures for people with photosensitive epilepsy.***



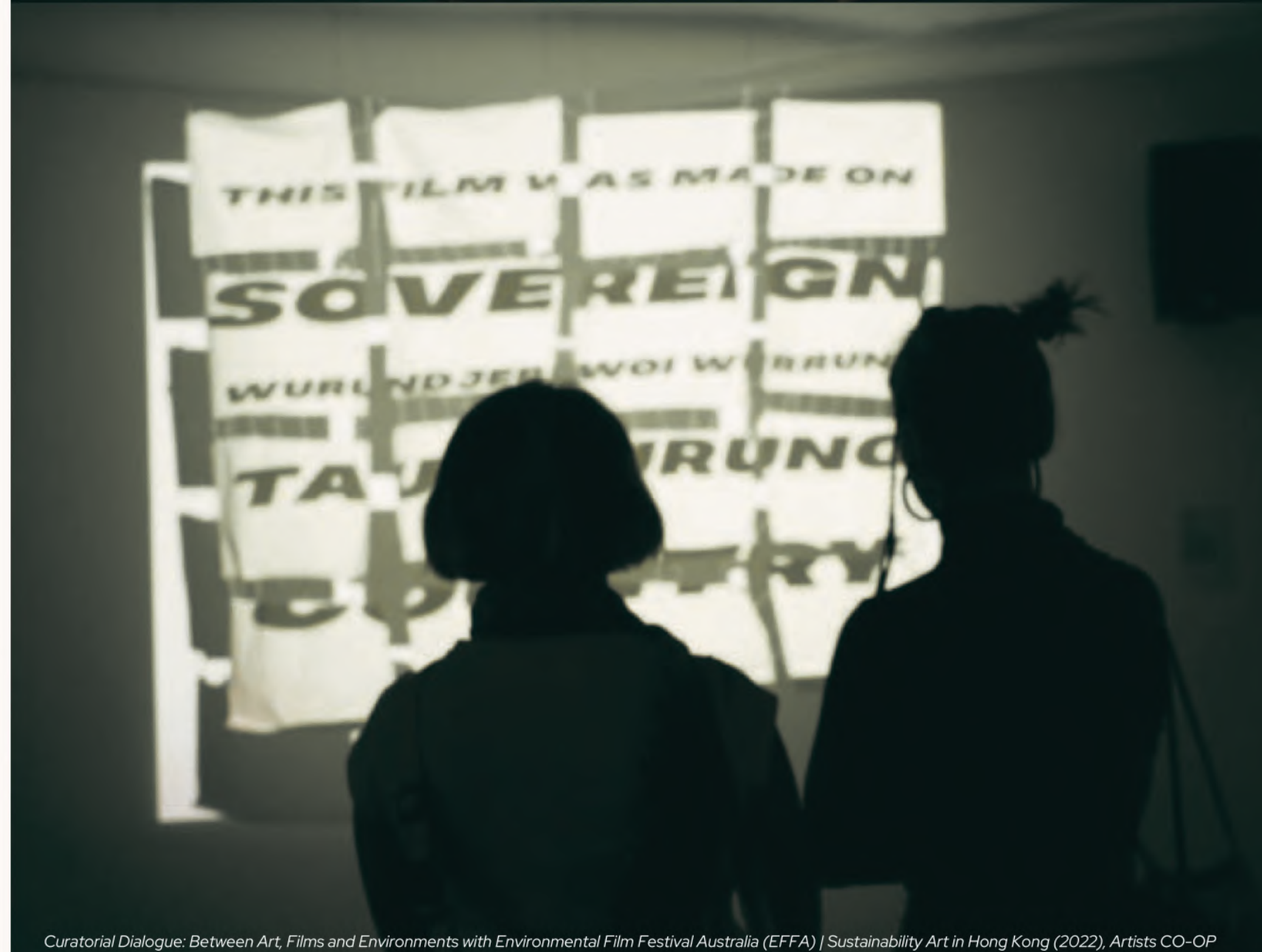
Curatorial Dialogue |
BETWEEN ART, FILMS AND ENVIRONMENTS
WITH ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA (EFFA)

- *Sustainability Art in Hong Kong (2022), ARTISTS CO-OP*

eBook / publication

Join us on 16 October for the launch of *Sustainability Art in Hong Kong* by ARTISTS CO-OP.

A chapter of the book, featuring a discussion with EFFA on the intersection of art and environmental change, is available for preview within the exhibition.



Curatorial Dialogue: Between Art, Films and Environments with Environmental Film Festival Australia (EFFA) | Sustainability Art in Hong Kong (2022), Artists CO-OP

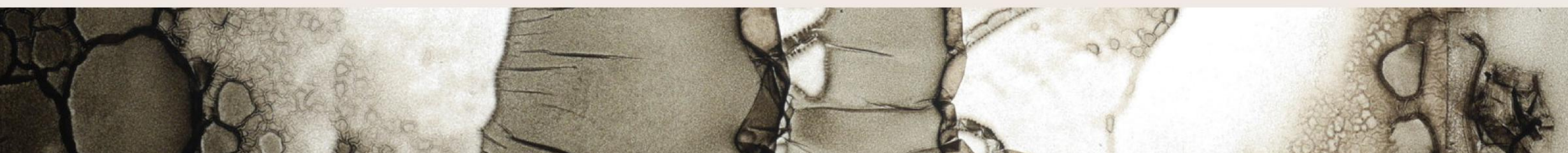
Meet the team.

CURATOR - WILSON YEUNG | CURATORIAL COLLECTIVE

Wilson Yeung Chun Wai is an artist-curator, researcher and creative producer. He is currently a PhD candidate at the School of Architecture and Urban Design at RMIT University. Wilson is a collaborator of Independent Curators International and an alumnus of Shanghai Curator Lab at Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts, Shanghai University. Wilson's special interest lies in collective curatorial practices and Asian contemporary art in an Australian context. His practice-based research 'Curating In-Between' focuses on exploring the role of curators and curatorial practices in order to develop collective curatorial strategies and frameworks. This research articulates curatorial practice that interrogates the role of a curator in facilitating cross-cultural collaborations as a 'cultural collaborator'.

PRODUCER - KATHERINE LEE | ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA & CURATORIAL COLLECTIVE

Katherine Lee is a Hong Kong-born, Naarm/Melbourne-based arts administrator, creative producer, and fundraiser. She is passionate about facilitating the connection between art and society by creating cross-artform programs. She has organised projects such as community art festivals, school programs, theatre performances, tours, and exhibitions. Katherine co-founded and chaired the Arts Managers Society at the University of Melbourne and was the Future Founder Scholar at StartSpace, State Library Victoria. She completed her Master's study at the University of Melbourne and was listed on Dean's list with the Melbourne Graduate Scholarship. Katherine currently works in development roles in the Gasworks Arts Park, Flinders Quartet, and the Mentone Public Library. She is also the Melbourne Coordinator at the Japanese Film Festival in Australia.



*We would like to thank everyone behind
the scenes who brought InterPlay together.*

EFFA Team.

Exhibition Producer | Katherine Lee

Festival Directors | Charlie Macfarlane, Freyja Gillard

Promotion | Darren Saffin, Ellie Gemmell

Sustainability | Jen McAuliffe

Screen Curation | Luke Forsyth, Natalie May

Curatorial Collective.

Curator | Wilson Yeung

Footscray Community Arts.

Artistic Director & Co-CEO | Daniel Santangeli

Production Managers | Ash Buchanan, Neil Cabatingan

Marketing Campaigns Coordinator (Artistic) | Bridgette Le

Industry Development Coordinator | Asha Bee Abraham

With special thanks to...

Su Ye, RMIT University - Student Life, ARTISTS CO-OP, Mekong Cultural Hub, and all our wonderful artists and filmmakers.



Co-presenters and supporters.



**CURATORIAL
COLLECTIVE**

Curatorial Collective is artist-led non-profit organisation visioning to generate innovative insights and new knowledge, enable emerging artists to develop and contribute their potentials in the community, and enhance cultural diversity and inclusion. It seeks to achieve these through Asian culture-focused projects that facilitate cross-levels and disciplines creative encounters and collaborations for emerging and CALD art practitioners.

curatorialcollective.org



RMIT Student Life
UNIVERSITY



EFFA ENVIRONMENTAL
FILM FESTIVAL
AUSTRALIA

EFFA is a 100% volunteer-run organisation that showcases groundbreaking cinema, traversing the relationship between humans and their environments, challenging the way people think about the natural world, and inspiring us all to discuss, explore and act on important environmental issues.

effa.org.au

FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS

Footscray Community Arts (FCA) has cultivated a reputation for excellence in nurturing, creating and presenting contemporary arts in collaboration with its communities of focus: First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTIQ+ and artists with disability.

For nearly five decades, FCA has seamlessly combined its roles as a cultural destination, creative producer and industry development hub, fostering generations of artists and cultural leaders, while providing a safe and creative place for diverse communities and audiences.

FCA's legacy is grounded in cultural rights, rich cultural knowledge and deep roots in activism for those who are underrepresented in mainstream culture.

footscrayarts.com



Mekong Cultural Hub (MCH) works with people whose own work is at the intersection of arts and society. We initiate projects and work on collaborations all around Asia. Our priority focus countries are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

mekongculturalhub.org



ARTISTS CO-OP is a non-profit art organisation founded in 2014 by artists in Fotan, with a view to support artists in the continuous pursuit of art creation and unleashing their creative potential. With the enduring support of the art community and various funders and authorities, ARTISTS CO-OP has set up the Sustainability Art Hub at Sha Lek Corner to provide a platform for developing and promoting sustainability art and sustainable art practices.

artistscoophk.org

Locations.

Exhibition and events

Footscray Community Arts, 45 Moreland St Footscray 3000

The Nomadic Collective Workshop

RMIT City Campus, Garden Building

Level 6, Building 10

RMIT University 376 - 392 Swanston St, 3000

Entry access from Bowen Street (between Swanston and Russell Streets), above the Streat Cafe. Elevator behind Streat Cafe.

InterPlay takes place on the unceded sovereign lands of the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation. We offer our respect to the Elders of these lands and to all First Nations people who reside here. There will be no climate justice without First Nations justice. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

This project is presented by Curatorial Collective, Environmental Film Festival Australia and Footscray Community Arts, with support from ARTISTS CO-OP, RMIT University and Mekong Cultural Hub.

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