

YARRA CITY COUNCIL'S ROOM-TO-CREATE PROGRAM



MARCH 2019 UPDATE

'The Tennis Piece' by Atlanta Eke as part of Dance Massive.
Presented by Dancehouse, a Room to Create tenant.

Image credit: Atlanta Eke's 'The Tennis Piece', (2018-19).
Photo by Tim Birnie

arts.yarracity.vic.gov.au/arts-programs/room-to-create

“Thank you for such a wonderful experience with the Room to Create residency. It has generated a really productive time for me and I feel is a catalyst for more exciting and ambitious projects in the future.”

Michelle Mantsio, Artist-in-Residence

“We love working at the Florence Peel Centre. After being itinerant for fifteen years its the first proper home we’ve had. Being part of the community around the building and sharing with un magazine has helped us plan and imagine our future.”

Joel Stern, Liquid Architecture, Room to Create tenant

“I want to give my thanks to the City of Yarra for providing the residency at Canning Street in Carlton. I am very content with the progress that I am making within the studio. Since moving into the studio at the beginning of January 2019, the majority of my residency time and energy is going towards [my] projects.”

Jonathan Sinatra, Artist-in-Residence

“With far too many cranes hovering above us for residential development, never before has it been so important to provide inspirational spaces for Artists within Yarra , if we lose them, we lose our very essence!”

Arch Staver, Donor

“I support Room to Create because I love what artists bring to my community and thus my life.”

Susan Ball, Donor

The City of Yarra values the creativity that exists in our city and we want to make sure it continues to be an essential part of our neighbourhoods into the future.

In a rapidly changing landscape, we recognised the need to take action to keep creative spaces available and affordable. We are now actively supporting artists to stay in our city by providing grants and spaces.

In 2014 Council established the **Room to Create Fund** with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation as a way to provide ongoing creative infrastructure grants to arts organisations needing extra support to do fit outs, get planning advice, or anything else related to affordable creative spaces. This fund, held at arms-length from Council, is designed to provide grants to arts organisations in Yarra in perpetuity.

Our aim is to grow the fund to \$1m to enable a significant level of giving. The Room to Create Fund has grown to \$407,000 as of 2019.

We thank all the donors to this important program:

Arch Staver | Susan Ball | Stuart McKenzie | Lord Mayors Charitable Fund | Meydan Group | Nelson Alexander Foundation | Timothy Bishop | Dr Jonathan Hartley | Dr John Ballard | Rob Murray-Leach | John Wardle | Mark Free | Dr Katya Johanson | Phillip Vlahogiannis | Behnam Roohizadegan | Julie Raynor | Leigh Ellwood | Mike Hoy | Kim Swinson | Anonymous

We encourage everyone who cares about creativity in our city to get involved.

Donations to the Room to Create Fund are tax deductible.

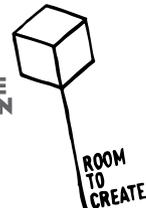
For further information regarding Room to Create contact:

Debra.Kunda@yarracity.vic.gov.au or

Penny.Kyprianou@yarracity.vic.gov.au

To Donate to the Room to Create Fund:

lmcf.link/RoomToCreate



ROOM TO CREATE ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCIES

The Room to Create Artist-in-Residency Program provides short term space in council buildings for artists to make work.

Starting in 2017 as a pilot program in three under-utilised council buildings, the program has grown to house eleven artists of varied disciplines across four spaces in 2019.

North Carlton Children's Centre	Jonathan Sinatra
Florence Peel	Arini Byng Andrew Atchison Robert and Lyn-Al Young
Williams Reserve Community Room	Zilverster
Studio One	Kati Javan Michelle Mantsio Audrey Lam Katayoun Javan Adelle Mills

Some of these are tiny rooms in community centres, offices in former maternal child centres and spaces formerly used for storage in child care centres. They are often idiosyncratic and always much appreciated by artists. We will continue to identify further spaces in our property portfolio and we hope to inspire the Yarra community to do the same.

The short term Artist-in-Residency Program is one of the two ways the City of Yarra is directly housing artists, the other being longer term tenancies, some of these have been going for over 20 years.

Arini Byng's practice addresses the affective qualities of materials, gestures and settings - undertaking exercises in image, movement and form to negotiate political scenes. Recent projects shift to the production of choreographed situations of expanded performance and video to explore relations to site, bodies and environment.

Byng (born 1987) holds a B. Fine Art from NAS and B. Fine Art (Honours) from VCA. Her work has been exhibited across Australia including Blak Dot Gallery, 215 Albion, Irene Rose, c3 Contemporary Art Space, Hobiennale, Bus Projects, Slopes, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Perimeter Presents, ACCA, and CCP; selected works published by Perimeter Editions, Higher Arc, Le Roy and Photofile; and with work held in publication collections of V&A, MoMA, MOCA, Tate Modern, MONA and NLA. Byng lives and works in Naarm (Melbourne) on the unceded sovereign land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

Arini Byng has been developing her work at Florence Peel and will have an exhibition later in 2019.

Image: Before Taking Any Action (performance documentation), Arini Byng, 2018



Zilverster is an ongoing collaborative project between Sharon Goodwin and Irene Hanenbergh, two Melbourne based artists who have garnered strong individual reputations for their imaginative, elaborate and meticulously rendered expanded drawing and painting practices.

Zilverster used their residency at Williams Reserve Community Room to develop a body of work for the exhibition 'All the better to see you with: Fairy tales transformed' at the Ian Potter Museum, Melbourne 2017 and a solo exhibition 'Patrino-Patrino' at Sarah Scout Presents in March 2018.

Patrino-patrino, was an exhibition presented at the Melbourne gallery Sarah Scout Presents. This new body of work was created during Zilverster's Williams Reserve Artist-in-Residency through the Yarra City Council's Room to Create Program. Patrino-patrino comprised a suite of twenty-one intricate drawings, a number of which had custom frames that were carved and engraved, and presented together with a series of engraved glass objects and furniture.

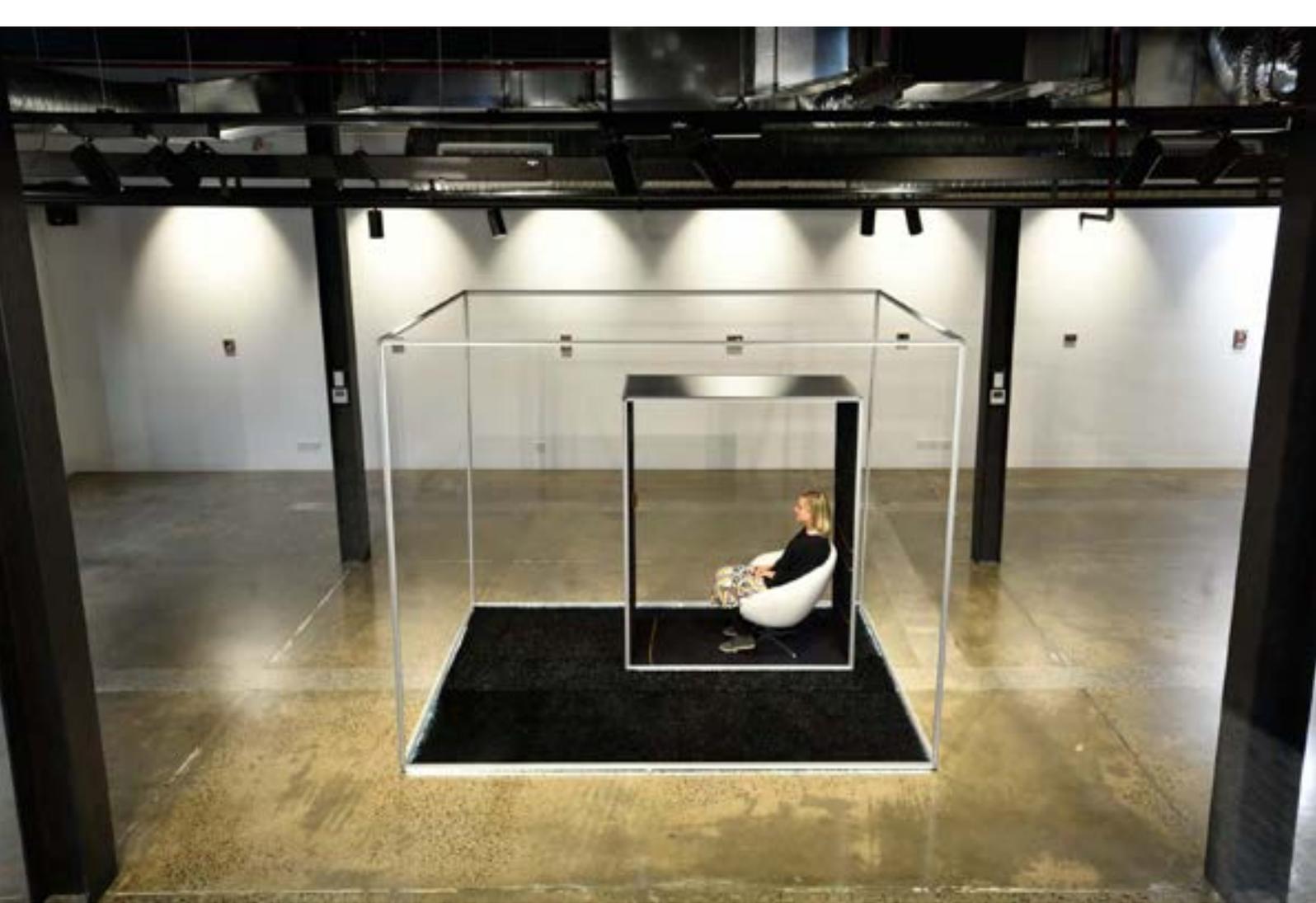
*Zilverster, installation detail from the show Patrino-patrino, Sarah Scout Presents, 2018.
Image courtesy of the artist.
Zilverster (Goodwin & Hanenbergh) are represented by Sarah Scout Presents.*



Michelle Mantsio is an artist whose practice is research-based, where she undertakes interviews and fieldwork that become actual instructions guiding her subsequent art-making. Through video, installation and performance, Michelle explores how it might be possible to create episodic as well as temporal experiences within the same context. Her interest in experimentation is applied to her practice and how she interacts with all parties. This includes people she interviews, how she explores the extensions of her own body, and the way she works with cinematographers, dancers, artists and viewers. Located in a conversation of installation, Michelle has been experimenting with priming herself, her subjects and collaborators, exploring the creative potential this heightened intense state is able to generate.

Mantsio's residency at Studio One, culminated in two public outcomes. 'Short cuts', an exhibition at LCI Gallery, Collingwood, of embroideries based on cubby houses discovered at Preshil schoolyard. The series reimagined the world at a reduced scale and explorations in perspective; and 'Wash Out' a performance in collaboration with Swedish artist Clara J:son Borg, at the Florence Peel Centre, Fitzroy.

Two Chairs, Michelle Mantsio, 2018.
Image credit: Bernie Phelan.



Audrey Lam is a filmmaker who used her Studio One residency to develop her film focusing on post-industrial Hong Kong and familial ties. Her work often chronicles everyday landscapes and encounters, revisiting small moments and changes in some way to reflect on thoughts and time missed.

Lam studied film and photography at Queensland College of Art. Her work has screened at film festivals including BFI London Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, Visions du Réel and Melbourne International Film Festival, and programmed in arts festivals including Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, Next Wave and Otherfilm. In 2015 she undertook an Asialink arts residency at Green Papaya Art Projects in Manila. As part of her residency at Studio One, she presented a public screening of four of her past films as well as a current work-in-progress.

*Faraways, Audrey Lam, 2012.
Image courtesy the artist.*



Jonathan Sinatra is a dancer, choreographer, photographer and educator, who continually looks at ways to develop a sustainable practice for himself, fellow artists and the broader community.

His work explores public transience, private narrative, consent, hidden disability, the ageing body, and the influence of the city on the moving body. Through dance, the complex interplay of conception and construction allows the artist to explore connections between self, space, and society.

Sinatra has over 25 years of professional experience in dance, theatre, performance making, teaching, photography, and technical production. He has taught at Deakin University's dance program and is currently a Teaching Artist for ArtLife at Footscray Community Arts Centre creating the dance program for people of mixed ability. He also works in early childhood development and since 1995 has taught Contact-Improvisation nationally and internationally and is a significant contributor to the Australian CI community.

Sinatra's residency at North Carlton Children's Centre in Canning Street will include a series of outcomes throughout the twelve month residency, and include pop-up performances and 'dance tours' in the City of Yarra for local residents of all ages and abilities; a performance of 'In The Room' in a City of Yarra venue; and a photographic installation 'Picturing The Every Day' to be exhibited within the studio and on social media platforms.

Image courtesy the artist.

Photo credit: Myfanwy Hunter.



Katayoun Javan is an Iranian photographic artist based in Melbourne. She studied photography at Tehran Azad University and completed a MFA at Deakin University in 2013. Through documentary photography, portraiture and use of found photos she draws on personal stories to explore notions of memory, home and displacement. She was the recipient of a Creative Fellowship at the State Library of Victoria in 2016 and the result of her research, a series of photographic portraits of Iranian immigrants in Melbourne, was exhibited at the State Library in 2017.

Javan's residency at Studio One will be used to develop a body of photographs called 'Imagined Memories'. It will be an experimental process, exploring the photographer's memories of Melbourne through colour, double exposure, movement and the effects of medium format Holga and Rolleiflex cameras. The work will be exhibited in 2019 in the City of Yarra.

*Blooming, Katayoun Javan, 2018. Pigment ink-jet print, 24cm x 30 cm.
Image courtesy the artist.*



Andrew Atchison is an artist, writer and educator currently based in Melbourne. He works across sculpture, drawing, writing, public art projects and teaching. Most recently his practice has been devoted to experimenting with how sculpture might be queered through processes of abstraction, and exploring how to represent queerness in the absence of either bodily figuration or tropes associated with the art-historical category of Queer Art. This exploration is motivated by an interest in finding ways of expressing queerness that are liberated from rigidly defined, fixed categories of identity. This reflects a stance that is critical of dominant forms of queer identity as restrictive and reductive of the potential for myriad forms that queerness – in art or personal expression - does or might take. A branch of this investigation focuses upon art in public space – specifically, how the language and communicative functions of public statuary and sculpture operate to inflect public space.

Atchison completed a Master of Fine Arts (research) at MADA, Monash University in 2018. He has exhibited extensively including at Testing Grounds, Greenwood Street Projects, Light Projects, West Space, Kings ARI, Seventh, First Site Gallery, and Next Wave and Midsumma Festivals. In addition, he has completed several artworks for public space, including a public art commission for City of Melbourne. He currently holds the position of Artist Educator at The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

Atchison used his residency at the Florence Peel Centre to further explore how queerness might be connoted through abstract visual language, focusing upon sculptural expressions.

*Figure in the round (statue/lens), 2017. Photograph: Bryony Jackson.
Image courtesy the artist.*



Robert and Lyn-AI Young (brother and sister artists) have used their residency at the Florence Peel Centre to develop a body of work that included paintings, textiles and boomerangs. This work was then exhibited in 'Dreaming Together', held at the Richmond Town Hall Exhibition Space.

They also used this residency to deliver a series of workshops designed to empower and re-engage indigenous youth who are disconnected from family and culture.

'Young Art-Old History' is the Gunnai Waradgerie Young family slogan. They have run workshops for over 15 years for indigenous, corporate and school groups.

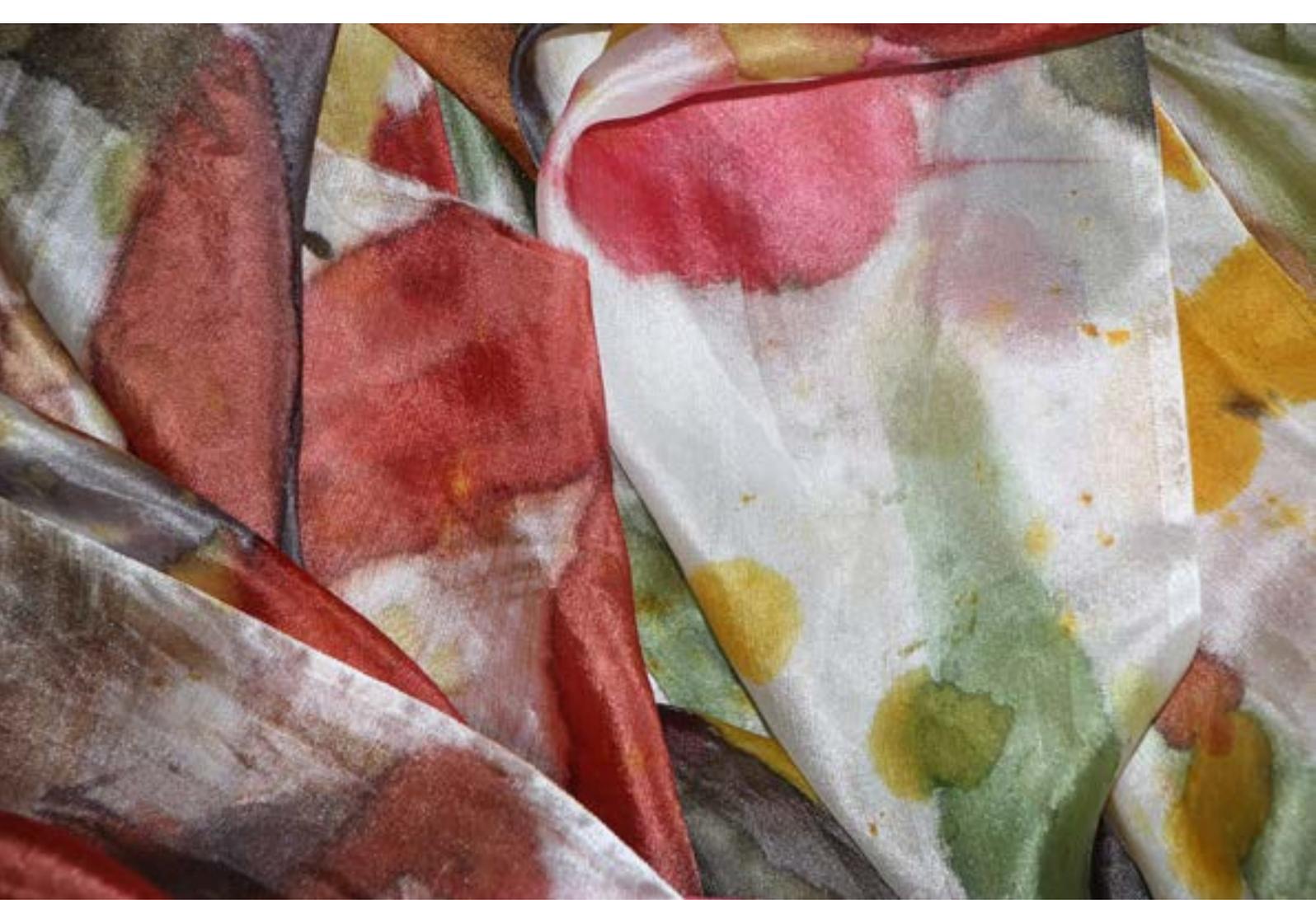
In collaboration with Yarra City Council, Young Art partnered with Korin Gamadji Institute (KGI) to deliver workshops in which students learnt to craft traditional artefacts (boomerangs, shields, clapsticks), work with textiles and visualise 'their' story through painting. These workshops were generously funded by the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy Community Initiatives Fund.

In 2017, and in collaboration with street artists Heesco and Makatron, Robert completed a mural in Charcoal Lane, Fitzroy that honours the suburb's prevailing Aboriginal history and identity.

He also teamed up with PUMA to design the Dreamtime "Borra Range" apparel and also designed Richmond football club's dreamtime Guernsey for their Indigenous round against Essendon.

Lyn-AI Young is a 23 year old Gunnai, Wiradjuri, Gunditjmara and Yorta Yorta fashion designer and artist living in Melbourne. She was recently announced as David Jones' emerging designer.

*SilkTextile detail by Lyn-AI Young, 2017.
Image courtesy the artist.*



Adelle Mills is an artist who considers language in its broadest sense, as verbal, bodily or visual systems of communication. Her practice includes a range of disciplines including video, performance, writing and choreography.

Through the use of mobile phones, chat and text forms, and performance, the artist explores what they bring to the function of language. She is concerned with the emotional resonances and conditions new technology imparts or permits within human communication. Recent works consider the performative quality of the text message and how a triadic structure between people and phones informs an intimacy predicated upon inherent tele-communicative distance.

Mills spent her Studio One residency developing a writing project to be digitally performed as a part of an online gallery site.

*Posture Carriages, with Kate Meakin. Gertrude Glasshouse, 2017. Image courtesy the artist.
Photo credit: Christo Crocker*



ROOM TO CREATE – TENANCIES

Providing long term space for our arts organisations has always been a core Council program. We do not have many spaces available, but they are precious and important.

These are our longer term arts tenants:

1. Dancehouse – 150 Princes Street Carlton North

Dancehouse is Australia's premier centre for independent dance. It is a site for developing challenging, invigorating and socially engaged moving art.

Dancehouse's role is threefold: to advance independent dance artists, to build dance audiences, and to develop the art form itself. Dancehouse programs generate a kaleidoscope of opportunities and sit at a confluence of circulations: of makers, ideas, spaces, contexts, publics, disciplines and territories.

dancehouse.com.au

Image credit: Renae Shadler's 'Restore', (2018). Photo by Theresa Harrison

2. The Women's Art Register – 415 Church Street Richmond

The Women's Art Register is Australia's living archive of women's art practice (non-binary and trans inclusive) and a National, Artist-Run and Not-for-Profit community and resource. Established by women artists in 1975, it began with one hundred women artists contributing slides of their work. The initial collection was housed and administered at the Ewing Gallery, University of Melbourne until 1978 when the ever-expanding collection was moved to Richmond Library where it remains today.

womensartregister.org

Image credit: Against the Odds, Women in Art Forum, Richmond Theatre, 2017.



ROOM TO CREATE – TENANTS

3. Print Council Australia - 201 Napier Steet, Fitzroy Town Hall

Established in 1966, for over 50 years the Print Council of Australia (PCA) has promoted and supported contemporary artists working in print media, and advocated for the appreciation of printmaking as a vital and vibrant field of creative endeavour in the Australian context. This advocacy extends to related practices of artist books, and more broadly, works on paper.

Through publishing our quarterly art magazine Imprint, the annual Print Commission program, and holding exhibitions and events the PCA supports the work of its member printmakers and promotes excellence and innovation in the field.

As a national, not-for-profit organisation, the PCA has Committee Representatives in each state and territory, activating the Australian print community at a grass roots level. The Print Council of Australia has an open membership policy and anyone can join.

printcouncil.org.au

Image Credit: Guests and Artists at the opening of Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani, December 2017.

4. Yarra Sculpture Gallery – 117 Vere Street Collingwood

Over 20 years to date, Yarra Sculpture Gallery located in a former factory in Abbotsford, in inner city Melbourne has supported contemporary spatial arts practice in all forms since 1997, outlasting other artist run spaces, and changing initiatives in contemporary art. The space is open, intimate, friendly and welcoming, where artists of all stripes can make and show great works of art.

The Gallery's versatility allows the making and exhibiting of large to small scale works but also encourages more intimate explorations of form, including projections and multi-media arts.

'We've had lot of people go through here; some of them have gone on to be important public artists, other people have just kept to a small practice. It's encouraged a great many artists to expand and explore,'

Yarra Sculpture Gallery offers support to artists at every stage of their career, whether emerging, established or mid-career.

yarrasculpturegallery.com.au

Image: installation detail of Amanda Page's 'Falling Away' 2018.

5. Visionary Images – 213-215 Church Street Richmond

Visionary Images (VI) is a not-for-profit youth arts organisation dedicated to the engagement and development, through creativity, of young people with experience of hardship.

At VI artists collaborate with young people to develop, produce and exhibit public art. VI offers opportunities for the creative and personal development of young people from all walks of life, many of whom have experienced hardship. VI aims to exhibit to the broadest possible audience to raise community awareness of the social issues that affect us all. VI exhibits artworks in highly visible, often unusual public spaces, taking art into the streets and everyday life.

visionaryimages.org

Image credit: 'Home' Atherton Gardens, 2014.

6. Liquid Architecture – 126 Moor Street Fitzroy

Liquid Architecture is an Australian organisation for artists working with sound. LA investigates the sounds themselves, but also the ideas communicated about, and the meaning of, sound and listening.

LA's program stages encounters and creates spaces for sonic experience, and critical reflection on sonority and systems of sonic affect. To do this, LA host experiences at the intersection of contemporary art and experimental music, supporting artists to produce performances and concerts, exhibitions, talks, reading groups, workshops and recordings in art spaces, music venues and other sites.

liquidarchitecture.org.au

Image credit: Public Assembly, Polyphonic Social: The Unsingularity, 2018. Photo: Keelan O'Hehir

7. un Projects - 126 Moor Street Fitzroy

un Projects is an arts collective with a focus on artists, writers, artist-run initiatives and independent projects and practitioners. Through publishing projects and discursive events, un Projects explores art-making, as well as generating critical discourse and dialogue around contemporary Australian visual art.

un Conversation is a series of events, discussions, reading groups and 11 launches that will complement un Project's publishing endeavours for the year and broaden the conversation by inviting new voices and perspectives. Both the writers' residency and the public program that fall under the un Conversation umbrella will be based at their home in Fitzroy's Florence Peel Centre, with the support of Yarra Council and the Room to Create Program.

unprojects.org.au

Image credit: Launch of un Magazine 12.2 (co-edited by Maddee Clark & Neike Lehman), Blak Dot Gallery, November 2018. Photo: Daniel Gardezabal.

Some other organisations that have received support from our Room to Create Program:

Schoolhouse Studios schoolhousestudios.com.au

Seventh Gallery seventhgallery.org

Cecil Street Studio cecilstreetstudio.org.au

Bus Projects busprojects.org.au

Artful Dodgers jss.org.au/what-we-do/mental-health-and-wellbeing/artful-dodgers-studios/

Recipients of the Room to Create Responsive Grants:

3CR Community Radio

Backwoods Gallery

Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee

Contemporary Sculptors Association

Corner Hotel

Dancehouse Inc

Fitzroy Learning Network

Glamorama Bar

Ian Strange Studios

Jesuit Social Services

Kerr St Studios

Memphis Gardens

Motley Bauhaus

Q44 Theatre Company

Seventh Gallery

Schoolhouse Studios

Strampp Studio

TextaQueen Studio

Tote Hotel

Tramway Hotel

Vere St Studios