

OPEN ACTIONS

SNODGRASS RESERVOIR

16-17 NOVEMBER 2019

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Aishla Manning

Anthony Baker

Keemon Williams

Kylie Spear

Primitive Motion

Guyala Bayles

Aurora Christie

Joella Warkill

We acknowledge and honour all First Nations People, particularly the custodians of the land on which *Open Actions* is taking place, and pay our respects to their elders – past, present and emerging.

Welcome to Open Actions



The Reservoir is a place I go to regenerate, seek solitude, and of course, have fun. I get out there as often as possible, to walk, read, and float. If you visit early in the morning, there's a flock of cockatoos that make a mighty din. In the afternoon, you can join the families, birdwatchers, swimmers, mountain bikers, kayakers, and bushwalkers as they enjoy and discover the site.

For several years now I've made a habit of taking moments to consider how places change over time. It's a simple practice through which I reflect on the value and significance it might hold to different people - its ecological impact, the labour that might have brought it into existence and the histories I may not even have the knowledge to appreciate.

Open Actions has been an excuse to indulge this curiosity. A two-day art program embedded amongst the usual activity of the Enoggera Reservoir. Its been my invitation to both the artists and audience to collectively reflect on what is, what was, and what might be. Showcasing new work from local contemporary artists: Aishla Manning; Keemon Williams; Kylie Spear (in collaboration with Tom Kidd); Anthony Baker; Primitive Motion (Sandra Selig & Leighton Craig); and poets Aurora Liddle-Christie, Guyala Bayles and Joella Warkill - the program seeks to draw us all beyond the surface of this place and deep into the complex layers of its history, politics, cultural significance and ecological value. A slippery-dip for ice-cubes, cement mixers parading as waterfalls, a meditation that guides you from your sweat to outer space, bushwalks with poets, a pack of dogs on guard, and an exclusive album release - I hope you enjoy this diverse array of thoughtful and relevant works that probe deeper into our reliance and affinity with water and place.

Jenna Green
Creative Director
people + artist + place

Thank you...

Brisbane City Council for the opportunity to deliver your Temporary Art Program (TAP) 2019. *Open Actions* is the last of the five activations in this year for the program that people+artist+place have delivered in collaboration with Metro ArtsTAP 2019 is a testament to Council's support of Brisbane's creative ecology.

Our site partners Seqwater, in particular, Michelle Bordignon who has been instrumental in assisting us to realise the works on site.

Australia Council for the Arts for contributing to the funding of the work. Your support of the Australian arts sector is both vital and appreciated.

Metro Arts who, as Executive Producers of the TAP program, have shared the responsibility and joy of supporting many artists to create new work in public space. Jo and Kyle, your encouragement and mentorship have been like gold to me this year. The sheer grit and generosity you both demonstrate daily is inspiring and motivating. Thank you too to the rest of the Metro Arts team who are all rather wonderful at their jobs as well.

Troy and Amanda from Blaklash Projects who I always enjoy working with. You're an asset to every project we collaborate on, not just because of the knowledge, community and commitment you bring, but also the laughs.

Clare, Tom and the rest of the team at Five Mile Radius who we have to thank for so much of the *Open Actions* Hub on the events lawn. I'd been looking to work with you for a while, so it has been a real treat to finally realise something together.

My Co-Director Marisa Georgiou who shared much of the journey of *Open Actions* over the past two years. To my support team, Naomi O'Reilly, Joseph Burgess and Chris Bennie, who's initiative, attitudes and skills I would genuinely despair without.

All the volunteers who have given their time over the weekend - your energy and enthusiasm have been much appreciated.

And lastly, the artists - Aishla, Keemon, Kylie and Tom, Anthony, Sandra and Leighton, Aurora, Guyala, and Joella. Making art is hard. It's also cathartic, fun, empowering, bamboozling, and weird -but it is definitely hard. So thank you for putting form to your ideas, feelings, memories and vulnerabilities. Your works help many, to better understand the world and themselves.



AISHLA MANNING



Aishla Manning is an interdisciplinary artist, working mainly with time-based media and assembled objects, using play to explore tensions and absurdity of the everyday. Aishla's most recent project was a participatory installation, 'Work Party', presented at Outer Space (2019). Aishla has also exhibited extensively in Queensland including at Kunstbunker ARI (2018), CLUTCH X Outer Space (2017), The Institute of Modern Art's Green Screen (2016), as well as interstate at Testing Grounds (Melbourne, 2017), Gaffa Gallery (Sydney, 2017), Bus Projects (Melbourne, 2016) and Feltspace's Feltdark (Adelaide, 2016).

plop, 2019

Installation (with performative elements)

Our lives are full of routine and repetition, things we need to do, things we want to do, and things we just do. Maybe these things mean something, maybe they don't? It doesn't really matter, we're still doing them.

This work is a new routine for the dam. Ice will be deployed from the slide at various times over the weekend. It could be a routine of nonsense or a routine of meaning- it's hard to know? Maybe making the decision to create the routine is meaningful? Or maybe it's just another thing that adds up to something big and silly, and pointless.

ANTHONY BAKER



Anthony Elliott Baker's sculptural practice is a way in to exploring space and its affect. Not only physical spaces, social, psychic and digital. Using various processes and media, both malleable and digital, Baker ruptures experience and subverts expectations in playful, dissociating ways which can be as disconcerting as engaging and immersive. Fragmented self-referential ideas are regenerated through creative processes becoming ambivalent art encounters which value a decentering and discerning of the reciprocates own subjectivities and autopoiesis. Baker uses site, found objects and materials, fabrication, new-media, interaction and performance. Anthony is currently a PhD candidate based in Brisbane.

When it does, it will all come together, 2019

Kinetic Sculpture

*Allow time for the sound to agitate and dissolve your thoughts.
Then walk away through the bush with heightened senses.*

The great thing about art is you can make art anywhere with nothing but your senses and imagination. In our day to day interactions with our environment, we come across aesthetics that offer a spectrum of visceral experience evoking our creative potentials.

When I return to trees and water, the pressure of having to be creative is put in perspective. Growing up spending a lot of time in nearby forestry which would have once been connected to this site, the same quietness intrinsically experienced is aspired to in the creative process where the self can step aside.

White noise amongst the cityscape reiterates the notion of a constant expansion. The constant fuzz of a freeway, or the hammering of pillars into the river offer a portal out of the grid's organisation into other moments of being.

KEEMON WILLIAMS



Keemon Williams is an emerging Brisbane based artist of Meriam Mer, Kuku Yulangi and Koa descent. A multidisciplinary artist, he utilises a range of mediums and performative elements to explore the conflicts between his personal self, and the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and European heritage beneath it. Having grown up experiencing limited cultural integration, his indigeneity and the question of its validity plays an important part in the rationale he uses to devise works. Receiving a formal education specialising in western European practices, he utilises these techniques in the context of contemporary aboriginality.

He seeks to interrogate realms of domestic architecture, film, popular culture and consumer goods, recontextualising them through indigenous reconstructions. Since he hasn't founded his practice in deeply rooted aboriginal tradition, Williams makes use of the historical and interpersonal contexts of life in Australia to redefine the standardised cultural experience as one that reflects its first nations people.

Sentinels, 2019

Site specific sculpture

A legion of dingoes serve as watchers on the wall, cast in concrete to forever stand and gaze at what once was home. They gather along the concrete barricade, in an act of fellowship, proclaiming to all who see that they will not be forgotten.

Sentinels is a sculptural installation that seeks to interrogate the historical, cultural and ecological implications of man-made environments, and how they've impacted local indigenous populations. It comprises a series of wild dog armatures made of concrete, referencing the materiality of the dam wall.

KYLIE SPEAR



Kylie Spear is a Brisbane artist who uses time-based media and installation to articulate and interrogate remembered experiences. She collaborates with other artists, musicians and makers to develop works that question perception and consider overlappings between objective truth and fiction. By gathering and reimagining fragments of memories (real or constructed) she creates shared physical spaces for collective and critical reflection. Kylie is a contemporary artist based in Brisbane. She studied at the Queensland College of Art, graduating with First Class Honours in 2012. Kylie was a founding member

and co-Director of The Hold Artspace from 2012 - 2015. She has exhibited nationally and overseas, and undertaken collaborative residencies within Australia. Her work is held in private collections around the country.

Water Body, 2019

Soft-Sculpture & Sound Artwork, created in collaboration with Tom Kidd

Considering our layered relationship with water as a source of both life and death, health and disease, joy and fear.

Water Body is an immersive soundtrack created for the Enoggera Reservoir site. This multisensory work encourages listeners to consider their connection to water and its vital role in our life cycle. To be experienced near the banks of the dam, *Water Body* is both meditative and challenging, and flows between moments of playfulness, melody, and disquiet.

PRIMITIVE MOTION



Primitive Motion is the collaborative project of artists Sandra Selig and Leighton Craig. Over the past decade they have recorded an extensive body of work, with five albums released to date of their dream-float musical dialogue. Their "House in the Wave" LP (2018) was included in The Guardian's Australian albums of the year and long-listed for the Australian Music Prize. They have exhibited their collaborative visual/audio work, with the major work 'Special Mechanism for Universal Uncertainty' included in 'Before and After Science' in the 2010 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia.

The work was subsequently acquired by the Buxton Collection, Melbourne. As a live entity, Primitive Motion's performances range from fuzzy motorik songs to extended ambient/improvised pieces and video projection. They have performed with a number of touring international artists, including God Speed You Black Emperor, Mercury Rev and Deerhoof. In 2017 they improvised a live film score (with Ross Manning) for the silent classic *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (C.T.Dreyer) at the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane and gave a surround-sound live performance within an exhibition by Rosslynd Piggott at Milani Gallery in 2018. They have more recently performed outdoor improvisations responsive to the natural environment, including at 'Why Listen to Plants', Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens 2018 and 'Botanica', City Botanic Gardens, Brisbane 2019.

Descendants of Air, 2019

Site-Specific Live Performance & Record

A gift to, and a gift from the banks of the Enoggera Reservoir.

Primitive Motion have recorded music and gathered sounds in a bamboo grove located on the banks of the Reservoir. They have crafted the recordings into a haunting album *Descendants of Air* documenting this immersive sound world, with a beautifully assembled CD edition of the work to be available at their two live performances at the Reservoir.

Aurora Liddle-Christie is a Jamaican and First Nations, Arrernte multidisciplinary artist. In 2017 Aurora graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Drama from Queensland University of Technology. Her practice draws on the experience of People of Colour and Australia's First Nations Peoples at the intersection of community, activism, spirituality and connection to country. She explores this through the mediums of spoken word, performance, playwriting, singing and songwriting. Aurora has worked locally and statewide with a number of Brisbane based arts organisations such as, Digi Youth Arts, Queensland Music Festival, People+Artist+Place, Blaklash, Zen Zen Zo, Conscious Mic and Voices Of Colour.

Guyala Bayles is a 20yr old Birri Gubba and Wonnarua model and poet, born in Brisbane. Guyala was raised in a politically active family and continues this legacy which has been passed down from generation to generation. Guyala uses her public platform to shed light on issues affecting First Nations people and powerfully expresses her self through spoken word. Be captivated by Guyala's presence as she gives you an insight of what it's like growing up in Australia as a young First Nations woman.

Joella Warkill is a proud First Nations and South Sea Islander woman. Reigning from ancestors of Pentecost and Ambrym Islands in Vanuatu, and the Yidinji people in Far North Queensland – she often writes/speaks to empower, heal and represent those who see themselves in her stories. Joella is an undergraduate student studying a Bachelor of Creative Industries and Bachelor of Human Services, majoring in Creative Writing at QUT. She also works at BlakDance, the peak body for Indigenous Dance, and when she is not working or studying she can often be found performing poetry around Brisbane, sometimes with Digi Youth Arts - a not-for-profit arts organisation that shares the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Broken Record, 2019

Performative walking tour

Broken Record will see three young First Nations spoken word artists leading small groups around the site, performing as they walk. They will utilise three battery-powered record players to pause and perform at various locations around the dam. The dialogue centres on the concept of a "broken record" being a message that needs repeating, and the way that water is valued by Aboriginal communities.



AURORA CHRISTIE-LIDDLE GUYALA BAYLES JOELLA WARKILL

MAP



SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

Time	Action	Location
10.00am	Artworks Open	Across the site
10.30am	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
12.00pm	<i>Broken Record</i> walking tour	Events Lawn (map location 6)
12.30pm	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
1.30pm	<i>Broken Record</i> walking tour	Events Lawn (map location 6)
2.30pm	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
3.00pm	<i>Broken Record</i> walking tour	Events Lawn (map location 6)
3.30pm	Opening Event Welcome to Country from Derek Sandy of the Yerongpan Dancers <i>Pool, Catch, Hold</i> : A Collection of different perspectives on the way we relate to water	Events Lawn (Open Actions Hub)
4.30pm	Primitive Motion Performance	Bamboo Grove (map location 5)
5.30pm	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
6.00pm	Artworks close	Across the site

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

Time	Action	Location
7.30am	Primitive Motion Morning Performance	Bamboo Grove (map location 5)
10.00am	Artworks Open	Across the site
10.30am	<i>Broken Record</i> walking tour	Events Lawn (map location 6)
11.00am	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
12.00pm	<i>Broken Record</i> walking tour	Events Lawn (map location 6)
1.00pm	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
2.00pm	<i>Broken Record</i> walking tour	Events Lawn (map location 6)
3.00pm	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
4.00pm	<i>Broken Record</i> walking tour	Events Lawn (map location 6)
5.00pm	<i>plop</i> launch	Water's Edge (map location 1)
6.00pm	Artworks close	Across the site

Program Presenter



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Open Actions is presented as a part of Brisbane City Council's Temporary Art Program 2019, this project has been produced by Metro Arts and people+artist+place, with indigenous curators Blaklash Projects and made possible through the support of Seqwater.

Project Supporters



Australian Government



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

Executive Producers

Metro Arts

Metro Arts is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Metro Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of Environment and Science. Metro Arts is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council. Metro Arts is proudly supported by TAFE Queensland as Education Partner. Metro Arts is a proud partner of Bones Accounting, Dendy Cinemas, EPSON and The Victory Hotel.



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Program Producers



Indigenous Curators

BLAKLASH

