

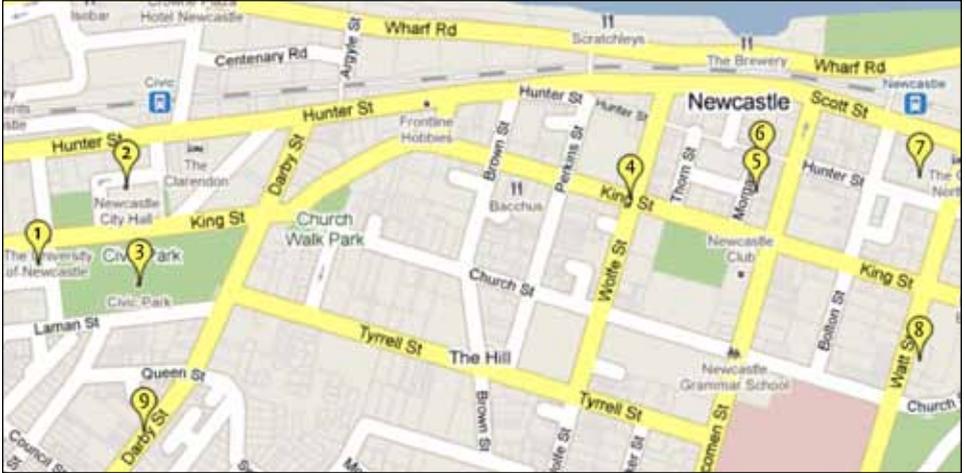
Critical animals

30 September –

4 October 2010



Where is everything?



the one place for creativity

faculty of arts

Macquarie University's Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies focuses on creative practices within an academically rigorous environment.

With brand new world-class production spaces, degree and higher degree research students can study a range of programs from creative writing, screen production and multimedia to public relations, international communications and drama.

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1. Podspace Gallery, 231 King St
2. City Hall, 290 King St
3. Civic Park, King St near Darby St
4. Crackhouse: Grand Lodge, 103 King St
5. Renew Church, 3 Morgan St
6. ARThive, 111 Hunter St
7. The Lock-Up, 90 Hunter St
8. United Services Club, 57 Watt St
9. Eat on Darby St
- &. Sleep when you're dead

Greetings & Salutations

Welcome to Critical Animals!

Twelve months in the making, we're proud to present this year's program of events and exhibitions. It's a stimulating and cerebral schedule of panels, paper sessions, performances and installations, taking in 60 artists, 20-odd events and a grab bag of visual arts.

And once again, it's all about creative research. Which is what, exactly? For us, it covers those pursuing lines of thought through art theory, as well as those using critical theory in artistic practice. It's a broad, interdisciplinary church, and the result is a mix of the formal and the ad hoc, with ideas from within the academy as much as without. We have researchers presenting their first papers, old hands feeling out new territory, artists guiding us through their practice. We have some well-known faces and some new ones to watch out for, some local viewpoints and some international perspectives.

Most events are taking place in our usual home, City Hall. We're also continuing our visual arts stream this year (pg 8), primarily at The Lockup, but also in other venues scattered about. For all our venues, see the map, and be sure to pick up a This Is Not Art program as well, for the full TINA experience.

Once more, welcome to Critical Anin

With the closest thing we have to lov
Aden Rolfe and Sarah Caufield
Critical Animals Directors



Discuss the Arts

ALL EVENTS ARE TAKE PLACE IN CITY HALL: BANQUET ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

10am – 5pm

La Sacra Tierra installation

@ *Podspace Gallery*

Witness the artists' creative process as they explore our connection with the immediate environment, using natural materials to create an impermanent land-based installation.

(Details on pg 8.)

Artists: Ekarasa Prem, Karma Barnes

7.30pm – 8.30pm

Meet Me at the End

@ *Lockup Exercise Yard*

A monologue on the final night for planet Earth. Moving from spoken word to film studies to heavily disclaimed testimony, the text investigates nuclear fear and the seductive power of catastrophe. This performance runs off batteries and the resilience of the species. Bring a torch to see what's going on.

Artist: Briohny Doyle

FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

9am – 10am

Critical Animals Welcome

The official opening of Critical Animals 2010, served with tea, bickies and introductions. Come and meet fellow Critical Animals and make a home in our nest for the next three days.

Hosts: Aden Rolfe, Sarah Caufield

10am – 11.30am

Critiquing Criticism:

I Can't Believe it's Not Better

Join a cross-TINA panel of critics and artists to pillory those arbiters of cultural production who've done you wrong. Or, laud those brave men and women capping the well-head of bad taste and worse art. Converse about the role of the critic — nurturer or discerner; impartial judge or cosy coteriean; good cop, bad cop — and the state of criticism. *Co-presented with Macquarie University Faculty of Arts.*

Artists: Andrew Ramadge, Fenella Kernebone, Lisa Dempster, Naomi Milthorpe, Shaun Prescott
Host: Scott Brewer

11am – Saturday, 2pm

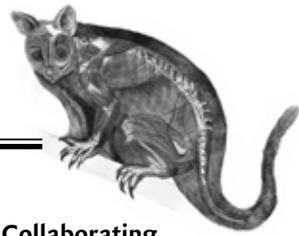
Object Manipulation Research Lab

@ *Civic Park*

An interactive installation. An experiment. A physical collage, driven by an evolving soundscape. With focus and finesse, circus performers, sculptors, puppeteers, musicians and visual artists, and other expert manipulators don labcoats and delve into unexplored regions of object manipulation.

Co-presented with Crack Theatre Festival.

Artists: The Red Button Collective & friends, Bronwen Kamasz, Iuan Cheng, Jiann Hughes



1pm – 2.30pm

Writing and Performing Subjective Genders: Sappho, fag hags and Hollywood

Three papers explore the composition, performance and reconfiguration of female gender, sexuality and subjectivity across a history of creative practice. From perspectives on Sappho, to a Freudian take on identity and affect, to gendering in popular cinema, this session traverses subtle feminism, fag hags and the filmic reconstruction of gender.

Artists: Janet Starr, Catherine Connolly, Siobhan Hodge

Host: Ella O'Keefe

1pm – 4pm

Air City Inflatable Art Workshop

@ Arthive

Create your own inflatable art for display throughout the weekend. All supplies provided, BYO creativity.

Artists: Tully Arnot and You

2.45pm – 4.15pm

Delayed Affects:

Re-presenting Photography

@ City Hall: Newcastle Room

If a photograph is merely a representation of reality, how do we relate to it, despite its static form? What is it about lo-fi aesthetics that draws us in? Are they reflections, or reactions to reality? Hear three presentations exploring different angles of photography's connection to the images produced.

Artists: Brendan Murphy, Chris Morgan, Sonja Hornung

Host: Scott Brewer

2.45pm – 4.15pm

Colluding, Colliding, Collaborating

Let's work together! What do we mean when we say this and what does this mean for the final product? Why should collaboration be a part of our work? In this session we unpick perspectives from artists working in music, new media and performance, an open discussion on the various approaches, difficulties and benefits of cross-pollinating your practice.

Artists: Iuan Smith, John Encarnacao, Nat Grant, Ryszard Dabek

Host: Ella O'Keefe

4.30pm – 6pm

Ethics of Audience Interaction

Involving and confronting your audience is great... but where are the limits? Are there any? Should there be? Join artists who explore these boundaries in a discussion on if and where these lines exist.

Artists: Amy Spiers, Dan Koop, Pip Stafford

Host: Sarah Caufield

7pm – 10pm

Late Night at the Gun Bar:

Poet's Guide to Philosophy

@ United Services Club

What are the uses of philosophy for poetry? Is philosophy an aqualung to poetry or vice versa? Could John Forbes 'thumbing through Adorno like New Idea' be an ideal reading method for the thinking poet? This session will begin with gambits, opinions and readings from presenters, followed by an open discussion with all present. So come armed with your philosophical poems and poetic philosophies.

Artists: Duncan Hose, Harriet Johnson, Jal Nicholl, Jess Wilkinson, Keri Glastonbury, Nick Keys, Stu Hatton

Host: Tim Wright

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

10am – 11.30am

Eco-Aesthetics:

Art in the Green Generation

What does it mean to have a green practice? How can we practice sustainably without it becoming greenwash? Join the artists as they present and interpret enviro-ethics and sustainability in their work.

Artists: Ekarasa Prem, Karma Barnes, Miyuki Jokiranta, Tega Brain
Host: Sarah Caufield

1pm – 2.30pm

Coterie in the Arts:

We're All in it Together

How do coteries, cliques, collectives and scenes occur? Why do they form? How are they variously productive and exclusive? Beyond the idea that they're simply bad but that we're all part of them, we want to look at why. The discussion will be launched by a paper extract from Keri Glastonbury, and go on to consider the effects of coteries in the literary, experimental, chiptune, performance and theatre scenes.

Co-presented with The Writing Cultures Research Group, University of Newcastle.

Artists: Ben Byrne, Keri Glastonbury, Mike Rosenthal
Host: Aden Rolfe

2.45pm – 4.15pm

Constellations 2: Cosmic Longpoems, Poetic Systems and Weather Patterns

Three papers constellating around writing as process, in process, as a system and a structure for experience. We pull apart longpoems using process theory, look at how they might incorporate feeling during their reading, and consider the impact of weather patterns in literature. From Shakespeare to Stein, Olson to Ashbery, Alfred North Whitehead to William Carlos Williams, this sequel (of sorts) seeks to construct, analyse and disrupt the various systems of writing.

Artists: Astrid Lorange (*via video*), Jennifer Hamilton, Tom Lee
Host: Ella O'Keefe

4.30pm – 6pm

Creativity at a Price: Art as Content

Artist or content-producer? If art is created on-demand, how does creativity and critical integrity fit in? Or has it always happened this way?

Artists: Amy Spiers, Hugh Davies, Imogen Semmler, Lucinda Strahan
Host: Sarah Caufield

7pm – 10pm

Late Night at the Gun Bar: The Poetics of Intoxication

@ United Services Club

Poets and attuned readers respond to the theme with readings from their own work and that of others. Beginning with Baudelaire's 'Enivrez-vous!' (Be drunk!), the presenters broadly consider the question, 'What is the relationship between poetry and intoxication?' prior to an open discussion. Whether you have drunken poetry or you drink poetically, come along, it's your round.

Artists: Bella Li, Corey Wakeling, Duncan Hose, Jal Nicholl, Joshua Comyn, Tom Lee
Host: Stu Hatton

SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

10am – 11.30am

Object Manipulation Research Lab: Reflections

A panel reflecting on the outcomes and, in particular, the experiment that is the Object Manipulation Research Lab, running across two days at TINA. (Details on pg 3.)

Co-presented with Crack Theatre Festival.

Artists: Bronwen Kamasz, Ivan Cheng, Ivan Smith, Jiann Hughes, Sam Henning

Host: Aden Rolfe

1pm – 2.30pm

The Poetics of Pornography

How do gender roles, sublimation and exploitation manifest in the sexual imagination? Where do pornographic works encourage and allow for eroticism as a transformative and empowering phenomenon? Pornography from feminist or queer perspectives.

Artists: Anna Westbrook, Bastian Fox Phelan, Jade Muratore; video by Imogen Heath
Host: Sarah Caufield

2.45pm – 3.45pm

Three

@ Renew Church

A radio play vying with itself live for your delectation. Witness a creative cacophony of dialogue, song, sound effect and performance unfold through three antagonists. Blending process and performance, *Three* incarnates its contentious collaborative beginnings within the space of performance. Experience it and add your own voice to the throng in the post-performance Q and A.

Artists: Bella Li, Corey Wakeling, Joshua Comyn
Host: Scott Brewer

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4pm – 5.30pm

Thought in Motion:

Ekphrasis and Embodied Theory

What language do you use to perform a lecture about the body? Where do acts of looking and writing interact in painterly language, and what lies between the materiality of the object and the transparency of the vocal? This innovative presentation traces and performs the generative connections between theory and creative practice. *Co-presented with University of Newcastle.*

Artists: Hayley Singer, Miranda When, Nick Keys

Host: Ella O'Keefe

7pm – 8.30pm

Espadrille, Dabek, Manley and Garrido

@ Renew Church

A collaborative live performance mixing visual and sonic art practices. Improv trio Espadrille, using traditional and electronic instruments, feed into Dabek's images of

an industrial Newcastle haunted by its own forgotten cultural strata. They are abetted by bassist Garrido and dancer Manley.

Artists: Espadrille, Pauline Manly, Ryszard Dabek, Waldo Garrido

MONDAY 4 OCTOBER

10am – 5pm

La Sacra Tierra de-installation

@ Podspace Gallery

Join the artists as they carefully restore the space to what it was before them, an integral part of their artwork. (Further details on pg 8.)

Artists: Ekarasa Prem, Karma Barnes

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Faculty of arts



Observe the Arts

@ CIVIC PARK

Friday 11am – Saturday 2pm, non-stop

Object Manipulation Research Lab – The Red Button Collective and friends, Bronwen Kamasz, Ivan Cheng, Jiann Hughes

An interactive installation. An experiment. A physical collage, driven by an evolving soundscape. With focus and finesse, circus performers, sculptors, puppeteers, musicians and visual artists, and other expert manipulators don labcoats and delve into unexplored regions of object manipulation. *Co-presented with Crack Theatre Festival. See Sunday's Reflections panel (pg 6).*

@ PODSPACE GALLERY

Thursday – Monday, 12pm – 5pm

La Sacra Tierra – Ekarasa Prem and Karma Barnes

Explore our connection with our immediate environment as the artists use natural materials to create an impermanent land-based installation. Join the artists as they install their piece over Thursday and Friday, or see how the space is returned to its original state as they deconstruct the installation on Monday.

@ NEWCASTLE CITY HALL

Friday – Sunday, 10am – 6pm

FLOAT – Sonja Hornung

Indexicality for the spacially-minded. Investigate the material connection between an index and its context through an exploration of cardboard caves and maps. Beware: there could be slippages or gaps between index and referent.

Anatomia – Ari Chand

A visually, critically, artistic analysis and anatomization of Australia's finest creatures.

Map Me – Hugh Davies

Feeling Facebook withdrawal? Join in on analogue social mapping. Bring a photo, business card, or make something symbolic and join the Critical Animals network.

@ THE LOCKUP

Friday – Monday, 10am – 4pm

Air City – Tully Arnot and You

Conference Room, Saturday – Monday

Beam with pride or regret that you missed the inflatable art workshop (pg 4) as you learn more about the craft, and gaze in awe at masterpieces made by you and/or your fellow Critical Animals.

Co ne – Tega Brain

Cellspace

Visually recording a growing carbon footprint, hour by hour, all weekend long.

Talking To – Catherine Connolly

Cellspace

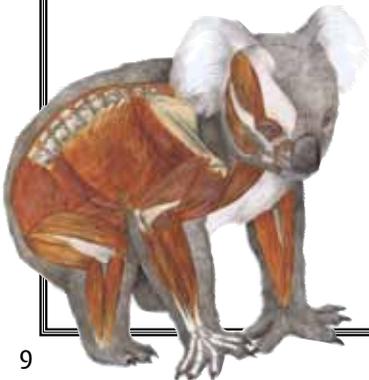
Hollywood with a twist: a re-enactment of scenes from major films from the 1930s onwards, examining gender on screen: protagonists in contemporary settings, with genders reversed, subverting power codes but also altering the meaning.

Pet Cameras – Brendan Murphy

Conference Room, Friday – Sunday

A celebration of the qualities of plastic, pinhole and antique cameras in the digital age.

Notes



Acknowledgements

The Critical Animals

Amy Spiers Andrew Ramadge Anna Westbrook Ari Chand Astrid Lorange Bastian Fox Phelan Bella Li Ben Byrne Brendan Murphy Brendan Smyly Briohny Doyle Bronwen Kamasz Catherine Connelly Chris Morgan Corey Wakeling Dan Koop Duncan Hose Ekarasa Prem Fenella Kernebone Harriet Johnson Hayley Singer Hugh Davies Imogen Heath Imogen Semmler Ivan Cheng Ivan Smith Jade Muratore Jal Nicholl Janet Starr Jennifer Hamilton Jess Wilkinson Jiann Hughes John Encarnacao Joshua Comyn Joshua Isaac Karma Barnes Keri Glastonbury Lisa Dempster Lucinda Strahan Mike Rosenthal Miranda Wheen Miyuki Jokiranta Naomi Milthorpe Nat Grant Nick Keys Pauline Manley Pip Stafford Ryszard Dabek Sam Henning Shaun Prescott Siobhan Hodge Sonja Hornung Stu Hatton Tega Brain Tim Wright Tom Lee Tully Arnot Waldo Garrido **You**

For more info on all the artists, visit www.criticalanimals.org

Directors Aden Rolfe, Sarah Caufield

Co-ordinators Ella O'Keefe, Scott Brewer

Program design Sarah Caufield

Animal art Ari Chand, from *Anatomia*

We gratefully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land that we meet on, the Awabakal and Worimi people. We would also like to pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Our thanks go out to our sponsors: University of Newcastle (and The Writing Cultures Research Group), Macquarie University Faculty of Arts (and the Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies), and the University of Technology, Sydney. Without them, the symposium would not be possible.

Also to This Is Not Art, Electrofringe, Crack Theatre Festival, National Young Writers' Festival, Sound Summit, Simone Sheridan, Julia Shaw, Christina Robberds and the Octapod, Deirdre O'Brien and Auspicious Arts Projects Inc, Britt Guy and Keri Glastonbury. Bear hugs, all around.

It's an honour to work with all of you.



