



**Call For Proposals Deadline Midnight 31 March 2017**

**Critical Animals Creative Research Symposium 2017:**

***Criticism In Action***

Speech and action are part of one and the same complex psychological function, directed toward the solution of the problem at hand.

- Lev Vygotsky, *Mind in Society*, 1930

The [Critical Animals Creative Research Symposium](#) is an annual conference, part of [This is Not Art](#), one of Australia's leading contemporary and emerging arts festivals, celebrating emerging and experimental practices. The symposium brings together students, researchers, writers, artists, academics and thinkers who are critically engaged in creative and experimental art practices.

We are now calling for proposals from individuals and collaborators to participate in Critical Animals 2017. This year the festival program will take place in various venues over Newcastle, NSW from 28th September – 1st October 2017. Submit your proposal here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Sftl5KnlJyUoMN7I3>

## **Theme: Criticism In Action**

In our 13<sup>th</sup> year now, we like to think we know a little about our Critical Animals contributors and audiences. You're thinkers, dreamers, and change-makers, envisaging and strategizing to shape the world you want to be a part of. The whirlwind that 2017 has been so far has got us thinking about the ecology of criticism and how cultural criticism and practice can intersect to affect real world change. Think of the ways in which your work reflects your ideals and shapes your experiences – tell us about the micro-actions, transformational processes and communal joy that your practice brings to our world.

As always, our applications are open to anyone whose work experiments within the experience and interpretation of critical research. We aim to present an intellectually robust yet accessible program of audience-focused events - conversation is key. Critical Animals in particular endeavours to catalyse, strengthen, and explore the links between creative practice and theory. We have a flexible definition of research that encompasses creative, experimental, interrogative, discursive, and practice-led approaches.

## **Focus**

Critical Animals is about exploring curious and uncharted niches in contemporary art and critical thought - we are very open to various experimental and creative avenues. Unsure if your idea fits? Flick us an email at [criticalanimals@gmail.com](mailto:criticalanimals@gmail.com) - we'd love to hear from you.

As an objective, we are particularly interested in facilitating connections across disciplines and encourage collaborative approaches. In assessing your proposal we will consider how your work may form interesting connections with other applicants, artists and thinkers or even take on new forms. Want to present as a pair or a group? Go right ahead!

## **Format**

Experimental and non-traditional presentations are encouraged. We have previously held panel discussions, poetry readings, film screenings, interactive performances, dance jams, workshops of all creative persuasions, exhibitions, installations and music events. We will consider applications from all creative fields and are open to applications for full and/or curated events.

## Proposals

In your proposal please outline your practice, your project (if applicable) and the way in which you'd like to present it. Please clearly indicate the format of your work and any technical requirements it may have (eg. essential materials, equipment, display concerns etc.). We're also looking for artists who can be involved in cross festival events and panels with artists from the other TiNA programs.

**Word Limit: 500** Submit your proposal here: <https://goo.gl/forms/SftI5KnIjyUoMN7I3>

**Proposals due: Midnight, 31 March 2017**

### 1 - In your proposal please include:

- Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Website (if applicable)
- University or Affiliated Institution (if applicable)
- CV
- Short Bio (25 Words) – this will be published on our website
- A link to a bio picture for website and/or print publication (300dpi with credits where applicable). Please note that all images supplied may be used for both Critical Animals and TiNA publicity.
- A link to a picture relating to the event for website and/or print publication (no smaller than 2014px x 576px 300dpi with credits where applicable). Please note that all images supplied may be used for both Critical Animals and TiNA publicity.

### 2 - Have you applied to other This is Not Art Programs? If so, which?

- National Young Writers Festival
- Crack Theatre Festival

**3 - What if I want to be involved without presenting?** We are always looking for volunteers, installers, invigilators, and tech gurus. Contact us with your interests or areas of expertise and get involved! So join us for Critical Animals 2016 – Criticism In Action, where thinking creates real world intervention.

### Artist Fees

Critical Animals will provide an artist fee for the total of \$300 to all artists participating in the 2017 Symposium.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch via email:

[criticalanimals@gmail.com](mailto:criticalanimals@gmail.com)

We can't wait.

Julia, Justine & Nanda

Co-Directors Critical Animals 2017

[www.criticalanimals.com](http://www.criticalanimals.com)



**OCTAPOD**



Critical Animals is presented as part of This is Not Art.

This is Not Art is produced by Octapod. Critical Animals is held under the auspice of Octapod.

The Lock-Up is the program partner of Critical Animals. Critical Animals acknowledges the generous support of The Lock-Up, Newcastle, NSW through their Artist in Residence Program in the development of the Symposium.

Critical Animals is supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

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

The University of Newcastle is the program sponsor of Critical Animals.