



Centre for
Contemporary
Asian Art



Dr. Christian Thompson AO, House of Gold – Chapter 9, 2023

181–187 Hay Street
Haymarket
Warrane/Sydney
NSW 2000 Australia

Tues–Sun: 11am–5pm

Closed Mondays

 4a.com.au
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 [4a_au](https://www.instagram.com/4a_au)
 [4aplus](https://open.spotify.com/artist/4aplus)



4A's 2024 Program, heralded in by dragons, promises to be a year fuelled by transformative energy.

Throughout the year, we will spotlight contemporary celestial mythologies, post-90s subcultural makeovers, a First Nations examination of early Chinese migration, queer Muslim diasporic connections, and the collision of new worlds in art and technology, alongside Indofuturist perspectives on artificial intelligence.

At the heart of 4A's new vision is 4A LAB, our experimental incubator located next door to the gallery. This will be a space to spark innovations, ideas, and urgent conversations among a diverse mix of creative technologists and thinkers.

Augmenting 4A LAB is our accessible Web3 digital portal, 4A+, showcasing new cutting-edge commissions from artists across the Asia Pacific.

Join us IRL in our Haymarket gallery or dive into the thrills online via our multiple touchpoints.

We invite you to be part of this multidimensional journey, highlighting the future of contemporary Asian and Asian Australian arts and culture.

Thea-Mai Baumann
Artistic Director, CEO

FUNDERS



Australian Government
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy

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4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art acknowledges the Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and create. We recognise the enduring connections between First Nations people and the land, waters, culture and communities that have existed for over 60,000 years. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

10 FEBRUARY — 31 MARCH 2024



Ye Funa, *The Smart Gallery [杀马特发廊]*, 2021, Installation view, Exhibitionist, Smart Master, C5CNM, Beijing

LUNAR NEW YEAR

YE FUNA: TRANSFORM.ME 易装·癖

Artist

Ye Funa

Curator

Thea-Mai Baumann

📍 4A, 4A LAB, 4A+

📺 oyester

🔗 4aplus.com.au



Beijing-based artist Ye Funa presents their audience-participatory installation, *TRANSFORM.ME* [易装·癖], on the ground floor of 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. This transformative experience turns the gallery into a cyber grunge salon, paying homage to China's SMART (Sha-ma-te) subculture as it has evolved from rural provinces to the vibrant urban youth culture.

Blurring the lines between commercial display and art exhibition, *TRANSFORM.ME* [易装·癖] appropriates concepts of devices, display, reflection and image perfection. This dynamic space serves as a mirror for the rebirth and regeneration inherent in the online self-expression of populist street culture.

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SIDNEY MYER FUND

10 FEBRUARY — 31 MARCH 2024

LUNAR NEW YEAR

YEAR OF THE DRAGON 龙年

Artists

Shaun Daniel Allen (Shal)
Fan Dongwang
WeiZen Ho
Sin Wai Kin
Jacquie Meng
Thirteen Feet Tattoo Studio
Yang Yongliang

Curator

Con Gerakaris

📍 4A

📱 shalxvx
fandongwang
sinforvictory
jacquiemeng
thirteenfeettattoo
yangyongliang

YEAR OF THE DRAGON [龙年]

is a group exhibition visualising the bridge between the living and the heavenly through contemporised mythology and symbolism.

Those born under the fifth zodiac sign are said to be earthly connections to the celestial realm, the divine plane where dragons and gods reside.

The artists in *YEAR OF THE DRAGON* [龙年] present glimpses into a reality beyond our own, remaking traditional tales of benevolence and enlightenment through contemporary art practice.



Sin Wai Kin, *The One (still)*, 2021, single channel video. Courtesy the artist and Blindsight Gallery, Hong Kong

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SIDNEY MYER FUND

20 APRIL — 2 JUNE 2024



Dr Christian Thompson AO, *Double Happiness*, 2021

HOUSE OF GOLD

Artist

Dr Christian Thompson AO

Curators

Thea-Mai Baumann
Con Gerakaris

Commissioned by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Bidjara artist Dr Christian Thompson AO, creates a new body of work, continuing an exploration into his Southern Chinese heritage.

📍 4A

📱 [christianthompsonartist](https://christianthompsonartist.com)

Presenting significant works from his career alongside the new commission, Thompson refines the practice initiated in *New Gold Mountain* (2019).

As the invited ‘Thinker in Residence’ at 4A LAB, Thompson will work with the 4A team to commission writers and creatives, delving deeper into the theme of intersectional identities and releasing content in conjunction with the exhibition.

NUWORLD

Artists

aaajiao
Corin Iletto
INJURY x REAL PARENT
Henry Lai-Pyne
Lawrence Lek
Tung Monkey
Raqs Media Collective
Laurens Tan

Curators

Thea-Mai Baumann
Con Gerakaris

📍 4A, 4A LAB, 4A+

📱 aaajiao
corin.ileto
theinjury
realparent.co
eek_now
lawrencelek
tungcrazymonkey
raqsmediacollective
laurenstan88

🔗 4aplus.com.au



Taking full advantage of 4A's new metaverse platform 4A+, NUWORLD is a hybrid group exhibition exploring contemporary visual art within an ever-evolving spectrum of technology.

With works flowing between the physical gallery and digital exhibition space, this project consolidates and fully integrates 4A's vision for the future.

By dissolving the physical boundaries between the white cube (or black box) and immersive, programmable 3D spaces, 4A recontextualises emergent digital art in a project embracing the creative endlessness of NUWORLD.



Laurens Tan, *De Guo Qie Guo (Whatever: Blindly Following a Path)*, 2009, signed Edition of 8

25 AUGUST — 6 OCTOBER 2024



Elyas Alavi, from the ALAM series, 2023 (detail of work in progress)

ALAM عَالَم

Artist

Elyas Alavi

Curator

Vishal Kumaraswamy

📍 4A

📱 [elyasalavi](#)
[vishalkswamy_studio](#)

In collaboration with Arts House (Naarm/Melbourne), 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art is co-commissioning an immersive exhibition by Hazara artist, Elyas Alavi.

Alavi's *ALAM* عَالَم unfolds through a rich tapestry of symbols, phrases, poetry, faces, body language and community codes, serving as profound reflections on queer Muslim diasporic communities.

Each Alam resonates with references to significant events, highlighting historical and contemporary figures who bravely advocated for their sexual identity and those who tragically lost their lives due to their sexuality.

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**ARTS
HOUSE**



4A.I.: ELSEWHERE IN INDIA

Artists

Avinash Kumar
Sri Rama Murthy

Curator

Thea-Mai Baumann

📍 4A, 4A+

📌 elsewhereinindia

🔗 4aplus.com.au



4A.I.: Elsewhere in India is a hybrid digital-physical initiative seeking to redefine heritage and cultural objects held in public collections by placing them in a post-colonial Indofuturist virtual museum.

Avinash Kumar and Sri Rama Murthy of Elsewhere in India, will undertake a residency at 4A resulting in a newly commissioned digital artwork.

The project will culminate in an exhibition focused on sustainable museum practices. Ideas will be supported by a symposium highlighting artistic interventions with artificial intelligence by the Asian diaspora. This event will be synchronised with the Dreamy Place Festival in Brighton (UK).



Elsewhere in India, Bhavani Kumar, Avatars 2079, 2023, digital art



22 APRIL — 28 APRIL 2024



Subash Thebe Limbu, Ningwasum, 2021

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY

Artist

Subash Thebe Limbu

Project Lead

Thea-Mai Baumann

📍 4A, 4A LAB

📧 subash.thebe.limbu

Subash Thebe Limbu, a Yakthung (Limbu) artist from eastern Nepal, explores a diverse range of mediums including sound, film, music, performance, painting and podcast.

His creations draw inspiration from socio-political issues, resistance and science/speculative fiction, with recurring themes of migration, climate change and Adivasi Futurism.

This residency provides space and time for Limbu to test ideas for a new moving image work, setting the stage for the establishment of the 4A Films program stream.

**ARTS
HOUSE**



CITY OF MELBOURNE

CLUB 4A

Project Lead

Zev Tropp

📍 TBC

4A's flagship event series, CLUB 4A is inspired by the urge to leave the confines of the white cube and venture into the darkness of the club.

In 2024, CLUB 4A continues to expand on the musical and aesthetic concepts of exhibitions and projects at 4A and on 4A+.

The concept of CLUB 4A revolves around the exploration of creative expression speaking to the ideas of self and cultural identity, within nightlife and techno spaces.

4A will continue to present some of Australia's leading producers, DJs, performances and visual artists from the Asian diaspora.



SUCHI, CLUB 4A, Hermann's Bar, University of Sydney, 2023. Photo: Anna Hay



Lleah Amy Smith, Bonnie Cowan and Ankit Mishra in collaboration with Kandos Public School and Teacher, Rachelle Connellan, FUTURE SCHOOL (performance). Supported by Cementa Festival and Creative Australia, 2021. Photo: Alex Wisser

4A GENERATIONS

Project Lead

Lleah Amy Smith

📍 4A, 4A LAB

📺 fermentingknowledges

4A Generations is an artist-led, intergenerational program fostering connections between children, young people, elders and knowledge holders across Australia and Indonesia.

The initiative focuses on the theme of 'dis/organising', and uses the arts for enriched learning by spotlighting alternative methods of knowledge exchange, extending beyond traditional education systems.

4A LAB

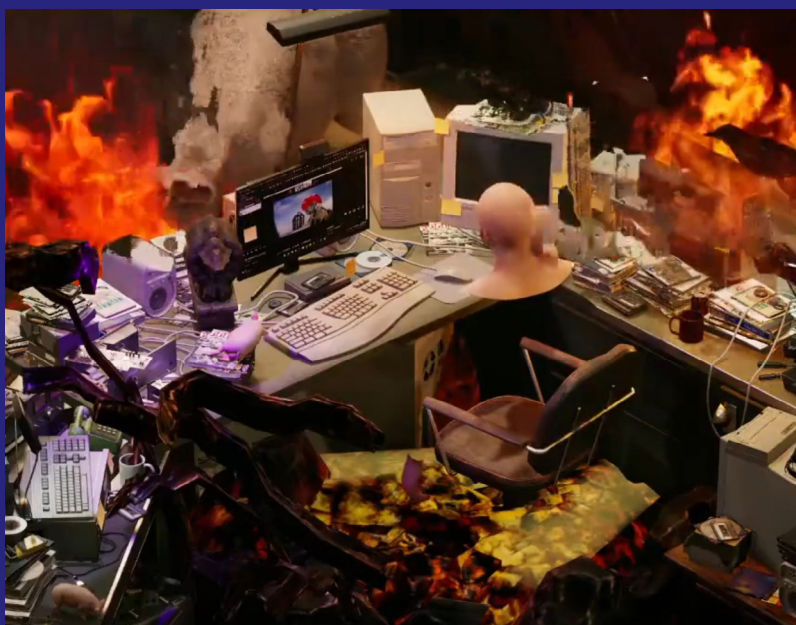
Artists
Creative technologists
Thinkers
Writers
Designers

4A LAB will evolve throughout the year as a lively hub merging art, technology and experimentation, to transform digital culture and fuel industry innovation.

As a hyper-curated space, 4A LAB will platform emerging artists, showcase independent media and highlight artist-made products.

The micro library, centered on Asia Pacific contemporary arts practice will offer a space to sit and enjoy the experience.

Coming alive with creative practitioners including artists, technologists and thinkers, 4A LAB promises to incubate new ideas and diverse art practices.



Collaborators Henry Lai-Pyne, Mat Spisbah and Liam Wolfe, (performance Emile Zile), commissioned by Arts House as part of BLEED Online Symposium, 2022



Tung Monkey, *Four Palaces*, 2021 (NFT), featured on 4A+, designer Melanie Huang, 2023

4A+

Developers and Designers

Melanie Huang
Daniel Reid

 [melaniehuang_d_l_r_d](https://www.instagram.com/melaniehuang_d_l_r_d)

 4aplus.com.au



Through digital commissions, virtual residencies, and the forward-thinking environment of 4A LAB, 4A+ plays a pivotal role in advancing the trajectory of contemporary art within the context of the Asian diaspora in the digital era.

Celebrating the realm of Web3 and providing a dedicated arena for artistic experimentation and innovation, 4A+ actively engages and connects artists and audiences globally.

4A+ fortifies 4A's mission of fostering a more inclusive, borderless and democratic art ecosystem.

EXHIBITIONS

TRANSFORM.ME 易装·癖

Artist: Ye Funa

Curator: Thea-Mai Baumann

Date: 10 February – 31 March

YEAR OF THE DRAGON 龙年

Artists: Shaun Daniel Allen (Shal), Fan Dongwang, WeiZen Ho, Sin Wai Kin, Jacquie Meng, Thirteen Feet Tattoo Studio and Yang Yongliang

Curator: Con Gerakaris

Date: 10 February – 31 March

HOUSE OF GOLD

Artist: Dr Christian Thompson AO

Curators: Thea-Mai Baumann and Con Gerakaris

Date: 20 April – 2 June

NUW^{ORLD}S

Artists: aaajiao, Corin Iletto, INJURY x REAL PARENT, Henry Lai-Pyne, Lawrence Lek, Tùng Monkey, Raqs Media Collective, Laurens Tan

Curators: Thea-Mai Baumann and Con Gerakaris

Date: 22 June – 4 August

ALAM عِلْم

Artist: Elyas Alavi

Curator: Vishal Kumaraswamy

Date: 25 August – 6 October

4A.I.: ELSEWHERE IN INDIA

Artists: Avinash Kumar and Sri Rama Murthy

Curator: Thea-Mai Baumann

Date: 26 October – 15 December

PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY

Artists: Subash Thebe Limbu

Lead: Thea-Mai Baumann

Dates: 22–28 April 2024

CLUB 4A

Lead: Zev Tropp

Dates: Mid 2024

4A GENERATIONS

Lead: Lleah Amy Smith

Date: Throughout 2024

4A LAB

Date: Throughout 2024

4A+

4aplus.com.au

Date: Throughout 2024

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Follow us for updates on
4A's late-night programming!

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