

4A's 2015 Beijing Studio Program artists announced: Robert McDougall and Angela Tiatia



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Angela Tiatia, *Hibiscus Rosa Sinesis* (still), 2010, single-channel digital video, 1:30 mins. Courtesy the Artist and Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne.

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art is pleased to announce the two selected Australian artists for its 2015 Beijing Studio Program.

Robert McDougall (VIC) and **Angela Tiatia** (NSW) have been selected to embark on a month-long residency at the studios of renowned Chinese-Australian artist Shen Shaomin.

The Beijing Studio Program, assisted by major supporter Vicki Olsson, is now in its fourth year of operation. It provides early career Australian artists with a valuable opportunity to research new projects in rich cultural surroundings, build professional networks and observe the changes taking place in one of the most important cities in Asia.

Robert McDougall and Angela Tiatia were selected by a committee comprising **Sue Acret**, 4A Board Member and Co-Founder, ArtAsia Advisory; **Gary Carsley**, artist and UNSWAAD lecturer, and **Maurice O'Riordan**, Director of the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin. Artists McDougall and Tiatia were selected based on the strength of their applications, the potential benefits for their practices and capacity to extend their own cross-cultural networks.

Sue Acret said of Robert McDougall:

"Robert's thoughtful sound, video and installation works reflect an ongoing engagement with Asia. His focus has seen him undertake research, exhibitions and residencies in countries that include India,

Vietnam, East Malaysia (Borneo) and Tblisi (Georgia). The 4A Beijing Studio Program will allow him to continue this exploration of Asian practices and traditions, while also drawing on his own Australian cultural experience and framework to produce work that is informed by both environments.”

Maurice O’Riordan said of Angela Tiatia:

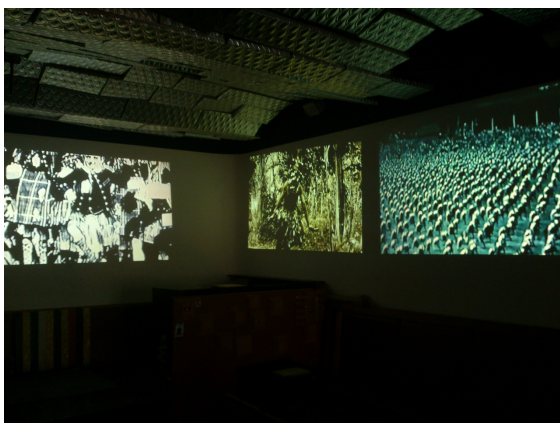
“Angela’s proposal was succinct and her work (performance/video/installation) shares a similar succinctness and clarity of intent. Although she is emerging in the sense of being in the first 5 years of her practice, her international experience and exposure has prepared her for a studio program such as this. This Program will allow Angela to develop a professional relationship with 4A and as such, consider her practice within the context of contemporary Asian art.”

4A’s Beijing Studio Program will give these young artists a fantastic opportunity to place their practices within a much broader international art context in a city such as Beijing.

Toby Chapman, 4A Assistant Curator and Beijing Studio Program coordinator said,

“We were thrilled by the number and high standard of applications in 2015. The committee expressed the great challenge in selecting only two participants for this program. I believe that both Angela and Robert will benefit greatly from this cultural and professional experience and I look forward to seeing the results of their time in Beijing and the potential of future mentoring.”

McDougall and Tiatia will travel to China in September 2015.



Left: Robert McDougall, *Hotel Windsor Study #2* (Triptych), 2013, HD video installation, sound, dimensions variable, 9:50 mins. Courtesy the artist. **Right:** Angela Tiatia, *Walking the Wall* (still) 2014, single-channel digital video, 13:05 mins. Courtesy the Artist and Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne.

The artists are available for interview and photo opportunities.

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ABOUT 4A'S BEIJING STUDIO PROGRAM

4A's Beijing Studio Program is a unique initiative that sees two early career Australian artists embark on a month-long residency in September 2015 at the studios of renowned Chinese Australian artist, Shen Shaomin. The program provides a valuable opportunity for artists to research new projects in rich cultural surroundings, build professional networks and observe the changes taking place in one of the most important cities in the Asian region. On return to Australia artists will be invited to present their experiences in a public forum and make a proposal for an exhibition at 4A. If successful they will be mentored by 4A in the development of an exhibition in 2016. This is the fourth consecutive year that the program has been running. The program provides airfares, accommodation, daily meals, the cost of travel/medical insurance and a small stipend. 4A also provides an ongoing professional mentorship, cross-cultural exchange and access to 4A's networks in China.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Angela Tiatia is a filmmaker, curator, and visual artist, exhibiting since 2010 after completing a Visual arts degree at Auckland University of Technology. Tiatia has lived in New Zealand, Australia and Samoa and has exhibited nationally and internationally. Tiatia's art practice explores the shift in identity encountered by the Pacific Diaspora. Her work explores global contemporary cultures, drawing attention to their relationship to the construction of Pacific cultural and sexual identity, the commodification of the body and place, representation, gender politics and neo-colonialism. Tiatia featured in the 2015 *Video Platform* at Art Stage Singapore, and is an invited artist in the *Eighth Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT 8)*, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane in November 2015. Tiatia is represented by Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne.

Robert McDougall is an artist working across sound and installation. He has studied a range of compositional modes in electro-acoustic music, video and installation art. Robert is interested in the durational and reductionist temporal aesthetics of early minimalism and various folk traditions, attention to surface and textural detail, numinous spaces and the sublime. Previous exhibitions include *Sixty-Five Abstracts 2015*, NIICE Public Education, Otar Karalashvili, *Tbilisi Art Books*, Kiev, Ukraine (2015); *Tanpura Study*, Pepperhouse Residency Exhibition, Pepperhouse Studios, Kochi, India (2014); *John Cage 101: Past, Present, Future Conference*, UPSI, Tanjong Malim, Malaysia (2013); and *TarraWarra Biennial 2012: Sonic Spheres*, TarraWarra Museum of Art (2012).

ABOUT 4A

From early beginnings as an independent space on Sussex St incorporated in 1996 to its present location on Hay St in Sydney's Chinatown, 4A has come a long way to being recognised as one of Australia's foremost contemporary art organisations. 4A is committed to creating opportunities for artists, developing platforms to exhibit and encouraging critical discussion along the way. 4A is known both within Australia and internationally as an authority on the contemporary art from the Asia Pacific Region.

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