

ANNUAL

REPORT

ALL

REPORT

20

23



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Acknowledgement

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.



SNAPSHOT OF 2023

07

EXHIBITIONS
ONSITE: 06
OFFSITE: 01

38

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
ONSITE: 30
OFFSITE: 08

CREATIVES
ENGAGED

NATIONAL: 111
INTERNATIONAL: 14

125

DIASPORIC
COMMUNITIES
REPRESENTED

30

108

ARTWORKS
PRESENTED
NEW WORKS: 27
EXISTING WORKS: 81

204K

TOTAL
VISITATION

DIGITAL REACH

INSTAGRAM REACH:

73K

VISITS: 19.5K FOLLOWERS: 11K IMPRESSIONS: 140K

FACEBOOK REACH:

63.8K

FOLLOWERS: 9.4K INTERACTIONS: 1.3K

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



2023 was a year of renewal for 4A. Coming out of COVID, in 2022 4A had reopened a revamped gallery at its Haymarket site to the public after significant repairs to the building by the City of Sydney; by the beginning of 2023, over \$500,000 was invested in new floors, and in repaired and upgraded bathrooms, adding an accessible bathroom.

At the same time, the staff leadership team was renewed: in early 2023 Thea-Mai Baumann became 4A's Artistic Director/Chief Executive Officer, and later in the year Grey Yeoh relocated from Singapore to become our Finance and Operations Manager.

4A wishes to express its gratitude to its Government funding partners – Creative Australia, Create NSW, and the City of Sydney.

With their ongoing support, 4A was able to program diverse works that platformed the next wave of Asian and Asian-Australian artists. In 2023, we reached over 200,000 visitations and represented over 30 diasporic communities – a truly impressive achievement.

We would also like to convey heartfelt thanks to the Office of Responsible Gambling - Liquor & Gaming NSW and Create NSW's Creative Capital grant program for supporting the beautiful renovations at our historic Corporation Building in Haymarket.

We are always looking to expand 4A's impact, and thus we are delighted that we have secured an additional ground-floor space in our building from

the City of Sydney. This is now dedicated to 4A LAB, which will evolve into an experimental space to support emerging artists, new ideas and artistic innovations.

4A is especially fortunate to be a recipient of a generous grant from the Sidney Myer Fund. This support is helping to incubate the next generation of Asian and Asian-Australian talent, and it will fuel 4A's digital transformation projects over the years to come.

Finally, thank you once again to the excellent 4A team, to the Board, and, as always, to 4A's generous patrons and supporters.

Julie Ewington
Chair

4A STAFF MEMBERS



Thea-Mai Baumann
Artistic Director and CEO



Grey Yeoh
Finance and Operations Manager



Debbie Abraham
Management and Operations Consultant



Dilpreet Kaur Taggar
Communications and Engagement Manager



Con Gerakaris
Curatorial Program Manager



Zev Tropp
Public Programs Producer



Saira Krishan
Operations Coordinator



Reina Takeuchi
Curatorial Program Producer



Faye Chen
Marketing Coordinator



Connor Xia
Gallery Assistant



Yuna Lee
Gallery Assistant



Nolan Ho Wung Murphy
Gallery Assistant



Celine Cheung
Gallery Assistant



Bhanuraj Kashyap
Gallery Assistant



Sineenart Meena
Gallery Assistant

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/ CEO'S MESSAGE

2023 was a big year for 4A. I came on board as the eighth Artistic Director of this 27-year-old legacy organisation and during a period that saw some of our largest-scale exhibitions and biggest public programs to date.

We platformed over 125 artists, creatives and speakers of the Asian diaspora in Australia. We also partnered with key institutions to realise successful CLUB 4A editions, acquired space for 4A LAB, and renovated our gallery to be fully accessible.

Looking beyond Australia, we hosted New York-based artist and filmmaker Winnie Cheung as the Digital Diasporas resident for 2023. We also invited New York-based designer and the author of *Cyberfeminism Index*, Mindy Seu, for an exclusive panel talk at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) with cyberfeminist pioneers from the 1990s collective, VNS Matrix, including V Barratt,

Josephine Starrs, and Dr Francesca da Rimini.

Our thematic exploration of identity unfolded through technology, interviews, textiles and history. Artists like Rel Pham and Evi O headlined the Lunar New Year program with a tram wrap that garnered over 190,000 views, while Dorcas Tang and Louise Zhang presented their first institutional solo exhibitions, both focused on desire and faith.

The year also marked the reopening of 4A's second level to the public, featuring Zhang's *No dust left in the lilies*, exploring the shifting identity of Chinese Christianity. A *Soft Touch*, curated by Sophia Cai, challenged negative connotations and showcased works embodying empowerment and resistance.

Nathan Beard's solo exhibition, *A Puzzlement*, deconstructed 'Thainess' in collaboration with Thai artist Sun Phittaya Phaefuang.

Our partnership project, *Bush Diwan* at Bunjil Place (Narre Warren), continued for the second year, highlighting migration stories and Sikh history.

The year concluded with *The Womanifesto Way: Sydney Gathers*, exploring the collective ethos of 'Womanifesto' with eight female artists.

Digital engagement soared through video and audio content with 4A Talks, paving the way for expanded initiatives in 2024 such as 4A+ and 4A LAB.

It's been wonderful to continue the work of 4A, and push beyond stereotypes and binaries of what it means to be Asian artists in Australia.

Stay tuned – we have more to do.

Thea-Mai Baumann
Artistic Director and CEO

4A's STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

01

ARTISTIC PROGRAM

4A commits to fostering excellence and innovation in contemporary culture through the research, commissioning, presentation and documentation of Asian and Asian-Australian contemporary art.

03

PROFESSIONAL AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

4A commits to fostering pathways and international links that enable artists, curators, writers and arts professionals to advance Asian cultural literacy and develop regional industry networks.

ADVOCACY AND EXPERTISE

4A commits to working collaboratively with external organisations to identify new opportunities for presenting and discussing contemporary Asian and Asian-Australian art.

02

COMMUNITY

4A commits to being an inclusive, experimental and cross-cultural organisation and venue where diverse audiences are supported to engage with contemporary art and culture.

04

EXHIBITIONS & PROGRAMS



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Rel Pham: Cache

4A celebrated Lunar New Year 2023 with Rel Pham unveiling the all-seeing eye behind our mundane rituals of logging on and scrolling feeds with his video and installation work, *Cache*. Corrupting the architecture, sacred sculptures and idols of Cao Dai temples with high-end computer parts, Pham created a parallel universe of online worship and brought social media and internet usage to light in everyday life.

Rel Pham: *Cache* was supported by The City of Sydney's Lunar New Year 2023, Festivals and Events Sponsorship Grant Program.

Artists: Rel Pham
Curator: Con Gerakaris
Venue: 4A
Exhibition dates: 14 January–12 February 2023
Visitation: 468
Artworks exhibited: 01
Commissioned by 4A: 01

Rel Pham: *Cache* (installation view), 2023; photo: Anna Hay



Evi O: A Pair of Marbled Cone Snails Races to Chinatown for The Special Braised Eggplant

Continuing with our Lunar New Year celebrations, Evi O's colourful abstractions of our natural and urban environment transformed Sydney's light rail into moving artworks.

A Pair of Marbled Cone Snails Races to Chinatown for The Special Braised Eggplant celebrates Australia's unique biodiversity and pays homage to one of Chinatown's most iconic meals with Evi O drawing inspiration from her *Holiday* series and making this public artwork her largest-scale work to date.

A Pair of Marbled Cone Snails Races to Chinatown for The Special Braised Eggplant was supported by The City of Sydney's Precinct Activation Grant Program.

Artist: Evi O
Venue: 4A and as a Transport NSW Light Rail carriage wrap
Curator: Con Gerakaris
Exhibition dates: 20 January–30 March 2023
Visitation: 191,015
Artworks exhibited: 01
Commissioned by 4A: 01



Evi O: *A Pair of Marbled Cone Snails Races to Chinatown for The Special Braised Eggplant*, 2023; photo: Andrew Grune



Rel Pham at Rel Pham: Cache, 2023; photo: Con Gerakaris

Rel Pham: Cache

Panel Talk:

Artist Rel Pham and 4A Curatorial Program Manager Con Gerakaris discussed the artist's creative process, focusing on the transition from digital work to installation-based practice. The conversation explored the integration of online and offline worlds, reflecting on experiences growing up with the internet, data phishing and the lasting effects of *The Matrix*. Rel prompted consideration of the fast-paced nature of life and the unwitting sharing of private information.

When: Sunday, 15 June 2023
Where: 4A

Evi O: A Pair of Marbled Cone Snails Races to Chinatown for The Special Braised Eggplant

Artist Talk:

Artist and designer Evi O and 4A Curatorial Program Manager Con Gerakaris engaged in a conversation exploring public art and the Chinatown precinct. They discussed food tourism and Evi's inspirations for her paintings, focusing on how she transforms them into public artwork.

The conversation delved into Evi's stylised depictions of Australian fauna and the natural environment, emphasizing her vision for enlivening Sydney's inner cityscape through a light rail wrap design within the Chinatown precinct. Evi encouraged reflection on Australia's unique biodiversity and celebrated one of Chinatown's most iconic meals through her work and floor talk.

When: Saturday, 4 February 2023
Where: 4A



Evi O: Artist and Curator in conversation, 2023; photo: Anna Hay



Dorcas Tang 邓佳颖: Love Me Long Time

Exploring conversations about joy and pleasure while reflecting on the ongoing legacies of gendered, anti-Asian violence in a white supremacist society, 4A exhibited Dorcas Tang's multi-visual project, *Love Me Long Time*.

As the artist's first solo exhibition, the project examined overlapping themes of desire, intimacy and Asian identity through portraits of, and oral interviews with, Asian diasporic and Asian Australian women and non-binary people and offered an impermanent archive in which Asian women and non-binary people are free to hold their own ambiguous truths.

Dorcas Tang 邓佳颖: *Love Me Long Time* was supported by Create NSW Small Project Grants (Quick Response) and the Pride Foundation's Small Grants Program.

Artist: Dorcas Tang

Venue: 4A

Curator: Reina Takeuchi

Exhibition dates: 25 February–09 April 2023

Visitation: 707

Artworks exhibited: 19

Commissioned by 4A: 5

Seen In:

[Art Review](#)

[Art Review Asia](#)

[Artist Profile](#)



Dorcas Tang: *Love Me Long Time*, opening day, 2023; photo: Anna Hay
Dorcas Tang: *Love Me Long Time* (installation view), 2023; photo: Anna Hay

Reading Group: Love Me Long Time

A reading group series, part of Dorcas Tang's exhibition *Love Me Long Time* at 4A, focused on works by Asian/Asian Australian authors. The inclusive Wednesday night sessions, supporting People of Colour, encouraged exploration into excerpts from various texts, fostering intimate and lively discussions. The aim was to exchange gifts of knowledge, experience and food, creating a nourishing environment. The series was co-facilitated by exhibiting artist Dorcas Tang along with Tian Zhang.

When: Wednesday, 8 March
Wednesday, 15 March
Wednesday, 22 March 2023
Where: 4A

Love Me Long Time Publication:

4A celebrated the launch of Dorcas Tang's *Love Me Long Time*, the publication with a community gathering, karaoke and a special reading by Lucia Tường Vy Nguyễn.

Designed by Huy Nguyen, *Love Me Long Time* encapsulates Tang's audiovisual project examining overlapping themes of desire, intimacy, and Asian identity in a zine.

When: Sunday, 9 April 2023
Where: 4A

Panel Talk: *Asian diaspora and intimacy: Where is my future? I desire to be seen*

A panel session featuring Dorcas Tang, Yvonne Low, Chrystal Rebello, Shawna Tang, and Bhenji Ra explored art making, identity, representation, and gender, through concepts related to Asian identity, intimacy, and desire. The panel delved into building better futures and relationships, reflecting on the collective past to understand visibility, community, and sustainability within the diaspora.

When: Saturday, 25 March 2023
Where: Brand X, 119 Bathurst
Street, Sydney NSW 2000



Louise Zhang: No dust left in the lilies

Against the backdrop of increased religious oppression, *Louise Zhang: No dust left in the lilies* examined the changing identity of the Chinese Christian diaspora. Using the ubiquitous red cross of Chinese Christianity as a symbolic nexus, Zhang's politically charged work – also her first institutional solo exhibition – told an ongoing story of the suppression of religion, the gentrification of Wenzhou, alongside anti-Western sentiment of the current Chinese government.

Artist: Louise Zhang

Venue: 4A

Curator: Con Gerakaris

Exhibition dates:

29 April–11 June 2023

Visitation: 1024

Artworks exhibited: 07

Commissioned by 4A: 07

Seen In:

[N.Smith Gallery Digital](#)

[Art Guide Australia](#)

[MutualArt](#)

[Art Collector](#)

[WHYNOT](#)



Louise Zhang: No dust left in the lilies, opening day, 2023; photo: Anna Hay

Louise Zhang: No dust left in the lilies (installation view), 2023; photo: Jessica Maurer

Panel Talk:

'Hybrid Cultures: Mimicry, Migration and the Third Space'

In conjunction with Louise Zhang's solo exhibition *No dust left in the lilies*, 4A hosted a panel discussion focussing on themes of hybrid cultures, mimicry, migration, and the third space. The panellists, including Louise Zhang, Kirtika Kain and Jem Siow, explored the experiences of diaspora and children of immigrants in navigating complex issues of personal and socio-cultural significance in Australia. They examined how individual experiences and actions could impact cultural, familial and local senses of place, addressing themes of ingrained racial, religious and caste segregation across Asia and Australia.

When: Saturday, 13 May 2023

Where: 4A

Hybrid Cultures: Mimicry, Migration and the Third Space, 2023; photo: Nolan Murphy



Meet Me At 4A: From Everywhere and Nowhere, 2023; photo: Anna Hay

Meet Me At 4A: From Everywhere and Nowhere

From Everywhere and Nowhere offered a dynamic experience with power-packed live performances examining the interactions between cultures, histories, and power structures. The event unfolded within Louise Zhang's exhibition providing a space within which to stage a drum performance by Rama Parawat, Butch Schwarzkopt's provoking poetry piece and a set of electronic pop by AnSo – all exploring the power of breaking boundaries through rhythm, poetry, movement, and music.

When: Thursday, 25 May 2023

Where: 4A

Artist Talk:

Louise Zhang and curator Con Gerakaris guided attendees through an in-depth discussion of each artwork, providing valuable insights into conceptual frameworks, artistic techniques and underlying themes. The relaxed setting fostered a meaningful exchange of ideas and allowed for a deeper appreciation of Louise Zhang's artistic process.

When: Saturday, 3 June 2023

Where: 4A



A Soft Touch (installation view), 2023; photo: Rohan Venn

A Soft Touch

4A headed into July with a group show, *A Soft Touch*, that brought together ten contemporary artists whose practices engage visually and conceptually with the material 'softness' of textiles, but whose works clearly embody values of empowerment and resistance.

Speaking from a range of feminist, queer, migrant and decolonial positionalities, the artists of *A Soft Touch* invited audiences to recognise the importance of living in the world with softness at heart, while considering the possibilities granted by these expressions.

Artists: Soraya Abidin, Anney Bounpraseuth, Andrew Chan, Paula do Prado, Mehwish Iqbal, Kait James, Yasbelle Kerkow, Haneen Mahmood Martin, Ema Shin, Siying Zhou

Venue: 4A

Curator: Sophia Cai

Exhibition dates: 1 July – 13 August 2023

Visitation: 1063

Artworks exhibited: 16

Commissioned by 4A: 02

Seen In:

Honi Soit Digital

Artshub

MutualArt

Unforbidden Fruit: Platter painting with Anney Bounpraseuth

In a workshop inspired by Anney Bounpraseuth's art in *A Soft Touch*, participants painted ceramic fruit platters inspired by 'exotic' Asian fruits. The session explored the symbolism of the forbidden fruit, celebrating diversity and freedom of choice. Attendees savoured Asian fruits, learning names in English and Lao. The activity paid homage to sharing fruit as a gesture of community, transcending cultural boundaries.

When: Saturday, 8 July 2023
Where: 4A

4A Kids: Painting with Anney

Children aged 7–12 years participated in a workshop with artist Anney Bounpraseuth, creating personalised tote bags using fabric pens and upcycled printed fabrics. Drawing inspiration from Anney's unique style, the workshop also incorporated an educational component, introducing kids to unusual tropical fruits. Anney guided them in integrating these fruits into their tote bag designs, making the experience both enriching and enjoyable.

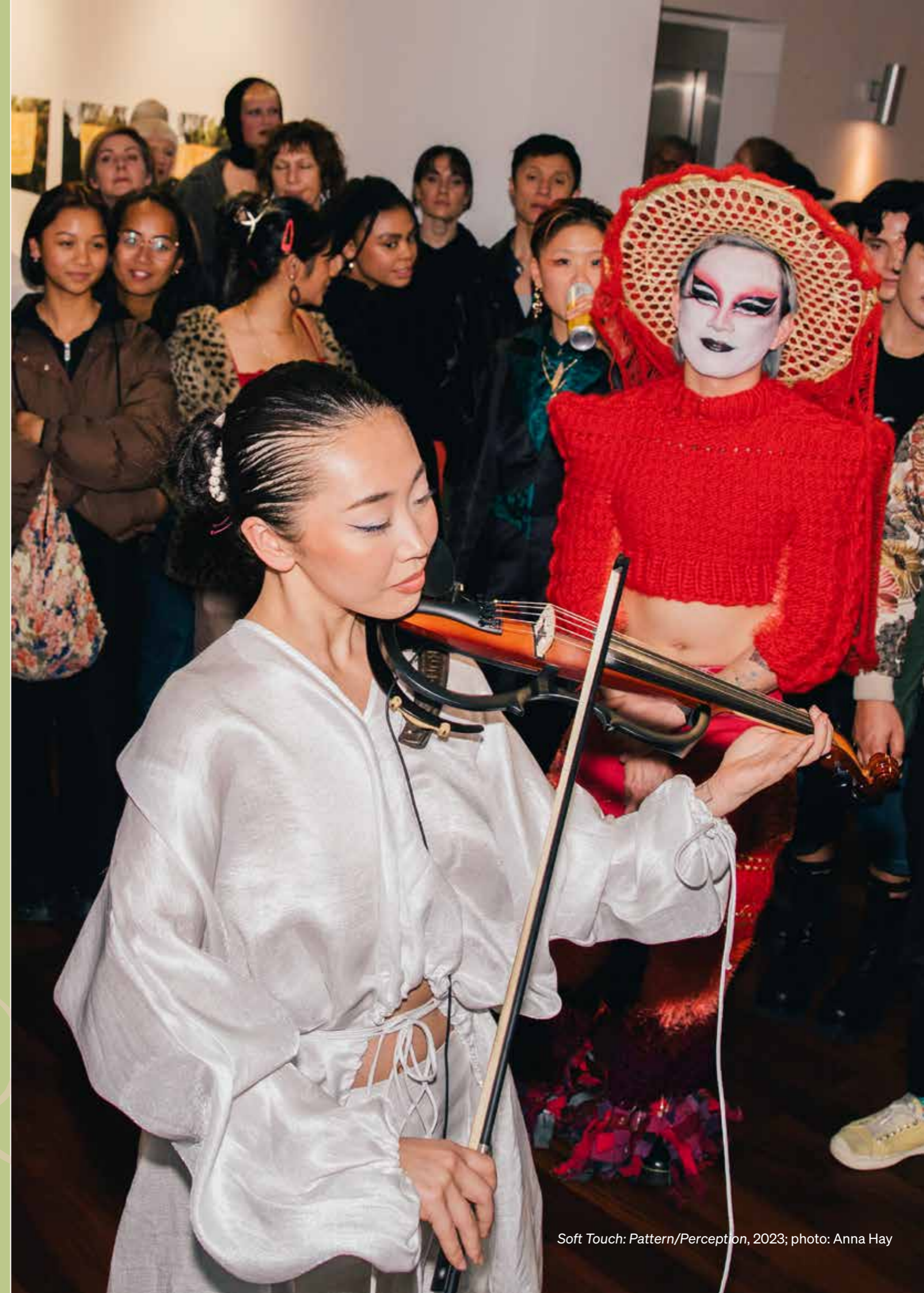
When: Saturday, 8 July 2023
Where: 4A

Pattern / Perception:

In the closing weekend celebration of *A Soft Touch*, 4A hosted *Soft Touch: Pattern / Perception* – an exploration of visual and movement culture. The event featured an innovative collaboration between slow fashion and performance art, showcasing Sook Studio & Davina, Felynn & Loc Nguyen, and Andrew Chan & Dyan Tai. The vogue and ballroom showcase by House of Iman paid homage to the queer and migrant dance community in Australia. The ambience was heightened by DJ Fried Pork Chop's eclectic soundscape and a live performance by Elle Shimada, offering a journey through diverse musical genres.

Pattern / Perception attracted an huge audience and encouraged the celebration of the transformative power of fashion and the beauty of individual expression.

When: Friday, 11 August 2023
Where: 4A



Nathan Beard: A Puzzlement

Nathan Beard's *A Puzzlement* presented an ambitious new body of work. Including sculpture, video, and prints the works were influenced by the artist's research into Thai artefacts, imagery and orchids from The British Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum, British Film Institute and Kew Gardens archives. Drawing on his Australian-Thai heritage, Beard deconstructed characterisations of 'Thainess' to consider the complex influences of culture,

memory and biography on the shaping and structuring of diasporic identity.

Nathan Beard: A Puzzlement and associated artist residency, were supported by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and Create NSW Arts & Cultural Funding Program and was presented in partnership with Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts through the Western Australian Government through

the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and PICA as Art Commissioners.

Seen In:
Memo Review
MutualArt

Artist: Nathan Beard
Venue: 4A
Curator: Sarah Wall
Exhibition Producer: Con Gerakaris
Exhibition dates: 02 September–15 October 2023
Visitation: 621
Artworks exhibited: 11
Commissioned by 4A: 01



Nathan Beard at *Nathan Beard: A Puzzlement*, 2023; photo: Kai Wasikowski

Event: Full Moon Party

The *Full Moon Party*, was inspired by Western hedonistic clichés and coincided with Nathan Beard's exhibition, *A Puzzlement*. It was a bold exploration of the Southeast Asian diaspora, featuring queer performance artists who challenge norms. The line-up included curated Thai music, a lively DJ performance by Maggie Tra, and a raunchy take on identity culture by resident artist Sun Phitthaya Phaefuang (Aurora Sun Labeija). Beau Lai added to the energy with karaoke performance art, adding to a thought-provoking and entertaining night. A fusion of art, culture, and pure fun.

When: Friday, 29 September 2023

Where: 4A

Workshop:

Making Space, Making History

In a closed workshop facilitated by *A Puzzlement* artist Nathan Beard, influential representatives from Sydney collecting institutions came together with Thai community members. The aim was to foster meaningful engagement between the community and the institutions about the preservation of Thai cultural objects, together with discussing a visionary outlook for Thai Town. The conversation also revolved around preserving culturally-significant objects related to Thai migration and civic pride in Sydney.

When: Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Where: 4A

Panel Talk:

What's next? Squirming Under the Crosshairs of Identity Politics

4A hosted a panel discussion on on identity, inclusion and intersectionality, aligning with Nathan Beard's *A Puzzlement*. Examining the role of identity politics in contemporary arts, the discussion questioned whether art could transcend the confines of categorisation. Moderated by Talia Smith, the panel, including Nathan Beard, Phitthaya Phaefuang (Aurora Sun Labeija), and Audrey Newton, talked about redefining artists' practices through inter-sectional relationships, while exploring the boundaries of artistic expression as a political act embedded in identity.

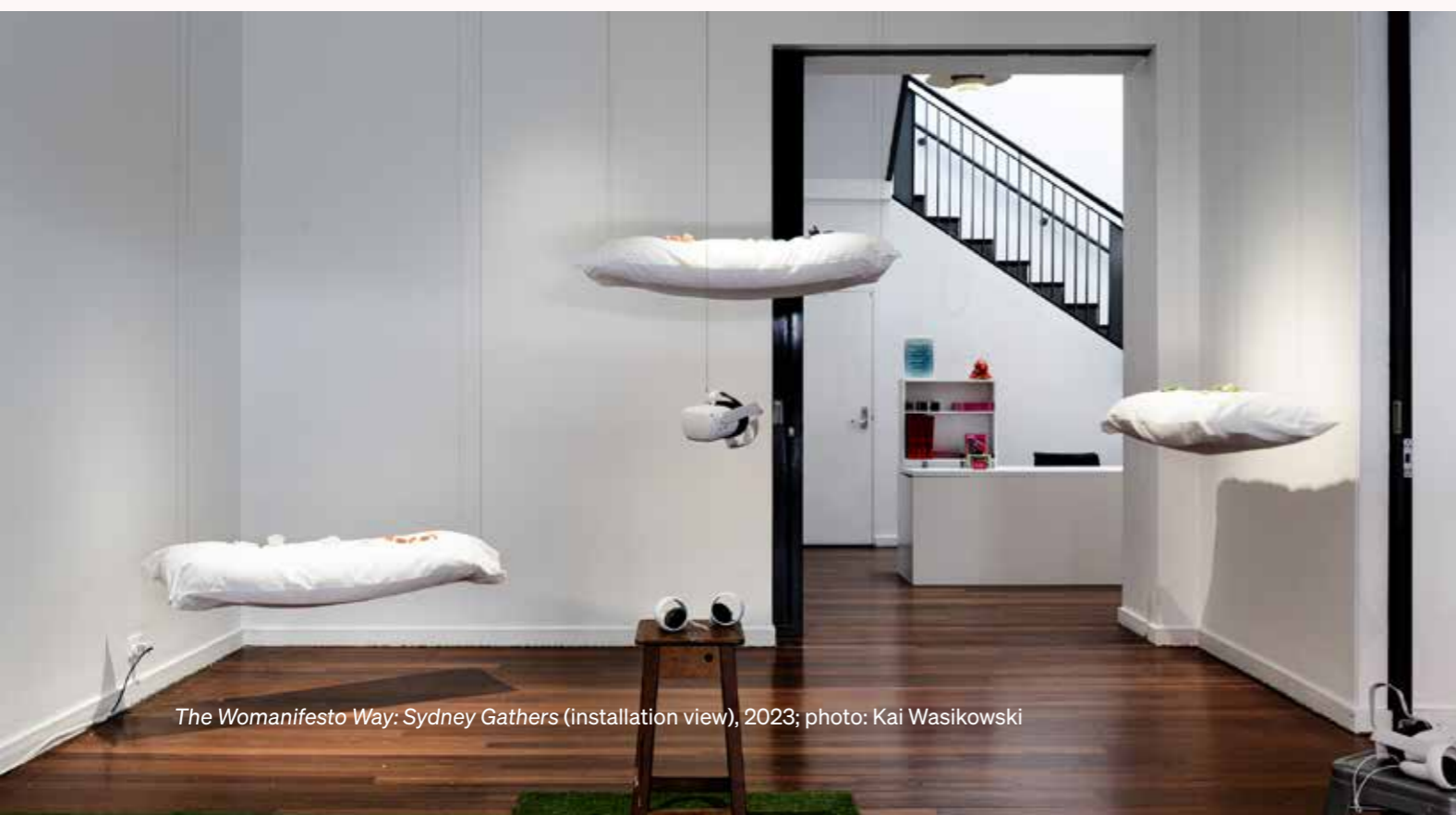
When: Sunday, 1 October 2023

Where: 4A





The Womanifesto Way: Sydney Gathers (installation view), 2023; photo: Kai Wasikowski



The Womanifesto Way: Sydney Gathers (installation view), 2023; photo: Kai Wasikowski

The Womanifesto Way: Sydney Gathers

Presented in partnership with Power Institute, *The Womanifesto Way: Sydney Gathers* examined the 'Womanifesto Way' and its importance for often-overlooked women artists. The project places a multi-vocal form of art-history making, alongside in-person and digital presentations of collaborative art practices.

Womanifesto began in 1995 as the first feminist Southeast Asia-based international biennial, and it has since brought together more than 150 contemporary women artists across 45 countries. A uniquely collective approach facilitated by its three founders, Varsha Nair, Phaptawan Sawwunukudt and Nitaya Tuk, has guided every Womanifesto initiative across three decades, informing its shifts between biennial exhibitions and community-based workshops, through to artist-led publications and online collaborative art projects.

The Womanifesto Way: Sydney Gathers was commissioned by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art with support from the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory

body; the NSW Government through Create NSW; the City of Sydney; and The Power Institute, University of Sydney.

Artists:

Phaptawan Suwannakudt
Sue Pedley
Kyati Suharto
Charlotte Mungomery
Virginia Hilyard
Shirley Hilyard
Helen Grace
Shuxia Chen
Toby Huynh

Venue: 4A

Organisers:

Phaptawan Suwannakudt
Dr Yvonne Low
Marni Williams
Con Gerakaris

Exhibition dates: 03 November–17 December 2023

Visitation: 621

Artworks exhibited: 07

Commissioned by 4A: 06

Seen In:

[Art Guide](#)
[MutualArt](#)
[Arts Friday](#)

The Womanifesto Way: Artist Talks

Originating in 1997, Womanifesto evolved into a women-centred arts collective bringing together over 150 contemporary artists across 45 countries. The exhibition at 4A showcased collaborative exchanges between Sydney-based Womanifesto artists, revealing nearly three decades of reinvention through initiatives like biennial exhibitions, community-based workshops, artist-led publications, and a digital art history project. The event provided insights into women- and artist-led approaches to intergenerational and cross-cultural exchange, featuring diverse projects from one-on-one conversations to multilingual children's book initiatives. Organisers and artists shared their art and projects, reflecting on their connections with Womanifesto.

When: Saturday, 18 November
Where: 4A

4A Generations: Three Lady Ducks Workshop

Art historian Shuxia Chen, hosted a family workshop as part of *The Womanifesto Way: Sydney Gathers* programming. Families explored the exhibition, learned about the camel library project, and heard the *Three Lady Ducks* story by artist Phaptawan Suwannakudt. In the 4A LAB, guided by Chen, families crafted their collaborative version of the story using templates. The artistic results could be displayed in the 4A LAB or taken home as mementos of the creative experience.

When: Sunday, 10 December 2023
Where: 4A LAB



Bush Diwan [Offsite]

The stories of migration and community formation are laden with struggles and triumphs. What do we bring with us, and what do we leave behind? In *Bush Diwan*, artists responded to a pivotal moment in Sikh history in Australia by exploring the reclamation of identity – forming, gathering and laying the foundations of community.

Illuminating two significant, yet little known moments in Australian history, this project centres on the story of Siva Singh, an early 20th-century Benalla resident, Sikh community leader and civil rights campaigner.

Artists: Anindita Banerjee, Amardeep Shergill, Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa, Perun Bonser, Monisha Chippada, Manisha Anjali

Partner venue: Bunjil Place, VIC

Curators: Amrit Gill and Reina Takeuchi

Exhibition dates: 16 September–12 November 2023

Visitation: 2453

Artworks exhibited: 17



Bush Diwan (installation view), 2023, Bunjil Place; photo: Christian Capurro



Bush Diwan (installation view), 2023, Bunjil Place; photo: Christian Capurro

Drop-in Workshop: Phulkari Inspired Cards

Children 6–12 and their families were invited to a drop-in workshop at Bunjil Place, inspired by the materials and techniques from the exhibition *Bush Diwan*. Conducted by artist Amardeep Shergill, the workshop focused on Punjabi textile Phulkari, meaning ‘flower-work.’ Using needle and thread, participants created unique designs on perforated greeting cards, drawing inspiration from traditional phulkari shawls, and incorporating flowers, geometric shapes, or personal symbols.

When: Tuesday, 19 September 2023

Where: Bunjil Place

Performance: Transient Temples

Artist Anindita Bangeree tied Mauli – red and yellow strings worn in Hindu ceremonies – around a chosen tree at Bunjil Place, performing a participatory Acknowledgment of Country. This ritual provided Anindita with a space to contemplate her position as a migrant on unceded and colonised First Nations lands. Through this experience, she encouraged Bunjil Place visitors to reflect on the processes of settling and reclaiming ceremonies of faith and gathering.

When: Saturday, 7 October 2023

Where: Bunjil Place

Every Place Has a Soul: A Poetry Workshop

In a workshop facilitated by Manisha Anjali, participants communed with their inner worlds in relation to the physical environment, using it as a basis for writing poetry. The session involved an improvised movement, creating emotional cartography, and crafting poems that emerged from the intersection of psyche and space. Discussions explored memory, daydreams, and emotions inspired by elements such as architecture, signage, trees and flowers. The focus extended to understanding the spirit of a place and the essence of a poem.

When: Saturday, 7 October 2023

Where: Bunjil Place Library

Bush Diwan: Curator Talk

Attendees had the opportunity to join Amrit Gill, the co-curator of the *Bush Diwan* exhibition, for a free curator talk. The session provided insights into the art and artists featured in the exhibition, offering a deep exploration of the exhibition themes. The event was Auslan interpreted for accessibility.

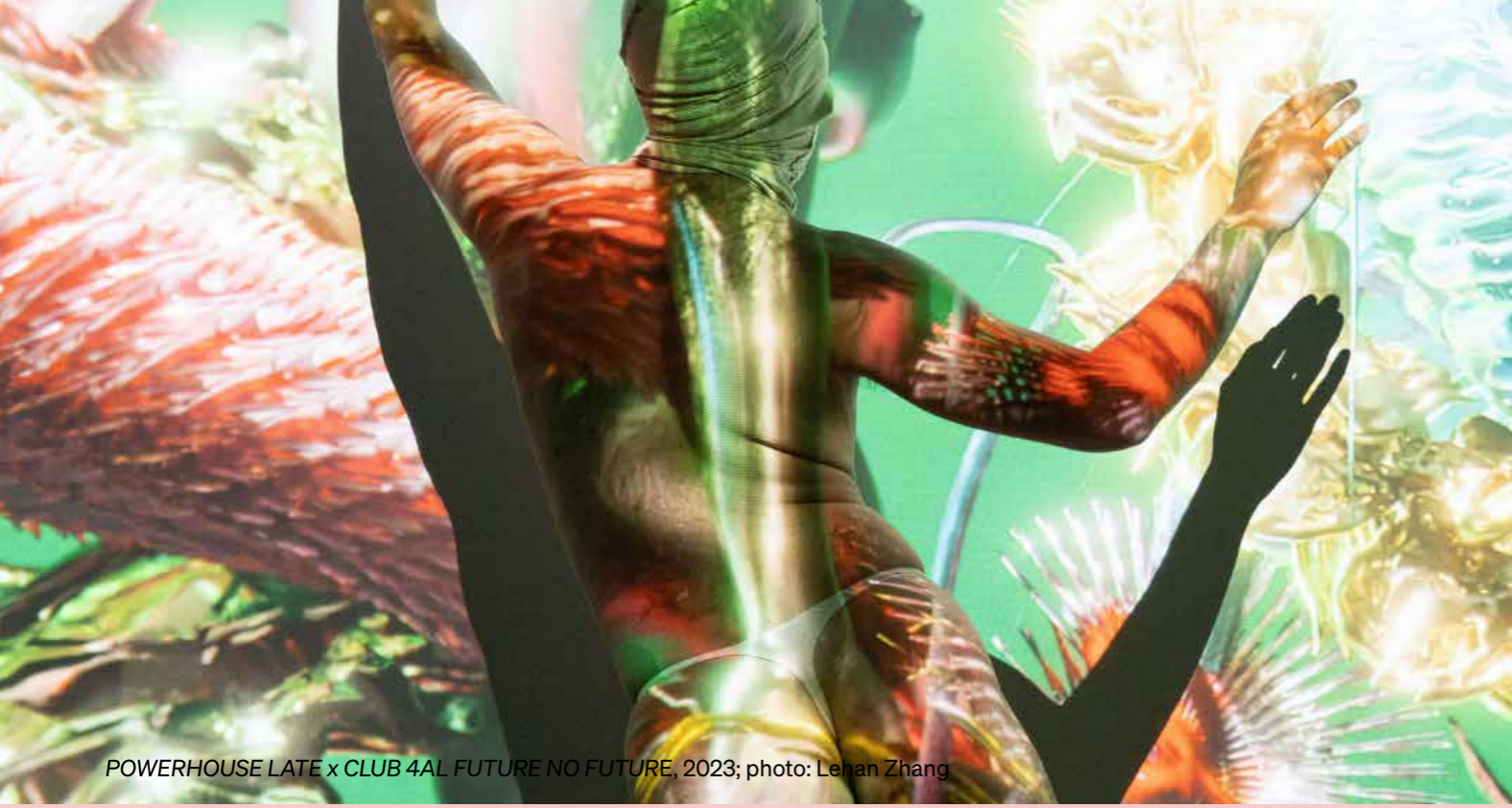
When: Sunday, 5 November 2023

Where: Bunjil Place Foyer, Gallery and Library



INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES





POWERHOUSE LATE x CLUB 4A: FUTURE NO FUTURE, 2023; photo: Lehan Zhang

Club 4A

CLUB 4A's line-up showcased some of our biggest programming yet, bringing together a mix of international talents and homegrown collaborations on a national scale.

Motivated by the desire to break free from the traditional art space and dive into the immersive atmosphere of the club scene, CLUB 4A curated stellar lineups, featuring Australia's foremost producers, DJs, performers, and visual artists from the rich tapestry of the Asian diaspora.

In collaboration with the Powerhouse Museum for Powerhouse Late and the Mode Festival 2023 edition on Cockatoo Island, 4A orchestrated two evenings blending art, technology, and live performances.

To close out the year, CLUB 4A presented *CLUB 4A: Forever After*, a dynamic event featuring both international headliners and local Australian talents in back-to-back shows in Sydney and Melbourne. In Sydney, we headed to Hermann's Bar, while in Melbourne, we joined forces with Lucid to take over the iconic Night Cat in Fitzroy.

These events marked the culmination of a year dedicated to pushing artistic boundaries and fostering a unique fusion of cultures within the pulsating heart of Australia's music and art scenes.

Club 4A events were supported through a City of Sydney Precinct Activation grant.

Seen In:

Vice Australia



Grit by Wang Jingxin at Mode Fest 2023; photo: Ravyna J



CLUB 4A: Forever After, Hermann's Bar Sydney, 2023; photo: Anna Hay

Digital Diasporas: Winnie Cheung

Digital Diasporas was brought back for a second iteration with an additional residency hosted in the United States, and New York-based artist and filmmaker Winnie Cheung as 4A's resident for 2023.

Over six weeks, Winnie embarked on a research project tracing the evolution of Chinese folklore across various dimensions, including creation myths, Chinese religions, philosophy, rituals, theatre, television, film and digital technologies. In the process, she engaged in enlightening discussions with 4A about her filmmaking practice and the potential translation of her body of work into the realm of fine art. As a self-taught artist, Winnie was also interested in learning more about how fine arts operates. She immersed herself in yáo collaborative's discord community in order to connect with other artists of the Chinese diaspora from around the world.

Winnie's residency journey with 4A culminated with an episode of 4A Talks during her visit to SXSW Sydney in October 2023.

This Digital Diasporas Global Residency was jointly funded by Creative Australia and the Canada Council for the Arts, and the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. Digital Diasporas is a yáo collaborative international initiative.



4A Centre for
Contemporary
Asian Art

联网离散
/DIGITAL Diasporas



4A Resident

Winnie Cheung



Thai Queer Exchange: Phittaya Phaefuang (Aurora Sun Lebeija)

The 4A Thai Queer Exchange Program facilitated an engaging collaboration between Perth-based Thai Australian artist Nathan Beard and Bangkok-based Thai artist Phittaya Phaefuang (Aurora Sun Lebeija). This exchange seamlessly connected both artists with local Thai-run businesses and community spaces.

As part of this initiative, Nathan Beard embarked on the creation of a compelling body of work coinciding with the *A Puzzlement* at 4A. Examining objects from the Chau Chak Wing Museum, Art Gallery of New South Wales, and Powerhouse Museum, Nathan Beard also crafted the intriguing piece *Study for a Museum of Thai in Australia* on the ground floor gallery space – a playful homage to the Museum of Chinese in Australia adjacent to 4A.

Conversely, Phittaya Phaefuang took time to connect with fellow artists from Sydney's vibrant vogue and ball community, culminating in the recording of

an insightful 4A Talks episode featuring his perspectives and experiences.

The Thai Queer Exchange Program went beyond the artistic realm, featuring a series of community-minded public programs at 4A throughout the exhibition period. This exchange program not only facilitated artistic exploration, but also established a dynamic platform for community engagement and cultural dialogue, thereby reinforcing 4A's core mission of actively discovering and showcasing the rich creative talent within the Asian diaspora.

The Thai Queer Exchange was commissioned by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, and supported by the Create NSW Arts & Cultural Funding Program and the City of Sydney.

The Digital Dissent of Cyberfeminism: VNS Matrix and Mindy Seu

4A proudly presented an exclusive panel discussion around the impact of cyberfeminism on society, technology and activism as part of 4A Talks.

Attendees gathered at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia for an afternoon tea followed by a panel talk on the *Digital Dissent of Cyberfeminism*. This discussion centred around embracing a feminist perspective within cyberspace, the internet, and technology, and delved deep into the transformative concept of disrupting networked patriarchy.

Guided by the expertise of New York-based designer and the author of *Cyberfeminism Index*, Mindy Seu, the panel featured cyberfeminist pioneers from the

1990s collective, VNS Matrix, that emerged in 1991 to challenge the male-dominated culture of technology and cyberspace – including V Barratt, Josephine Starrs, and Dr. Francesca da Rimini. VNS Matrix coined the term cyberfeminism to capture their radical vision of empowerment, embodiment, and resistance in the digital age.

Their installations, happenings, posters, games, and manifestos explored the sexual, political and aesthetic dimensions of gendered relationships with technology.

The *Digital Dissent of Cyberfeminism* was supported through a City of Sydney's *Precinct Activation* grant.



Speakers of *The Dissent of Cyberfeminism*, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2023; photo: Christina Mishell



The Dissent of Cyberfeminism, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2023; photo: Christina Mishell

FINANCIAL REPORT

Asian Australian Artists Association Incorporated

(an incorporated association)

ABN 31 013 253 308

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	89,713	721,355
Trade and other receivables	5	183,624	369,965
Other	6	7,839	21,368
Total current assets		281,176	1,112,688
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	474,415	108,117
Intangible assets	8	50,153	14,174
Right-of-use-assets	9	24,035	-
Total non-current assets		548,603	122,291
Total ASSETS		829,779	1,234,979
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	95,049	143,853
Employee provisions	11	25,077	28,606
Contract liabilities	12	404,238	759,272
Lease liabilities	13	8,144	-
Total current liabilities		532,508	931,731
Non-current liabilities			
Employee provisions	11	11,639	10,303
Lease liabilities	13	19,985	-
Total non-current liabilities		31,624	10,303
Total LIABILITIES		564,132	942,034
NET ASSETS		265,647	292,945
EQUITY			
Unrestricted funds		265,647	292,945
Total EQUITY		265,647	292,945

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds \$	Total equity \$
Balance 1 January 2022	339,941	339,941
Deficit for the year	(46,996)	(46,996)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance 31 December 2022	292,945	292,945
Balance 1 January 2023	292,945	292,945
Surplus for the year	(27,298)	(27,298)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance 31 December 2023	265,647	265,647

Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	3	1,725,416	1,863,909
Administration expenses		(504,478)	(473,436)
Amortisation expense	7	(17,882)	(4,653)
Depreciation expense	8	(48,775)	(20,838)
Employee benefits expense	10.1	(684,407)	(590,505)
Exhibition and program costs		(497,172)	(821,473)
Surplus /(deficit) before income tax		(27,298)	(46,996)
Income tax expense	1(d)	-	-
Surplus /(deficit) for the year		(27,298)	(46,996)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income / (deficit) attributable to members of the entity		(27,298)	(46,996)

Statement of Cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Customers		221,208	75,818
Receipts from Donors		17,352	49,264
Government grants		1,030,052	1,661,107
Interest income		4,861	1,722
Payments to clients, suppliers and employees		(1,440,624)	(1,509,722)
Net cash (used in) / provided for operating activities		(167,151)	278,189
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant & equipment	8,9	(454,445)	(100,579)
Net cash used in investing activities		(454,445)	(100,579)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of leases		(10,046)	-
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from financing activities		(10,046)	-
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(631,642)	177,610
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		721,355	543,745
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	4	89,713	721,355

The statement of financial position, changes in equity, surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income and cash flows should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes in the audited annual financial report 2023.

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Anney Bounpraseuth
Anthony Bobadilla
Ashleigh Kok
Audrey Newton
Aurora Sun Labeija aka Phittaya
Phaefuang
Baby G
Beau Lai
Bhenji Ra
Billy Keohavong
Bobuq Sayed
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