

MEDIA RELEASE

December, 2016

LIMESTONE COAST VIDEO ART RESIDENCY

Professional development opportunities for video and performance artists in regional Australia can be scarce without a lot of travel involved. Artists interested in these areas in the Limestone Coast region should take note: there will be opportunity for two local artists to collaborate with a national emerging artist undertaking a two-part residency in Mt Gambier over the course of 2017.

Recent winner of the coveted New South Wales Visual Arts Fellowship (emerging) Heath Franco will be undertaking a Mt Gambier residency in two stages next year, the first a two-week residency in April, followed by another two-week period in October. During these residencies Franco, who is represented by Galerie Pompom in Sydney, will mentor two local artists creating video and performance art. At the conclusion, work produced by each of the three will be projected onto the Main Corner Complex each night for a month from the end of October 2017.

Engaging a Sydney-based artist will bring the artistic community of the Limestone Coast region into a national conversation with Franco attracting attention across the country and shining a national spotlight on the region. His knowledge of professional practice will be another addition to the skills he will share with the local artists chosen. He has extensive experience working on public art projects with community including artists with disability, private commissions, installations and with both private and commercial galleries. As a result, Franco has a good understanding of how to best work with different stakeholders and provides a solid background from which to plan and deliver these mentorships.

The extended period between the two residencies will allow the work to develop fully, with artists given the time to experiment.

Previous regional residency programs run by Country Arts SA such as this year's Burra Ephemeral Art Trail have demonstrated that introducing contemporary artists via residencies in regional communities promotes the understanding of contemporary arts practice within the region; intensifies the exchange of practice techniques and ideas between metropolitan and regional areas and builds sustainable relationships between the artists.

Expressions of interest will open in January and close in February 2017.

Limestone Coast artists are encouraged to sign up to our waiting list at countryarts.org.au/news/heath-franco-residency/ to be notified immediately when expressions of interest open to the public. Please note this opportunity is open to residents of the Limestone Coast only.

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