

LIMESTONE COAST ARTIST PROJECT BRIEF



LIMESTONE COAST RESIDENCY AND COMMISSION: 2017 LIMESTONE COAST

Limestone Coast artist project brief
January 2017

Country Arts SA, the City of Mount Gambier, Riddoch Art Gallery

INTRODUCTION

Country Arts SA, working with the City of Mount Gambier Council, through the Riddoch Art Gallery, is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from Limestone Coast artists to undertake a two part mentorship with Sydney-based video and performance artist Heath Franco.

Heath Franco will be an artist-in-residence in Mount Gambier, SA, for two periods in 2017: from April 20 – May 6 and again from October 7 – 21 2017. Two (2) Limestone Coast artists will be selected to take part in this project and to work with and be mentored by Franco while he is in residence. At the conclusion of the second residency period each of the three participants will debut a new video work, exploring their experiences in Mount Gambier and surrounds and their community. These works will be presented on the outdoor screens on the Main Corner Complex, Mount Gambier. The Main Corner encompasses the Riddoch Art Gallery, 120 seat theatre, workshop space, and large reception area that houses two projection screens that are seen by passers-by. There is a further projection onto the exterior of the main corner building facing the cave garden. The exterior screens will display the completed artworks.

Public workshops may be run as part of the project. These will be confirmed once a mentorship schedule has been finalised.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Country Arts SA is one of South Australia's largest arts organisations, providing arts and services across regional South Australia through a range of arts programs and initiatives, the management of performing and visual arts venues, and the provision of grant funding which supports the creative endeavours of communities and individuals. The Visual Arts program has been refocused on achieving three key goals: promoting contemporary South Australian regional artists to a wider state and national audience, creating access and exchange between South Australia's regional gallery spaces and, artists and building audiences through increased accessibility via our Learning Connections program.

In line with these goals, Country Arts SA has been developing a comprehensive residency program. Recent successes include the Burra Regional Residency and Ephemeral Art Commission, This is a Border(town) and the Leigh Creek residencies. Drawing on these experiences, Country Arts SA has developed a new residency model. An interstate artist will travel to take up residence in a regional centre, exploring new mediums with local artists, and working with them to produce new artworks at the conclusion of the residency. For the first residency, recent winner of the 2015 New South Wales Visual Arts Fellowship (Emerging) Heath Franco has been invited to take up residence in the regional South Australian town of Mount Gambier in 2017. He will work with two (2) Limestone Coast artists to develop skills in video and performance practices.

Mount Gambier, and the wider Limestone Coast region, has been selected to host Heath Franco for this pilot residency and mentorship opportunity. Located 440 km south of Adelaide, at the mid-point between Melbourne and Adelaide, Mount Gambier has a strong arts and cultural community. At the centre of this community is the Main Corner complex. This is a unique, purpose-built space that houses multiple theatres and function rooms, in addition to the nationally renowned Riddoch Art Gallery. Newly appointed director of the gallery, Dr. Melentie Pandilovski, is a specialist in video and digital art, and a welcome support for both Franco and the Limestone Coast artists who will be involved in the project.

The Limestone Coast community have demonstrated a growing interest in digital practice, making them the perfect region in which to place this project. In 2014 former Riddoch curator Jacqui Porter, in collaboration with local artists Talie Teakle and Melissa Horton, presented *Art Bytes* at the Riddoch Art Gallery. This exhibition brought together 22 local, digital artists for a first of its kind exhibition in the gallery. Artworks were in a variety of mediums including digital drawings, manipulated photography, animation, moving image and interactive projection. This exhibition demonstrated the interest in the community in experimenting with these mediums and the high calibre of local artists working in this area. The Limestone Coast Residency and Commission will support two artists to build on these skills, by working with an established practitioner.

HEATH FRANCO – BIOGRAPHY

Heath Franco's practice largely takes the form of video, although his process of production and exhibition is also concerned with photography, performance, costuming, sound, media, digital media, special effects and installation. He creates screen-based works that are structured with respect to flow and rhythm rather than traditional plot narrative and, which in turn attract and repulse through a mix of curious aesthetic, catchy jingles and absurd, at times grotesque, performances.

Repetition is a consistent feature of Franco's works produced in recent years, along with a psychotropic sensibility and use of himself as sole performer. His practice is conceptually informed by explorations into Western popular culture and desires, domesticity and notions of 'home', the chaos of existence, and contemplations on the nature and possibilities of space-time.

Recent solo exhibitions include ALTERLAND, Australian Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide, and HOME AGAIN, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. Recent institutional group exhibitions include Antiques Roadshow, Gertrude Contemporary; NSW Visual Arts Fellowship (Emerging), Artspace, Sydney; Patterning, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery; DEADPAN, Goulburn Regional Gallery; Art as a Verb, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne and Artspace, Sydney; Sideshow, UTS Gallery, Sydney; Impact, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; and Primavera 2013, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Franco was the recipient of the 2012 Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, and the 2015 NSW Visual Arts Fellowship (Emerging). Franco's video works have been screened at GOMA, Brisbane, Sydney Contemporary, Art Stage Singapore, and Art Fair Tokyo. Franco's works are held in the public collections of Artbank, the Art Gallery of Western Australia and Griffith University Art Gallery.

Heath Franco is represented by Galerie pompom, Sydney

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Two (2) Limestone Coast artists will be selected to work closely with and be mentored by Heath Franco while he is in residence in Mount Gambier.

There will be two (2) periods during which Heath Franco will be in residence:

Residency one: April 20 – May 6 2017

Residency two: October 7 – 21 2017

The structure of these mentorships will be finalised upon and by negotiation with the selected artists. Keeping this structure open allows the greatest access for artists who may work, have children or other dependents or commitments. These artists will be able to take part and structure the mentorship in a way that suits them, the mentor and the project. A brief

description of the way in which you envisage the mentorship being structured will form part of your application.

Conditions of the project:

Timeline: Selected artists will be required to speak with Franco prior to his taking up residence, in order to finalise their project structure. This can be done by video call, email or phone. Once he has arrived, the artists will meet with Franco and begin working together. This meeting will be facilitated by the Visual Arts Coordinator, Country Arts SA and the Director, Riddoch Art Gallery.

In addition to this meeting, mentees must spend a minimum of 22 hours (3 days) with Franco during the first residency period. They must spend a further minimum 22 hours (3 days) with Franco during the second residency period.

Artists may choose to spend more time with Franco during this period, and this is recommended. They must also respect his wishes and allow time for him to experience his residency in the way he chooses. There will be the opportunity for video and online meetings in between residency periods.

Artists will be required to blog about their experiences on The Dirt, Country Arts SA blog exploring artistic process and production. Frequency will be negotiated with the Visual Arts Coordinator. This digital platform again expands the reach of the project, and allows remote and metro audiences to connect with the artists. Public workshops may be scheduled throughout the project. These will be finalised once a mentorship schedule has been drawn up. Artists will have the opportunity to take part in these workshops free of charge, and may be required to assist participants.

Equipment and materials

Country Arts SA has access to a limited selection of camera and video equipment which can be accessed by the artists as part of the project. This equipment must be booked in advance and shared between the artists as they work on their final artworks. This includes a computer at the Riddoch Art Gallery which will be installed with editing software.

Each Limestone Coast artist will have a further equipment and materials budget of \$500.00 each for the duration of the project. This budget must cover additional equipment hire, props and materials for the artwork, studio or venue hire for filming, additional editing time, and any other costs arising as part of the project.

Country Arts SA is continuing to work with Limestone Coast businesses and sponsors to provide discounted and in-kind support for equipment hire, editing equipment, additional mentoring and trouble shooting.

Relationships with local community

Once selected, Country Arts SA will facilitate a meeting with the artists, project partners and the Director, Riddoch Art Gallery who will be the on-the-ground artist contact. This meeting will be a chance for all the participants to make introductions and plan for the residency. Franco will join this meeting via video call, and each artist will have the opportunity to speak with him one-on-one in order to structure their mentorship. The Visual Arts Coordinator, Country Arts SA will be in contact with selected artists in the lead up to Franco's residency to ensure that time spent in Mount Gambier is maximised and meetings are set up prior to Franco's arrival. There may be additional meetings that Franco would like to undertake, and these will form part of the discussion with Limestone Coast artists.

Artists will have the opportunity to meet with the South East Aboriginal Focus Group. Boandik Elders and Aboriginal leaders will be consulted prior to the finalisation of the artworks for installation to ensure the artworks are created with respect to the traditional custodians. The Visual Arts Coordinator and Director, Riddoch Art Gallery will work closely with the Country Arts SA Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer to ensure correct protocols are respected and followed and the Aboriginal community feels welcome and able to engage with the project.

Concept development

Following the first residency period, Franco and the Limestone Coast artists will have two months to submit an artwork/concept proposal for their final artwork. The proposal must include details such as proposed content and subject matter, a final budget for the creation of the work, a list of equipment and other requirements and other details that will allow the Visual Arts Coordinator and the project team to ensure that the work will be suitable for a public screening, and that the artists are on track to complete their works by the opening weekend.

Country Arts SA reserves the right to ask for modifications to this concept and the final artwork to ensure that the work is suitable for public display.

ARTWORKS

Participating artists, including Franco and each Limestone Coast artist, will produce one new video/moving image artwork each as part of the project. These artworks will launch on the night of Friday 20 October 2017, at the conclusion of the second residency period. This will be a public launch. Artworks will be screened on the public screens, Main Corner Complex, 1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier. This iconic building has two screens that will play the three artworks on a loop, each night from 7:30 pm – 1:00 am for one month following the launch of the project. The screens are viewable in each window of the Main Corner Complex and measure approximately 200 x 300 cm.

Selected artists will work closely with Franco to develop skills in video and performance art. However, they must be able to work independently while Franco is not in residence to ensure their artworks are finished by the deadline. Remote mentoring will be ongoing.

It is expected that artworks will:

- Be high quality and of strong artistic integrity
- Be new work created as a result of the experiences of the artist while working in the Limestone Coast community and as a result of the mentorship
- Adhere to the WHS and risk management policies of the City of Mount Gambier
- Be visually appropriate to the site
- Be without sound, or able to be screened without sound
- Be no longer in duration than 30 minutes
- Be appropriate for public display to an audience comprised of a range of age groups, and social and cultural backgrounds, including the Aboriginal custodians of the South East.

Evaluation

This project is being launched as a pilot for future projects. Evaluation will form an important part of this process and planning for future projects. At the conclusion of the project, the Visual Arts Coordinator will convene an evaluation panel, including artists and representatives from all project partners. The purpose of the panel will be to discuss the project and the experiences of the artists and project partners and to evaluate its impact on the artists, artworks and the community. In addition to sitting on this panel, artists may be asked to complete either a brief

report on their experiences or to participate in an exit interview with the Country Arts SA Visual Arts Coordinator.

Artist fees, travel assistance, living away from home allowance

Limestone Coast artists will be paid a total artist fee of \$4,000.00 (+GST where appropriate) each for participation in the program. This will cover all time spent with Franco while he is in residence, and time spent developing, creating and installing the artwork for the launch.

Travel support will be provided to artists as part of the project. This support will be up to a maximum of \$1,000 for artists residing outside the City of Mount Gambier council region and the District Council of Grant, and will be paid in accordance with NAVA recommended rates and by negotiation with the Visual Arts Coordinator. The allowance can be used to facilitate project related travel and must be approved by the Visual Arts Coordinator prior to travel. For more details please contact the Visual Arts Coordinator, eleanor.scicchitano@countryarts.org.au

BUDGET

The total budget to be paid in artist fees for Limestone Coast artists will be \$8,000 (GST exclusive) (\$4,000 ex GST per artist).

PROJECT COORDINATION

Country Arts SA's Visual Arts Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination of the project and liaising between Franco, local artists and the Limestone Coast community.

Country Arts SA will work with the Director, Riddoch Art Gallery, Mount Gambier to provide on-the-ground support for Limestone Coast artists and Franco as part of the project.

The project partners will have representatives available to advise the artists throughout the project.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Activity	Time period /deadline
Expressions of interest open	January 2017
Expressions of interest close	Thursday 16 February, 2017
Selection of artists for residency	Tuesday 21 – Friday 25 February 2017
Artist introduction to project partners and Heath Franco	March 2017
Confirm mentorship structure and calendar	March 2017
Heath Franco in residence, first mentorship	April 20 – May 6 2017
Artist proposals due: 2 months post-residency	June 25 2017
Project partners meet to discuss proposals	June/July 2017
Mentorship and artwork development continues	June – September 2017
Confirm opening weekend details: catering, speakers, technical requirements	September 2017
Heath Franco in residence, final mentorship period	October 7 – 21 2017
Artworks finished and delivered to Main Corner Complex	Tuesday 17 October 2017
Artworks on display	Friday 20 October –

	Sunday 19 November 2017
Display of artworks on Rundle Street Projector*	TBC*
Return artworks to artists	November 2017
Acquit the grant	November 2017

***The Adelaide City Council have expressed an interest in including the works in their Rundle Projector Program but are unable to confirm a screening without confirming ongoing funding for the projector (July 2017). The Visual Arts Coordinator will continue a conversation with the Adelaide City Council regarding a CBD screening of the works.**

ARTIST SELECTION

Artists over the age of 18 years who are permanent residents of the Limestone Coast region are eligible to apply. One (1) mentorship opportunity will be reserved for a permanent resident of the City of Mount Gambier Council. **Artists do not need to have prior knowledge or experience creating video or moving image works**, but must be willing to learn and able to demonstrate that they will complete the artwork on time and to a high standard. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists are strongly encouraged to apply for this opportunity.

To confirm your residence is part of the Limestone Coast please visit:

http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/se_map.pdf

or speak to your County Arts SA Arts and Cultural Development Facilitator.

Selection Committee

The selection committee will be comprised of representatives from the two (2) project partners (Country Arts SA and the City of Mount Gambier), mentor Heath Franco and Arts South Australia (as per grant conditions).

The panel will be formed of:

- 1 x Visual Arts Coordinator, Country Arts SA
- 1 x Director, Riddoch Art Gallery
- 1 x Artist-in-residence, Heath Franco
- 1 x Creative Programs Manager, Country Arts SA (Mount Gambier resident)
- 1 x Representative, Art in Public Places, Arts South Australia

Expressions of interest

Expressions of interest are to be submitted either in person, by mail or electronically (encouraged), by no later than 5:00 pm Thursday 16 February, 2017, including all support material to:

via email to:

brad.lay@countryarts.org.au

or in hard copy

Limestone Coast Residency and
Commission 2017
c/o Visual Arts Officer
Country Arts SA
2 McLaren Parade
Port Adelaide SA 5015

Please note: support material submitted in hard copy will not be returned to the artist.

Limestone Coast Residency and Commission 2017: Limestone Coast Artist Project Brief

All applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application no later than Friday 17 February, 2017. If you do not receive this email you must contact the Visual Arts Coordinator to confirm receipt of your application. Applications that are not confirmed by email will not be considered. Additional support material will be disregarded.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome no later than Monday 28 February, 2017. Submission of an Expression of Interest is no guarantee of success.

Expression of Interest Submission

Expressions of interest shall include:

- **Title page:** Artists details including name, address, phone number, email
- **Written response to the brief:** (maximum 2 pages) including: a brief description of your practice, your area of focus and your interest in applying for this mentorship and commission. Please note that the project is intended to inspire the creation of new work in response to the opportunity and the Limestone Coast community. It is not expected that applications will have specific details of the artwork to be produced.
- **Mentorship timeline:** (500 words max), outline the way in which you see yourself working with Franco, time you will spend in the Mount Gambier community, any travel you would wish to undertake as part of the mentorship
- **Current CV:** (maximum 2 pages)
- **Six (6) high quality images of current work:** (300dpi, jpeg format, minimum 10 cm along short edge) with artwork details, including title, date, medium and dimensions. Artworks must have been created in the past three (3) years. Links to video work may be supplied, maximum of two (2).
- **Names and contact details for two referees**
- **Proof of address:** photocopy of driver's license, bill or government mail with name and address etc.

Selection criteria

- artistic merit as evidenced by the visual material provided
- response to the opportunity: strength of project proposal, including your interest in undertaking this mentorship and commission
- demonstrated ability to create work that engages with a broad public
- demonstrated ability to work on significant projects within timelines and budget
- ability to work effectively with video as a medium, or demonstration of an intent to develop skills in this field

Eligibility

- All permanent residents the Limestone Coast of South Australia over the age of 18 are eligible to apply.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists are strongly encouraged to apply

CONTACTS

All enquiries should be directed to:

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