

Synapse 3 Residencies

Delivered in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts the Synapse Residencies place Australian artists into science and research settings to pursue collaborative projects with benefits accruing to both the resident and the host organisation.

Kirsty Boyle (NSW) + the Artificial Intelligence Lab (Switzerland)

Kirsty drew upon her extensive knowledge of Karakuri Ningyo (Japanese mechanical doll making) to develop *Girltron*, a girl robot with a mechanical performance-based AI system. *Girltron* highlights the importance of fusing science with broader cultural and social concerns and recognises the role tradition plays in contemporary technology. Kirsty's chief collaborator for the project was AI specialist, Dr Lijin Aryananda.

Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey (VIC) + the Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Australia)

Madeleine and Tim worked with Dr Shane Grey, head of the Gene Therapy and Autoimmunity Group, to investigate ways of sonifying information from new genetic analysis techniques that reveal the dynamics of cellular processes. The collaboration has the potential to advance the understanding of complex cellular patterns and networks, as well as providing unique opportunities for the artistic rendition of processes at the heart of human existence.

Tina Gonsalves (QLD) + Affective Computing Group, MIT (USA), Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging (UK), and the Brighton & Sussex Medical School (UK)

Tina's project, *Chameleon*, drew upon earlier work developed in partnership with Emeritus Professor Chris Frith, Wellcome Principal Research Fellow. *Chameleon* synthesizes neuroscientific and affective computing research to explore and provoke emotional processes by producing emotionally responsive audiovisual narratives. The work highlights awareness of our inner selves, as well as our innate tendency to synchronise and connect with others.

Greg Hooper (QLD) + the Queensland Brain Institute (Australia)

Greg worked with Professor Jason Mattingley, the QBI's Foundation Chair of Cognitive Neuroscience, to explore the interaction between environment and brain dynamics. By using specific audio and visual environmental inputs, Greg investigated whether the resulting brain dynamics can be used to generate works that in turn give rise to those same brain dynamics in a different listener/viewer. If successful, the project will develop a deeper understanding of the processes that allow art to have meaning.



Above:

Karakuri Doll by Kirsty Boyle developed during her Synapse residency at the University of Zurich's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (AI Lab)

Professional Development Travel Grant

ANAT's Professional Development Travel Grant was devolved from the Australia Council in 1997, and as a quick response fund, it encourages Australian new media artists to participate in national and international events that might otherwise be outside of their financial bounds. Recipients of the fund recognise the opportunities it provided them by way of contribution to their professional development, networking opportunities and exposition of their work for veneration to a broader audience.

Professional Development Travel Grant recipients		
Jesse Stevens	VIC	Linux Audio Conference 2008, Germany
Daniel Flood	VIC	Container Project, Jamaica
Anthea Caddy	VIC	Moers Festival, Germany
Ionat Zurr	WA	5th Biennial European Conference of the Society of Literature, Science & the Arts, Berlin, Germany
Colleen Morgan	QLD	Come Out + Play Festival & Residency, New York, USA
Narinda Reeders	VIC	ISEA2008, Singapore
Margaret Seymour	NSW	ISEA2008, Singapore
Petra Gemeinboeck	NSW	eMobiLArt – European Lab for Interactive Artists, Rovaniemi, Finland
Priscilla Bracks	QLD	ISEA2008, Singapore
Narayana Takacs	VIC	ISEA2008, Singapore
Bridget Walker	VIC	International Studio Residency, CAMC, Centre d'Art, Ardenne, France
Matthew Gardiner	VIC	Artbots Exhibition, Dublin, Ireland
Willoh S. Weiland	VIC	Less Remote: Arts & Humanities Symposium, Glasgow, UK
Matthew Gingold	VIC	YCAM InterLab Camp, Japan
Hellen Sky	VIC	CYNETart_08, International Festival of Media Art, Dresden, Germany
Andy Nicholson	NSW	Open Source Video Conference, Brussels, Belgium
Meg Hale	VIC	Curatorial Mentorship, Images Festival, Toronto, Canada

Embracing Sound (ES) Program

Throughout 2008 the *ES* Program has been highly active in establishing a presence at key festival and sound events and initiating links and partnerships with relevant organisations to promote Australian sound art and electronic music.

It Promotes sound art information via its web site <http://www.anat.org.au/esp/>.

ES has also had presences at a number of festivals such as;

- Sydney Festival – Sydney, NSW
- The Now Now Festival – Blue Mountains, NSW
- UTS Sound and Music Design Symposium – Sydney, NSW
- Akemi – Blue Mountains, NSW
- 'The Brisbane Sound' exhibition launch and concerts – Brisbane, QLD
- Audio Pollen – Brisbane, QLD
- Melbourne International Biennale of Music (MIBEM) – Melbourne, VIC
- 8Christian Marclay exhibition launch, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Melbourne, VIC
- National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) inaugural 'Sound Day'. This event also included the launch of 'Hearing Places' a book edited by Ros Bandt, and the Arts Minister Peter Garrett announcing the top 10 entries for the 2008 'Sounds of Australia' (National Registry of Recorded Sound)
- Anode – Sydney, NSW

ES has developed links with sound, art and music academics from many leading Australian institutions. These institutions include: RMIT, Curtin University of Technology, WAPA, UTS, QUT, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Wollongong, University of Canberra, ANU, University of Western Sydney, College of Fine Arts UNSW and the University of Adelaide.

ES secured nomination and membership with the Music Council of Australia (MCA), Australia's peak music organisation with Council membership including 50 members representing a broad cross section of Australia's Music industry. MCA serves many roles providing information and publications, coordinating research, advocacy and projects to advance music in Australia. *ES* will be representing the Computer music/ multimedia sector.

ES is working with NFSA staff members Matthew Davies, Carla Texiera and Vincent Plush to facilitate documentation of contemporary Australian sound art, and to ensure significant Australian sound artists, such as Ernie Altoff, Alan Lamb and Chris Mann, who are nearing retirement are adequately documented in the NFSA collections.

A productive outcome from meetings with Steven Adams of Classic FM has been our agreement to proceed with a partnership to establish an annual curatorial residency program at the ABC. *ES* participated in the Sound and Music Design Symposium in February 2008, and has since been invited to comment upon the course outlines and plans for the interdisciplinary 'Sound Design' degree that will be introduced in 2010.

In November 2008 the *ES* Program Manager spoke at SIAL's 'Urban Soundscape Symposium' in Melbourne.

ANAT has successfully liaised between the electronic music sector and the Australia Council Music Board, creating an environment for a freer flow of information and expertise. *ES* has been well received from all stakeholders and will continue and grow as a vital resource, supporting and profiling our experimental and sound arts community locally and globally.

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Splinter Orchestra Anode 2008, photo credit Anode 2008