

## **Call for Information/Contributions:**

### **Discussion Paper: Public Art School (Now)**

**Roundtable convenors: Dr Ruth Fazakerley (UniSA) & Fiona Hillary (RMIT University)**

ACUADS 2015, 24-25 September 2015, Adelaide

Conference website: <http://acuads.com.au/conference/2015-conference/>

What's happening now in higher education institutions to prepare students to work in and with public, community and social contexts?

*'Public art' emerged as a distinctive category of cultural practice and policy in the late 1960s, linked to the widespread reassessment of the forms, functions and social relations of art and the emergent phenomenon of art as a special field of government responsibility. Such origins are perhaps visible in the remarkable consistency with which 'public art' continues to be both castigated for its conservative, monumental, and repressive tendencies and reconfigured as an emancipatory, unsettling and disruptive medium of challenge (Doherty C (ed.) 2015 Out of Time. Out of Place: Public Art (Now) Art/Books, London).*

*Today, art practice in the public realm is increasingly diverse, while art, artists, design and creativity feature ever more strongly as allies of social change in both local and global economic and planning debates.*

***How (now) are art and design schools preparing students to function in this realm? What now constitutes professionally relevant skills and capacities? What are the challenges and opportunities?***

**We are seeking a snapshot of current activity, reflections and insights** from art and design educators around the country: examples of relevant curriculum (programs, courses, units, projects, partnerships), across the diverse realms of public art, art and design in public space, socially engaged practice, art in social context, live art (etc) – as well as reflections on outcomes, successes, challenges and future needs – in order to inform discussion at the ACUADS 2015 Roundtable *Public Art School (Now)*.

**We are particularly interested** in reflections upon teaching and learning approaches that explore:

- Creative collaboration across and between disciplines, institutions and frameworks;
- The contributions of artists and designers to knowledge and society;
- The future for design thinking and critical practice in the public realm;
- The role of creative research and scholarship in the public realm.

**We invite** contributions to the Roundtable Discussion Paper of examples, reflections, questions or comments in the form of Powerpoint slides (3 slides max). Multiple submissions are welcome. (Submission guidelines below.)

Contributions will be edited and collated by the Roundtable convenors. The resulting document will be made available to the roundtable participants (and others) as a website publication (web address TBC), and presented as a PPT at designated locations throughout the conference.

To submit contributions conforming to the guidelines below, or for further information, please email the Roundtable convenors Dr Ruth Fazakerley ([ruth.fazakerley@unisa.edu.au](mailto:ruth.fazakerley@unisa.edu.au)) or Fiona Hillary ([fiona.hillary@rmit.edu.au](mailto:fiona.hillary@rmit.edu.au))

**Deadline for submissions:** 10 August 2015

Thank you,

**Ruth Fazakerley**, University of SA, +61 8 302 4277 & **Fiona Hillary**, Lecturer, RMIT University

## Submission Guidelines: Discussion Paper: Public Art School (Now)

All contributors will be acknowledged. Please note, contributions will NOT be blind peer reviewed. Contributions will be edited for style and consistency by the roundtable convenors. The editors aim, but cannot guarantee, to include all contributions for presentation & publication.

A submission comprises:

- A **Powerpoint (.pptx) file** with a max of THREE (3) slides (sized 4:3).
- Files **under 10MB** in size can be emailed directly to either ([ruth.fazakerley@unisa.edu.au](mailto:ruth.fazakerley@unisa.edu.au)) or Fiona Hillary ([fiona.hillary@rmit.edu.au](mailto:fiona.hillary@rmit.edu.au)). To submit a larger file (eg a zip file of multiple contributions) contact the convenors to discuss an alternative submission method.
- Multiple submissions are welcome.
- Each submission **must be accompanied** by a signed copy of the attached release statement to allow website publication and presentation during the ACUADS 2015 conference.

Submissions should include the following information, as appropriate:

- **Contributors name, position/title, institutional affiliation (\*mandatory)**
- **Institution** (School/department/faculty/university)
- **Title** (of example project, course, activity, discussion...)
- **Context & Description** (e.g.)
  - type (program/course, subject/course/unit, project, activity, partnership...)
  - institutions involved
  - location
  - discipline/skills focus
  - date (of example course/activity...)
  - duration (semester, year, week...)
  - student cohort (year level, demographics, numbers of students involved,...)
- **Discussion** (e.g.)
  - Key strategies, student learning outcomes, skills focus
  - Challenges, constraints, gaps
  - Implications, opportunities, future planning
  - Conclusions, key questions, discussion points
- **Further information** (e.g.)
  - Citations, weblinks, media reports, ...
  - Publications, further references( please use the Harvard referencing system, with article or paper titles shown in single quotes, author's surnames in capitals in reference list.)
- Embedded media, images, etc (these should be accompanied by relevant attributions - author/artist, date, location, photographer, url, etc.)

An example contribution is provided below:

## Example Contribution: Discussion Paper: Public Art School (Now)

# THE URBAN LABORATORY

**Contributor:** Fiona Hillary, Teacher  
**Program/Course:** Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts – Vocational Education, School of Art, RMIT University, 2013

The **Urban Laboratory** was a 12 month research project commissioned by the City of Melbourne and undertaken by RMIT University's Centre for Art, Society and Transformations in Hosier & Rutledge lanes in the Melbourne CBD. The research was designed to explore perceptions of safety in the laneways through public art interventions.

Students completing the Advanced Diploma of Visual Art in the School of Art in 2013 engaged with the site to focus the development of their works for their final semester. They contributed their ideas via site analysis to the research team and then developed and installed works influenced by their experience of the site.

Engaging in a 'live test site' for practice is an invaluable experience for students – providing a working understanding of public spaces.

The current context of TAFE and VE staff engaging in research in Victoria means these opportunities are often dependent on the staff teaching in the program also being engaged in research activity outside their position. It is critical that a shift emerge to acknowledge the importance of research in the TAFE/VE sector and the benefits to staff, students and learning outcomes.

[www.rmit.edu.au](http://www.rmit.edu.au)



Elizabeth Brain



Daisy Catterall

**Student works**  
Ten vocational education students participated in the Urban Laboratory project across S2 2013. Their final installations occurred in Hosier and Rutledge lanes in November 2013 as a one night show case.



Ainsley McCauley



Daisy Mak  
Photographs: Fiona Hillary



Lauren Holmwood

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**Additional project material:**  
Urban Laboratory Research Tumblr: <http://urbanlaboratory.tumblr.com/>

**Publications:**  
Hillary, F. and Sumartojo, S. (2014). Empty-Nursery Blue: On Atmosphere, Meaning and Methodology in Melbourne Street Art. *Public Art Dialogue*, 4(2), pp.201-220.

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**Release Form: Discussion Paper: Public Art School (Now)**

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**Name of Person Completing Form:** ..... (referred to as I)

**Brief description of materials being submitted:** ..... (**Material**)

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  - b. publishing or facilitating publication of the Material on the University's website [[www.unisa.edu.au/Education-Arts-and-Social-Sciences/Art-Architecture-and-Design/News-and-events/Australian-Council-of-University-Art-and-Design-Schools-2015-Conference/](http://www.unisa.edu.au/Education-Arts-and-Social-Sciences/Art-Architecture-and-Design/News-and-events/Australian-Council-of-University-Art-and-Design-Schools-2015-Conference/)] and/or the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools website [<http://acuads.com.au/conference/2015-conference/>].
  
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**Signature of Person Completing Form:** .....

**Date:** .....

[Please submit a signed copy of this form together with your .pptx contribution to the Public Art School (Now) Roundtable Discussion Paper by email to Roundtable convenors Dr Ruth Fazakerley ([ruth.fazakerley@unisa.edu.au](mailto:ruth.fazakerley@unisa.edu.au)) or Fiona Hillary ([fiona.hillary@rmit.edu.au](mailto:fiona.hillary@rmit.edu.au))]