

WESTERN SYDNEY ARTS FELLOWSHIP

18 October 2016

Assessment Meeting Report

Arts & Cultural
Development
Program



Arts
NSW

Assessment Meeting Report

2016 WESTERN SYDNEY ARTS FELLOWSHIP

Closing Date: Monday, 19 September 2016

Panel Meeting: Tuesday, 18 October 2016

The Arts & Cultural Development Program (ACDP) - Western Sydney Arts Fellowship provides the opportunity for an artist or arts/cultural worker from Western Sydney to undertake a self-directed program of professional development.

The Fellowship is open to professional artists, creative partnerships or groups, and arts/cultural workers at any stage in their career from all artforms, including dance, design, digital arts, history, Aboriginal arts and culture, literature, music, theatre, screen, community arts, curatorial and the visual arts.

The recipient is awarded \$50,000 to support a self-directed program of activities that could include national or international travel, mentorships or internships, residencies, short term courses, research and/or the creation of new work.

The 2016 Western Sydney Arts Fellowship applications were assessed by a panel of sector peers against the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated high artistic and cultural merit
2. Potential to significantly benefit the applicant's artistic or cultural practice
3. The program is well planned and achievable
4. Demonstrated contribution to arts practice in Western Sydney

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

Members of the panel agreed that overall the submitted applications demonstrated a good representation across artforms, region and gender, and that the proposals demonstrated that a variety of interesting work is occurring in Western Sydney across artforms and regions.

ASSESSMENT PANEL FEEDBACK

- The strong representation of visual arts based applications and encouraged artists and arts/cultural workers from other artforms to submit applications in future rounds.
- The strongest applications proposed programs of activity that offered significant opportunities beyond the applicant's current practice and provided a clear strategy to extend and transform their career.
- A number of applications presented as a project funding proposals, rather than programs of professional development. If including the development of new work within their Fellowship proposals, applicants are encouraged to clearly define the professional development aspects of the project and how it would transform their career.
- Good letters of confirmation / support letters were lacking across many applications. The panel encouraged applicants to include letters of confirmation or support that reflect the claims made in their application. Support letters from Western Sydney organisations were strongest when relevant to the Fellowship proposal, as well as confirming the applicant's standing within the region.
- A number of applications were let down by lack of detail, particularly in terms of budgets and timelines. This kind of detail is essential in establishing that a proposal is well planned and viable.

PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Applicants are encouraged to speak to Arts NSW staff and gather appropriate advice and support from their industry / sector peers before submitting an application.
- Applicants should ensure their application strongly links their proposed professional development program with their current practice, and demonstrates how the proposal would provide significant career benefits and contribute to the sector in Western Sydney.
- Applicants should consider how best to represent their practice and their Fellowship intentions with their support material. The panel emphasised that support material should be considered a key part of

each application as it has the potential to demonstrate artistic and cultural merit, the potential benefit of the proposal to both the applicant and the region, and planning and viability.

FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	2016 Western Sydney Arts Fellowship
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	22
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	1

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT

2016 WESTERN SYDNEY ARTS FELLOWSHIP

Mr Khadim Ali

Khadim Ali was born in Pakistan after his family fled from Afghanistan. He studied mural painting and calligraphy in Iran and later completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Pakistan where he studied traditional miniature painting.

Since coming to Australia in 2009, Ali has lived and worked in Western Sydney and completed a Master of Fine Arts at the University of NSW.

Ali's work combines the traditions of miniature painting with contemporary themes relating to both his Hazara heritage and his new home of Australia including displacement, migration and cultural identity. Since moving to Western Sydney, Ali's work has expanded to reflect on the experience of those living in the region.

Ali has exhibited extensively in Australia, including in Western Sydney, and is currently a studio artist at Blacktown Arts Centre. In 2015, Ali held his first major Australian solo exhibition, *The Haunted Lotus*, at the Art Gallery of New South Wales where he is now on the Board of Trustees. He has also exhibited widely overseas, with career highlights being the 2009 Venice Biennale, dOCUMENTA (13) in 2012 where his work was shown both in Germany and Afghanistan, and a major exhibition *No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia* at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2013.

The 2016 Western Sydney Arts Fellowship will be critical in supporting Ali to develop a series of ambitious works including tapestries, videos, rugs, paintings and drawings. It will enable him to undertake a year-

long program of activities including a major commission at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) as part of the inaugural biennale *The National*; two major solo exhibitions at the Bagh-e Babur Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Al-Hamra Art in Lahore, Pakistan; a two-person exhibition at Milani Gallery in Brisbane; and a group exhibition at Blacktown Arts Centre showcasing the work of five Afghan artists who are working internationally.