

2017 Artist With Disability Fellowship

Assessment Meeting Report



Arts
NSW

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2017 ARTIST WITH DISABILITY FELLOWSHIP

Closing Date: Monday, 19 December 2016

Panel Meeting Date: Wednesday, 15 March 2016

The Artist with Disability Fellowship is offered by the State Government, in collaboration with Accessible Arts, to enable a professional NSW artist with disability to undertake a self-directed program of professional development.

The purpose of the Fellowship is to assist a mid-career and or established artist to build on their experience and consider significant activities and opportunities to support both professional development and career advancement. The program of professional development is to enable the development of skills, knowledge and networks, including through facilitated formal or informal learning opportunities and through the creation of new work.

The Fellowship is open to artists working in any artform including dance, music, theatre, visual arts, writing, hybrid/interdisciplinary arts and screen content.

The value of the Fellowship is **\$30,000**.

ACTIVITIES

Types of activities funded

Activities could include a combination of:

- travel (international and/or national)
- mentorships or internships with professional practitioners or organisations
- residencies at institutions/organisations
- short-term courses, workshops or other training (note: the Fellowship is not available to support study which will result in a university degree or other formal qualification)
- an outstanding opportunity of significance to your practice

- research and development
- development of new work (note: provided it is integral to your professional development)
- access requirements associated with undertaking professional elements of the fellowship, for example, personal assistant, Auslan interpreters or audio description
- any combination of the above.

Assessment Criteria

Applications were assessed by a peer panel against the following equally-weighted criteria:

1. the artistic and/or cultural merit of your work (as evidenced by support material)
2. the demonstrated benefit of your program to your practice at this time in your career
3. the proposed program is well planned and achievable and the budget is realistic and accurate.

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The assessment panel was impressed with the high standard and diverse range of application received for the inaugural Artist with Disability Fellowship.

Applicants were predominately from a visual and performing arts background, with a good level of representation from regional NSW and Western Sydney.

The panel was pleased to see that many of the proposals featured an ambitious mix of activities with strong outcomes for professional development – mentorships with experienced practitioners, internships for learning and travel for research and significant opportunities. Many applications also included an allowance for time to create new work.

The panel commented that stronger applications included relevant support material, included activities appropriate for stage of career, demonstrated

good planning and clearly articulated the professional development benefits of their program.

Where programs included the development of new work, the more competitive applications included a clear explanation of how the creation of work was integral to their professional development.

Future applicants are reminded to:

- allow for artist wages, including their own
- clearly explain the impact the fellowship would have on their career
- explain the value and specific contribution of activities, such as research, to professional development
- take time to budget properly, with more detail and explanations/notes on costs

Applicants are encouraged to:

- include letters of support (or expressions of interest) from potential mentors
- seek assistance in preparing their application from Arts NSW, or other key sector organisations
- contact Arts NSW staff to discuss their application prior to submitting.

FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Fellowships
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	21 eligible applications
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	1
HIGHLY COMMENDED	1
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$30,000

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT

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Biography

Mr John A Douglas, a Sydney-based interdisciplinary artist working across video, performance, live art installation, photomedia, sound and objects. Johns practice investigates his ongoing experience of chronic illness through scientific and collaborative, immersive performance approaches.

Fellowship Proposal:

A program of mentor based tutoring, workshops and casual internships for the enhancement and development of new and existing skills in studio research, animation, photomedia, experimental textiles and physical theatre/performance with four interdisciplinary practitioners for the creation of a new work and to provide opportunities for professional development.

Panel Comments

The panel's comments on John Douglas's application include the following:

This is a stand out application that not only has been well thought out but will contribute significantly to John's art practice. This is an artist at the peak of his skills and ideology and we have no doubt John will contribute significantly to the disability arts sector as well as crossing over into the mainstream arts sector where he already has a presence. This fellowship could present the opportunity to the artist to elevate his career and profile to a national and international arts stage as well as the disability arts sector. An artist of this stature will present the benchmark of a fellowship of this nature.

HIGHLY COMMENDED LIST

Biography

Sarah Houbolt is an accomplished international circus and physical theatre performer, trained in aerials, acrobatics and hula hoop. By day she works at Accessible Arts in Sydney, and by night she is KooKoo the Birdgirl.

Fellowship Proposal:

A professional development trip to UK, followed by research and development in the area of blindness, partial sight and performance.

Panel Comments

The panel's comments on Sarah's application include the following:

This is a unique project. There is no one else in Australia undertaking this kind of work in relation to vision impairment in informing arts practice. The panel notes the high calibre of the artist as performer as well as her public advocacy for artists with disability. The artist should be commended for putting together an exceptional application.