



The Art of Being Public

Calling Out for Artists and Creative Practitioners working across visual arts, performance, architecture, fashion, dance, new media, sound art, design, community arts and other creative pursuits.

OPENLab 2014 is a new national laboratory for **Early and Mid Career Artists and Creative Practitioners** interested in **making art in the public realm**. It is an open and **intensive residency platform** aimed at generating **new strategies and ideas in site specific, experimental and interdisciplinary practice**.

OPENLab 2014 has been developed by curators, designers and artists **Paul Gazzola, Carli Leimbach, Lynda Roberts, Tècha Noble and Jay Pather** as part of the *Program for Innovation in Artform Development (PIAD)* initiated by the **Vryfestival** and the **University of the Free State**. It is funded by the **Australia Council for the Arts** and the **National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDTF)** and supported by **Map (Modern art projects) - South Africa**.

OPENLab 2014 will take place over **10 days from 18 July – 27 July 2014** at the **University of the Free State in Bloemfontein** alongside the **Vryfestival**. It will also involve a weeklong studio held at **Map (Modern art projects) - South Africa in Richmond, Northern Cape**.

Carli Leimbach, **OPENLab** Coordinator says. 'OPENLab is a place for **free experimentation and open dialogue**. It is a nurturing, supportive and responsive space for artists and facilitators to **share, exchange and challenge each other**. In the lab we will **explore spaces for performance and installation**; interdisciplinary collaboration; **concept development**; audience interactivity and **intercultural dialogue**. **OPENLab** is an investment in **future thinking, creative networks and professional development**.'

Adri Herbert, Director of the **Vryfees** says that up to **15 Artists from across South Africa** will participate in the Lab, lead by national and international facilitators. 'This unique national opportunity is open to creative practitioners working in the **visual arts, performance, architecture, fashion, dance, new media, sound art, design, community arts and other creative pursuits**. The **Vryfees** is very proud to be a partner and I encourage all interested South African artists to apply.'

Jay Pather, **OPENLab** Facilitator and Curator for the **Infecting the City Public Art Festival**, Cape Town says 'OPENLab comes at a crucial time when art can no longer live inside the access of a privileged few nor can we hide behind the rhetoric and the romance of a twenty year old democracy. **These workshops in experimental art making and public art afford mechanisms to find the kind of metaphoric language that can cut across the persistent lines of separation amongst us: class, race, culture, audience and artist**.'

OPENLab is a national opportunity for participating artists to explore new approaches to **site based practices working across different communities, disciplines and geographical contexts**. The emphasis is on **participation, critical thinking, discussion and the creation of new ideas**.

The Facilitators for the OPENLab are Paul Gazzola (AUS, *Interdisciplinary Artist & Curator*), Tècha Noble (AUS, *Artist & Designer*), Jay Pather (SA, *Artist, Curator & Educator*), with **Guest Facilitators** Godfrey Manenye (SA, *Performer & Choreographer*), Phillipa Tumubeinee (SA, *Architect & Designer*), and Nadia Cusimano (AUS, *Performer & Dramaturge*). **International speakers include** Bec Dean (AUS, *Curator & Writer*), Lee-Ann Buckskin (AUS, *Artist & Educator*).

Applications open: Mon 14 April 2014 (4 wks only). Applications due: Midnight, Mon 5 May 2014. For more information and to download an application please visit: www.OPENLab-southafrica.co.za or contact: **OPENLab**, Angela de Jesus, Curator Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. T: (051) 401-2706 E: dejesusav@ufs.ac.za

*The National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF) in South Africa has contributed generously to the OPENLab. The NLDTF relies on funds for the proceeds of the National Lottery. The Lotteries Act and regulations guide the way in which NLDTF funding may be allocated. The NLDTF wants the grants to make a difference to the lives of all South Africans, especially those more vulnerable, and to improve the sustainability of the beneficiary organisations. Available funds are distributed to registered and non-profit organisations in the fields of charities; arts, culture and national heritage; and sport and recreation. By placing its emphasis on areas of greatest need and potential, the NLDTF contributes to South Africa's development.

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THE TEAM

Paul Gazzola

Coordinating Facilitator

Paul Gazzola is an multidisciplinary artist working over 20 years across art, architecture, choreography, installation, performance, set design, video and theory. Creating and curating works for galleries, museums, stages, site-specific settings, print and projection, that have seen presentations and commissions in Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa, South America, the UK and throughout Europe. Originally trained as a carpenter, he has a B.A. in Performance, is a qualified Feldenkrais practitioner and in 2004 commenced studies in architecture. The culmination of these varied inquiries - each distinctly exploring the spatial and performative relationships between the body, site, place and the built form - provide a unique platform of knowledge in his working life.

His extensive working associations & collaborations in Australia and Europe include a number of significant artists at the forefront of innovative practice across performance, visual art and site specific initiatives that include Hans van den Broeck, Nadia Cusimano, Paul Granjon, Kate McIntosh Xavier Le Roy, Alain Platel, Meg Stuart & Tino Sehgal. He is also a founding and ongoing member of the highly influential Lone Twin Theatre from the UK creating the Catastrophe trilogy that has toured internationally since 2006.

Many of his works are distinctly located within the spatial relationships around the body, site and place that have seen him actively involved in research and practice led projects in Europe, Australia, Japan and Prague. His set design commissions have seen him working on various projects in Germany, Canada and Australia and in the last two years he has begun to design and build a series of large-scale public art works including *THE ROCKS WINDMILL*, Sydney & *TUMBLEWEED* – Kent town Rapid prototype project, Adelaide.

Current projects include *The Gold Coin Series*, FOLA, Melbourne; *Temporary Art Gallery*, South Australia; *The Rocks Windmill*, SHFA, Sydney; Curator of *Temporary Democracies*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW; Co-ordinating Provocateur for *SITUATE- Art in Festivals*, Salamanca Arts Centre, Tasmania and the large-scale installation, *ON CLOSER INSPECTION* for Mons - European City of Culture, 2015.

www.paulgazzola.org

Techa Noble

Facilitator

Técha Noble is an interdisciplinary artist who lives and works in Sydney, exploring ideas around gender, identity and the body. These ideas have various transmissions across gallery-based exhibitions, live performance arenas and design based projects. Técha interfaces with popular culture via fashion, album cover design, music videos direction and set design. These experiences within a commercial sphere offer critique and influence to her art products that seek conversation with visual arts history and critical thinking.

Técha is a founding and ongoing member of the collective The Kingpins formed in 2000. Using collage methodologies as a way of rethinking and reworking signs of power. Their ideas originated in live performance; in essence drag shows that play with extending their own physicality through costume, gesture and dance. By sampling found audio, hacking music video choreography and using pastiche costume pieces and wigs, they re-narrate cultural memory into own aesthetic language. These outcomes include sculptural installations, film clips as well as staged performances. The Kingpins have exhibited and performed extensively including Performance Space, MCA San Diego & MCA Sydney, Art Basel Miami, as well as several Biennale exhibitions.

Her work within the commercial sphere is also situated in the construction of identity via music and costume. Recent commissions include art direction and set design for US band The Gossips European tour 2012, design and creative direction for upcoming Romance Was Born fashion show for spring summer 2013, collaboration with Kanye West on his premier fashion collection in Paris 2011, Art Director and Designer for Sony artist Sia and music video for New York based band *MEN*.

www.techanoble.com

Jay Pather

Facilitator

Jay Pather is Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town, Director of the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA); Artistic Director of Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre, Chair of the National Arts Festival Artistic Committee and Curator for the *Infecting the City* Public Art Festivals.

Since his studies as a Fulbright Scholar at New York University, Pather's work has traveled widely extending across discipline, site and culture. He has collaborated with visual artists, architects and urban planners, since 1984, taking his inter-cultural performances into public spaces and working with the architecture of Johannesburg, Durban, London, Zanzibar, Amsterdam, New York, Barcelona, Mumbai, Muscat, New Delhi, Copenhagen, Koln and Cape Town.

Pather has presented papers at amongst others the African Knowledges Workshop in Cape Town, the School for New Dance in Amsterdam, the International Leadership Forum at Aix en Provence, the UNESCO Conference on Art Education in Africa, at the Territoires de la creation Conference in Lille, the Metropolis Conference in Copenhagen, the World Cultural Forum in Brazil, the African Urbanism Colloquium in Cairo, Performance Studies International 17 in Utrecht and at the International Theatre Institute in London. Recent publications include articles in *Changing Metropolis*, edited by Marie Polli and *Rogue Urbanism* edited by Edgar Pieterse and Abdul Malik Simone.

Pather has served on the executive of the National ACTAG; the Arts and Culture Trust of the President; the Advisory and State Theatre Board; the delegation investigating cultural exchange with Cuba; as Chairperson for the Performing Arts Network of South Africa and as co-curator for the Spier Contemporary Exhibitions 2007 and 2010.

Awards include a Heritage Award, a Brett Kebble Award, the Tunkie Award for Leadership in Dance and a University of KwaZulu Natal Convocation Award for leadership in the Arts and Humanities.

Recent commissions include: *Body of Evidence* at the FNB Dance Umbrella, at Theatre Aan Het Spui in Den Haag, for *danse afrique danse* and the National Arts Festival, *Blind Spot* for the Metropolis Biennale and *Qaphela Caesar* at the old Stock Exchange in downtown Johannesburg.

Godfrey Manenye

Guest Facilitator

Masedi Godfrey Manenye is an actor, choreographer and academic scholar, who obtained his BA Hons degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. He is a Movement and Acting lecturer at the Drama Department of the University of the Free State (UFS), and completed his master's degree in Drama and Theatre Arts majoring in Dance.

In 2005 he received the Richard Miles Award for the best role played in an Afrikaans play (Zollie). He is also involved as choreographer. In 2006 and 2008 he did the choreography for the launch of the Volksblad Arts Festival at the Mimosa Mall and wrote and directed the production Sindiswa, the African Cinderella musical. He also directed the dance show Mankokosana that toured Lesotho in 2011. In 2012 he was an assistant choreographer for the Broadway musical Hairspray.

Philippa Tumubeinee

Guest Facilitator

Philippa Tumubeinee is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Architecture at the University of the Free State [UFS] South Africa, a co-Founder and Director of IZUBA INAfrica and a Doctoral student at the University of the Free State, South Africa. After completing her M.Arch. Prof degree in 2006 with a notable distinction in Construction, Philippa was introduced to Academia while Teaching at the dept. of Architecture, University of Pretoria as an assistant Studio Master in the First Year Studio from where she progressed on to join the dept. of Architecture, University of Johannesburg [UJ] South Africa.

She taught at this dept. of Architecture from the beginning of 2007 to the middle of 2012 working as the First Year coordinator, Design Studio master and was involved in the rearticulation process and programme development of the department, while co-founding the design and architectural firm IZUBA INAfrica alongside Architect Denver Hendricks in 2010. In same year she served on the board

for the Gauteng Institute for Architects GIfA and contributed to the re-branding and rejuvenation of the Institute as an active vehicle through which Architects and Architecture are disseminated into the broader society. As a member of this Board, Philippa was privileged to be part of the project team that brought that first international Architectural Festival AZA 2010 to the shores of South Africa.

In 2012 she moved to Bloemfontein to join the dept. of Architecture UFS. In the same year Philippa served on the National Judging Panel for the SAIA Awards of Merit and Excellence and presented a paper on one of her projects the Esquared House at the ARCH THEO'12 conference in Istanbul. She was also the co-Master of Programme and Ceremonies at the second AZA 2012 Architectural Conference in Cape Town.

Nadia Cusimano

Guest Facilitator

Nadia Cusimano completed a BA in Performing Arts at the European Dance Development Centre E.D.D.C., Arnhem, The Netherlands and from 1996 to 2002 was member of Sasha Waltz & Guests. Collaborating on Allee der Kosmonauten, Na Zemlje, Korper and the Dialogue series at the Jewish Museum, Berlin and MAXXI Museum, Rome in 2009. Nadia has co-created works with Xavier Le Roy, Eszter Salamon, Constanza Macras, Tino Seghal, Paul Gazzola, Lone Twin Theatre, Constanza Macras and most recently as assistant director to Chiara Guidi/Co.Raffaello Sanzio. She is a qualified Somatic Movement Educator in Body-Mind Centering®, a Classical Pilates® instructor and has taught extensively for various dance companies, institutions and studios in Australia & internationally. Since 2005, she has been a guest lecturer of the Master program at the Department of Exhibition and Museum Studies, Graz, Austria.

Nadia is a co-founder with Paola Bartoletti of Le due Moine devising theatre & vocal based performances that have toured throughout Italy and a new large scale installation is in the making as part of Punctum's Associate Artist Program for Ailleurs en Folie - European City of Culture, Mons, June 2015.

Recent works for dance include - *The Runner*, Performance Space, Sydney; *The Invisible Game*, ArtsHouse, Melbourne; *The Source Code* plus *The dance tourist*, with Jochen Roller, Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW; Plus - *Barrio Interventions*, 2013 Adelaide Festival; Dramaturge for *Overlay*, Paul Gazzola, Adelaide; Editor - *The Urban Culture Interview Project* plus Co-curator and editor of booklet, *Temporary Art Gallery*, Carclew Youth Arts & City of Onkaparinga. Recent awards and residencies include Bundanoon Trust Residency, Critical Path NSW and InSPACE Development, Adelaide Festival Theatre.

Bec Dean

International Speaker

Bec Dean is a curator and writer who trained as a visual artist, she is currently a PhD candidate at the College of Fine Art, University of New South Wales and Curator at large for Performance Space. She joined Performance Space as Associate Director in 2007 and became Co-Director with Jeff Khan in January 2012 until February 2014. Bec was previously curator at the Australian Centre for Photography (2005-2007) and Exhibition Manager at Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (2002-2005).

Bec's curatorial interests revolve around interdisciplinary and participatory practices, performance, site-specificity, photomedia and art/science collaborations. Notable recent projects include Performance Space's *SEXES* festival, co-curated with Deborah Kelly and Jeff Khan, *Local Positioning Systems* at MCA, Australia with Jeff Khan (2012), *Awfully Wonderful: Science Fiction in Contemporary Art* at Performance Space with Lizzie Muller (2011). Recent contributions in publications include the books Deborah Kelly & (Artspace, 2013) and *Unsitely Aesthetics* edited by Maria Miranda. She has written catalogue essays and texts for Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery of WA, Artspace (Sydney), the Institute of Modern Art (Brisbane), Artlines for the Queensland Art Gallery, PICA (Perth), Artlink, Art & Australia, Broadsheet, RealTime and many more. Bec has recently co-edited an issue of Artlink, *Sexing the Agenda* with Johanna Mendelssohn.

Lee-Ann Buckskin

International speaker

Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin is a Narungga, Wirangu, Wotjobaluk woman from South Australia and Victoria respectively, who is well known throughout the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island and broader arts communities. Lee-Ann's current position is with Carclew Youth Arts in Adelaide as Manager, of the Aboriginal Arts Development Program. She has produced Blak Nite South Australia's leading Indigenous Youth Arts Festival as part of the 2005, 07, 09, and 11 Come Out Festival. Carclew Youth Arts has a strong Indigenous-programming component, sees her working with community in the metropolitan and regional areas with a strong focus in remote South Australian communities.

Lee-Ann is Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Strategy Panel at the Australia Council for the Arts and is the first woman to be appointed to this position since its establishment in 1973. In July 2013 she was appointed as a Director of the governing Council for the Australia Council for a 3 year term. She is one of seven National Champions selected to support and promote the Barangaroo development site, Sydney. She has also been appointed by the Premier of South Australia, Jay Weatherill to Co-chair for the BHP National Indigenous Visual Arts Festival scheduled for 2015.

Lynda Roberts

Advisor

Lynda Roberts is a socially engaged design and arts practitioner, interested in the creation of community spaces, cultural events and art installations within the public realm. Drawing on a background of architecture, festival production, design and arts management, Lynda's practice builds upon the potential of a project's existing conditions with an emphasis on collaborative processes and temporal outcomes. She does this by developing frameworks and spatial conditions that support creative thinking through action.

As an artist provocateur for a range of national interdisciplinary art laboratories, Lynda has continued this line of enquiry. Including: *Situate*, *Art in Festivals* (2013), *Artist Wants a Life*, Alice Springs (2012), *Encounter(s) Theatreworks* (2012), *Splendid Lab* (2010/11) and *Underbelly Arts* (2011).

Lynda currently manages the Public Art Program at the City of Melbourne, with Public Assembly acting as a collaborative laboratory and creative think-tank with Ceri Hann.

www.publicassembly.com.au

Dr Ricardo Peach

Advisor, Production Coordinator

Dr Peach is an independent cultural consultant with expertise in producing, project management, program and policy evaluation and social media. In 2013 he produced *The Portals* for ISEA 2013 in partnership with Darwin Community Arts, one of the Australia Council's Broadband Arts initiative projects. He also produced community engaged projects at the Liverpool Regional Museum/Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre in Sydney when he was curator of the museum, including *Sampot and Padaan*, a program on Cambodian Australians, *VietPOP: Emergence*, an initiative for young Vietnamese Australians and *Leaving the Crocodile*, an exhibition with the East Timorese communities in Western Sydney. He managed the Inter-Arts Office grants (2006-2012), the last of the CCD grants (2006), initiated the Council's MOU with UNESCO Bangkok and was the coordinator of the Arts in a Multicultural Australia Policy. He currently also works at the Australia Council for the Arts (Mon-Thurs) managing the Capacity Development Program. Ricardo was born in Volksrust, Mpumalanga and now lives in Sydney, Australia.

www.ricardopeach.com

Carli Leimbach

Creative Producer, Production Coordinator

Carli Leimbach is a Creative Producer, Curator and Artistic Director. She has a keen interest in presenting and promoting transformative, socially engaged and provocative contemporary art that can transform public space and break open new possibilities for audience experience.

Carli has designed and created innovative exhibitions, public programs and events for large scale festival settings and outdoor events including ISEA2013, 01SJ Biennial San Jose (USA), Burningman Festival (USA), Splendour in the Grass Festival (NSW), Woodford Festival (QLD), Cockatoo Island

Festival (NSW), Underbelly Festival (NSW), Melbourne Museum (VIC), Fringe World (WA) and Body Pacifica: Casula Powerhouse (NSW).

She is the creative force behind SITUATE Art in Festivals; a groundbreaking initiative designed to build the culture of experimentation and interdisciplinary arts practice in Australia by facilitating opportunities for early career artists to conceptualise and create new work for festivals. www.situate.org.au

Collaboration is a core part of her approach. Working across a diversity of disciplines, sectors, ages and nationalities. Whatever the tools, she believes in disrupting the profane so that we can engage with the extraordinary and change the world for the better.

Angela de Jesus

Advisor

Angela de Jesus is currently based in Bloemfontein (South Africa) as the art curator at the University of the Free State (UFS). She is the director of the Johannes Stegmann and Centenary art galleries and is responsible for the UFS permanent art collection. From 2009 to 2012 she established the Lotto Sculpture-on-Campus Project at the UFS. This project has enabled the University to acquire a collection of sixteen public artworks on the main campus in Bloemfontein.

De Jesus obtained a masters degree in Fine Art from the UFS in 2009 and specializes in printmaking and video installation. She has participated in several national exhibitions and received a merit award at the Xposure Awards in 2003, was a merit winner at the Sasol New Signatures Awards in 2009 and was awarded the Thamgidi Residency Award at Spier Contemporary 2010. In 2012 she attended the Thamgidi Residency in Arnhem in the Netherlands and participated in the IFAA international artist residency and festival in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.