

Artlink

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SENSORIA

Access & Agency

CONTEMPORARY ART
OF AUSTRALIA & ASIA-PACIFIC
Issue 42.2
Winter / Spring 2022
AUS \$20

ISSN 0727-1234



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What do you do at Studio A?

Emily Crockford, Guy Fredericks, Emma Johnston, Daniel Kim, Jaycee Kim, Adam Mandarano, Catherine McGuinness, Gabrielle Mordy, Meagan Pelham, Skye Saxon, Lisa Scott, Damian Showyin, Philip Sidney, Thom Roberts & Chloe Watfern



A

At Studio A in Sydney, a small group of artists are doing what they love—drawing, weaving, sewing, photocopying, sculpting, performing, exhibiting, dancing, painting, and being with friends. They are supported to do what they love by a tight-knit community of people with and without intellectual disability.

The studio is a vibrant place, filled with colour and light and people. Trestle tables are usually covered in alternating parades of beads, thread, wool, paint, crayons, and pencils. Portraits in progress rest on easels. Papier-mâché sculptures dry on shelves. These beautiful objects have made their way into the halls of our city's finest art institutions, from the Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, to The National at Carriageworks. It's important that these artworks are being valued and celebrated. It's also important that we celebrate the beautiful relationships and collaborations, the interweaving of lives, that Studio A helps nourish.

For this article, we wanted to describe Studio A in a way that is inclusive, creative, and honours each artist's own way of understanding what they do. So, a cross-section of artists involved with the studio answered the question, "what do you do at Studio A?"

Each of us wrote by hand. Some of us turned this into an art form! In this way, we show and tell you what we do.

What Do You Do at Studio A?

*I am the Principal Artist at Studio A and I provide support to Artists. Basically I manage the Art Room and work on the floor directly with all the Artists. Providing guidance to those that seek it; assisting with ideas, techniques, various creative options, constructive critique and help everyone to stay on track and on top of deadlines for projects, commissions or exhibitions. At times I work offsite to assist an artist or artists on a mural, residency, arts festival, special project or home studio visit which keeps things interesting and at times very busy! I work closely and creatively with the studio CEO on all of the various creative programs and exhibitions as well as collaborative critiquery and curating of artworks. I manage and work alongside the rest of the incredibly creative but staff, guest artists and volunteers that make up the awesome team at Studio A. Emma Johnston
Principal Artist, Studio A*

I like to do some drawings of Sydney Harbour Views. And I like to do soft pastel artworks.

I like doing the landscapes very much! Landscapes like the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

I like to go on excursions for different projects very much.

I like sometimes to do the commissions of artworks for exhibition.

I like exhibitions very much.

I recently painted some flowers for the Stations Of the Cross Exhibition.

*In the Dogs at Studio A
weaving, drawing, sculpting, and digital
dogs, and all other animals.
I paint and draw Botanical Art.
Receiving
Commissions to do dogs and other animals.
Getting Paid for my artwork.
Using Recycling material for my
Sculptures artwork.*

It's a confusing question because its trying to narrow down everything I do. For a very long time I was a big believer in magic and to be honest I believed magic was everywhere. I now believe it comes whenever it shows. When I make art I'm not just making art I'm making magical art. Its like drawing in magic from the universe.



Clockwise from top left:
Emma Johnston, Guy Fredericks,
Skye Saxon, Daniel Kim

Opposite:
Daniel Kim
The Flowers are Dying (First
Station of the Cross, Jesus is
Condemned to Die), 2022
acrylic on canvas



I love to post pictures, paintings, linkages and working together with other artists. Other things I like to do are crafting, drawing and especially digital art too!

I sometimes get to receive commissions from students to make myself as one more artist.

I also wanted to keep on exhibiting my artwork to become famous first.

I especially created my whole new universe that is about 'Lynch University' the first college founded on my planet. My custom goes on the biggest happy thought ever!

we are artists making art and models
 I love working with my friends
 I have working with my friends
 Catherine Joyce and
 Damian on Monday
 I love painting and drawing
 portraits of people (love painting)

Emily Jewell

What do you do at studio?

I have been in studio A for a long time.

I love doing commissions and getting paid.

I am doing some.

I do digital works and paint murals.

I work with Rosie my mentor and we do team work.

use paper canvas posters and more patterns.

Clockwise from top left:
Joyce Kim
 Joyce's 21st Birthday Present, 2019
 gouache on paper

Emily Crockett
 Green Parrot Bird, 2021
 acrylic and collage on paper
 Emily Crockett, Meagan Pelham, Joyce Kim

Opposite:
Meagan Pelham
 Dreamy Spotty, 2022
 watercolour and pen on paper

meagan
 pelham



Damian Showyin
Fireworks at Midnight, 2021
acrylic on paper

Opposite, clockwise
from top right:
Thom Roberts
A Portrait of Adam
(Shane Simpson AM), 2020
acrylic on canvas

Philip Sidney,
Adam Mandarino,
Damian Showyin

I've been Hand Sewing Weaving
Scarves and Cushions and
Weaving Paint Strips of Paper
Paper on the Loom.

I Paint on to my Weaving I've been
Writing out Poetry. I do Colorful
Painting the Last Couple of weeks I
have of weeks I have been working
from home on Zoom

I do weaving I make Handwoven Scarves
I also make Table runners
Recently I have done a commission work
for Romance was Born for the Fashion week
2021 I have attended the Kurb Fashion
Show at Studio A Artist. It was amazing to
see my weaving turned into beautiful clothing
pieces. I am very proud of myself.
I am an artist.
I love coming to Studio A because I get to see my
friend also



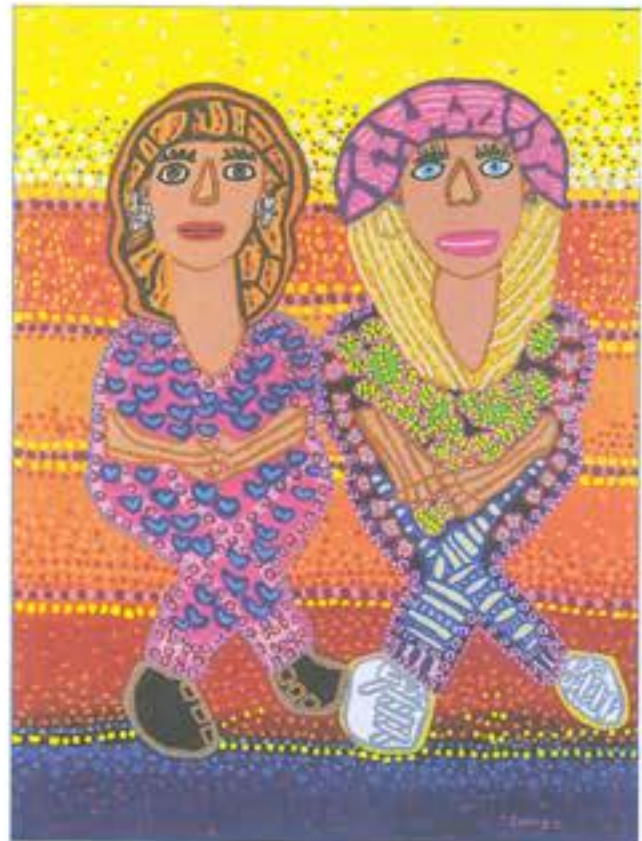
from Adam
Mandarino



Draw medieval/fantasy in water colour
and regular colours.
when comics come I create images
on what the brief brief is
seeing my friends
Draw animals eg. wolves Deers Antelope
animals
Bit a noble tree house



I do painting of the studio and I enjoy
 - selected LSM art Program funding
 and I have had Refused and one of the
 Studio A staff member and they will be
 the she will be pick up for my things
 3 to 4pm and I like to do more
 painting - I like to do more craft
 and weaving and sewing making
 making clothes and blankets as well as
 I like to come studio A two days
 on Thursday and to
 My friends and staff members as well they
 make me happy I hope to make more
 painting and I hope to do more go out in the
 Community with my friends at studio more
 outings with staff members and more
 Project and clothes, and do more publisher
 Book and Public speaking and do Storying
 children and finger Puppets and presentation
 in Adelaide and Jungle Bird Life disco and
 more story and the staff member help in
 little bit of sewing and I do the rest and
 and I did Make cat kennel and I paid
 of the cat of BCTH Boo and Saw Lisa S
 2022



At Studio A I spend a lot of my time
 laughing. The dynamic created between the
 people & creativity makes Studio A a constant
 source of surprise, sometimes... actually often...
 with a touch of kookiness. I love this energy.
 As the Director of Studio A my role is
 essentially to keep everything flowing in the
 direction we have planned. In an average day
 I can move between writing a grant application,
 to talking with a corporate client to
 helping devise an artwork with one of our
 artists.
 Studio A is a hive of activity. In the midst
 of enjoying the chaos I am always
 mindful of meeting deadlines. I try to
 balance the joy & electricity of creativity
 with the demands of balancing finances &
 earning out artists income.

I spend over three years hanging out at Studio A
 as part of my PhD research, sometimes making alongside
 the artists, and conversing with their community. I wanted to
 understand the art being made there, and the lives of the people
 making it. I wanted to understand how they might offer us
 the promise of other worlds - more inclusive, perhaps, more
 caring, more creative. I created an account of what I learnt,
 articulating this important work in a way that aimed to honour
 the ambiguous, the uncertain and the nonverbal.

During my early visits to Studio A all the faces were a
 blur. I settled into the almost-silence that comes with
 making. I remember watching the artist Damian Showyin
 weave, losing myself in the repetitive motion: Damian's hands
 guiding the wool under, loom clicking the thread in line.
 Later, I would watch him paint: brush moving down the lines
 already painted on the canvas, layer upon layer of lines
 - yellow, pink, blue, cream - like the jostling edges of buildings
 through windows, the remnants of another day's work.
 I remember, I asked Damian what his paintings are
 about. He said, "I don't know. Colour."

Later, I would find out that Damian loves James Bond,
 and that he used to work in a coffee cart, and that once
 when he had a bad bout of gastro and was admitted to
 hospital he messaged Emma, the lead artist at Studio A,
 at three in the morning, asking her to fix his loom.



Opposite, clockwise from top left:
Lisa Scott
 Moonlight Straight Bone, 2020
 cotton and acrylic on canvas
 Lisa Scott, Gabrielle Morcy
Emily Crockford
 The Pattern in the Mountains
 of Studio A Best Friends
 Emma and Gabrielle, 2022
 acrylic on canvas

This page, clockwise from top left:
 Chloe Wittern
Catherine McGuinness
 Birds in a Cage with Love Hearts, 2022
 acrylic on paper
Damian Showyin
 Building and Dots, 2020
 acrylic on MDF board



Clockwise from bottom left:
Guy Fredericks
Environmental Flooding - After, 2020
 acrylic on round wood panel

Guy Fredericks
Environmental Flooding - Before, 2020
 acrylic on round wood panel

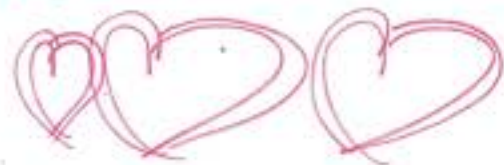
Catherine McGuiness, Thom Roberts

Feel welcome welcome to
 to studio A hope you will like it
 here.

My name is Catherine McGuiness
 We are ARTISTS concentrating
 on your Art work: we are
 ♥ Artist anyway.

Gab taught
 us.

Hand showing, drawing painting.
 My favorites are fabulous birds
 and Love hearts and flowers



I DO SOME
 PHOTOCOPIES 2 MAKE
 A BARTHART I MAKE
 ASUNRISE I AM
 AN ARTIST, I DO
 SOME PAINTING,
 FIND SOME PICTURES
 MY FAVORITE IS
 DOING PEOPLES
 PORTRAIES

THOM ROBERTS

