



studio A

Annual Report 2019-20



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Sydney Contemporary 2019. Image by Jasmine Tate.

Who we are

Studio A is a Sydney based social enterprise that makes great art and specifically provides professional pathways for artists with intellectual disability. We are the only studio of our kind in NSW.

Through Studio A, our artists are visible and valued: exhibiting and selling their work; winning awards; securing commissions; supplying creative services to leading Australian corporations, arts institutions and designers; and bringing joy and life to public and private spaces.

Studio A is driven to ensure artists with intellectual disability have a voice in contemporary Australian culture and to provide income to our artists. Fostering and valuing our artists' creative talent proves that with the right support systems, artists with intellectual disability can practice as professionals.

Studio A provides its artists with a working studio space equipped with specialist materials and support staff. We also manage an annual exhibition program and facilitate weekly workshops provided by invited contemporary artists.

Studio A supports a variety of artists working within a range of disciplines and thus strategically links Studio A artwork with an equally diverse range of target markets including art, design, craft, and corporate markets. We have an established record of strong/sustained creative partnerships and collaborations ranging from corporates to creatives to cultural institutions. Clients and partners include Westpac, mud Australia and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Studio A contributes to various personal outcomes for the artists including increased self esteem, increased aspirations for the future, broader social networks and a sense of belonging, increased financial security and improved mental health. More broadly, within the community Studio A reduces stigma associated with people with disability, and increases diversity and inclusion. Studio A offers the mainstream arts sector access to new artists and new opportunities for unique collaborations.



Meagan Pelham working on Bird Life Jungle Disco, UTS Central. Image courtesy of Andy Roberts.

Studio A Artists

Victoria Atkinson
Katrina Brennan
Emily Crockford
Mathew Calandra
Peter Dudding
Guy Fredericks
Annette Galstaun

Lauren Kerjan
Daniel Kim
Jaycee Kim
Catherine McGuinness
Adam Mandarano
Thom Roberts
Meagan Pelham

Lisa Scott
Kristel Saxon
Damian Showyin
Skye Saxon
Phillip Sidney
Greg Sindel

A message from the CEO



In a year when the world locked down in response to a global pandemic, Studio A artwork became more visible than ever.

We produced over 1000 metres of public art and seven Studio A artists (Victoria Atkinson, Katrina Brennan, Emily Crockford, Annette Galstaun, Meagan Pelham, Lisa Scott & Damian Showyin) were commissioned by the University of Technology Sydney. In 2019 our artists were paid to create a major artwork Bird Life Jungle Disco for this esteemed university.

Artists with intellectual disability have historically been locked out of such educational institutions. Commissions of this calibre demonstrate the progress Australia is making in embracing a more diverse and dynamic cultural life.

This Annual Report proudly showcases the serious contribution artists with disability are making. Our artists beautify city streets, undertake international and cross-cultural creative collaborations, manifest internal universes into immersive installations and at times literally sprinkle romance across the city.

As all the best artists do, Studio A artists use their skilled visual language to reinvigorate the familiar and show the world through a fresh, new, sparkly lens.

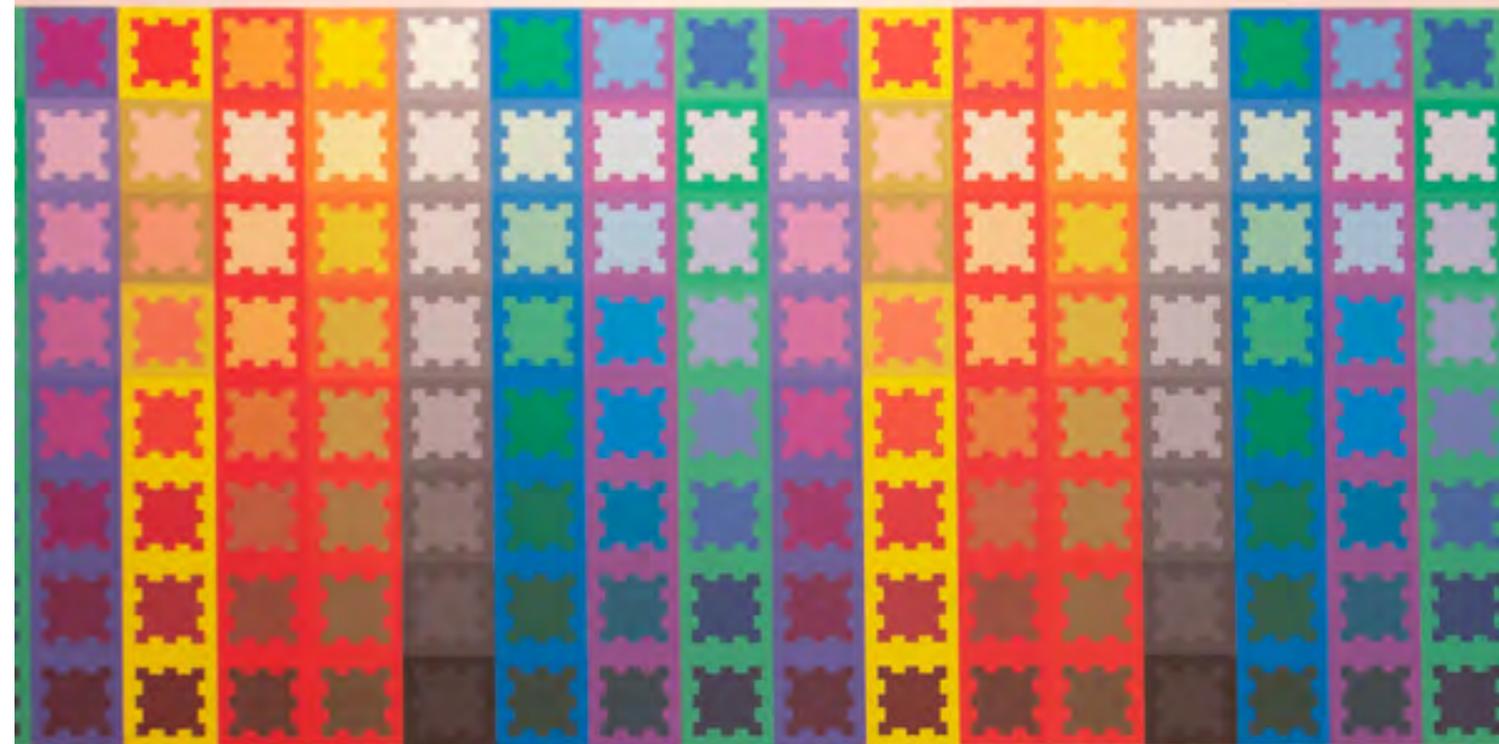
It is an honour and privilege to lead Studio A's team to see our artists' potential realised. Our achievements are utterly the outcome of an effective community working together; the fusion of our artists' talent, our tireless Board's skill and generosity, our dedicated staff, countless volunteers, committed family members and most importantly our network of supporters, donors and clients.

It is the energy and input of all these elements that empower Studio A to produce the excellence on show throughout this report.

Personally, Studio A fills me with joy. Over many years I have worked daily with our artists and team. The magical activity of this community never fails to inspire me. I am ever energised by experiencing the warm glow of pride and satisfaction I witness on our artist's faces each time they are recognised as talented artists.

Thank you to all who energise Studio A, and a particular warm thanks to our exceptional Chairman Shane Simpson AM.

- Gabrielle Mordy
CEO / Artistic Director Studio A



Mobile Colour by Jaycee Kim, Cement Fondu, March 2020. Image by Jessica Maurer.

A message from the Chairman



This report covers a time of tranquillity and a time of pandemic – first a period of ‘business as usual’ for our artists, and then a time of threat, isolation and uncertainty.

Studio A had to pivot from being entirely studio-based, to a remote, work-from-home model. It was a very new world. Many of our artists didn’t have, and had never used, computers or iPads. Many of our artists had to be trained how to use the technology to make and deliver their art. Zoom sessions with their mentors became standard practice. But through it all, the artists continued to be committed to making their art and delivering on their projects; they continued to create, exhibit, sell, license their work and undertake huge commissions. As you will see from this report, the work that they have done is extraordinary – not just in quality but in quantity!

Even though I am intimately involved with the organisation, I marvel at how a small, supported studio could have achieved everything described in this report. It could only happen because of the people who make up the Studio A family: the artists, their mentors, the board, our philanthropists (both individual and corporate) and the government. I also acknowledge the wonderful leadership of our CEO and Artistic Director, Gabrielle Mordy and our Principal Artist mentor, Emma Johnson: they embody the vision, dedication, and ethical core of the Studio A team.

As you read this report, you will be astounded by the artists’ work - but keep in mind what this lean, highly motivated, supported studio contributes to the individual lives of those artists and to the richness of the community in which we live.

- Shane Simpson AM
Chairman



Garden Pop Bird Bop hoarding design by Emily Crockford. Image courtesy of Lendlease.

Impact

Emily Crockford with her hoarding design Sydney Opera House at Night for City of Sydney, 2019.
Image courtesy of Katherine Griffiths.

Impact statement

In 2020 Studio A made the important decision to measure the effectiveness of its activities and understand the changes brought about by those activities. It did this by developing and implementing an Impact Assessment methodology, delivering its first Impact Statement for 2019/20.

To measure if Studio A is achieving its mission: Studio A's Impact Assessment methodology was developed by thoroughly assessing the organisations' activities and outputs. Data is now collected from diverse sources to demonstrate the outcomes of the work of Studio A and the impact of this work on the artists, the organisation and the broader community.

The impressive results of this first Impact Assessment were proudly shared with our community and generous supporters.

Studio A artists...

... are seen as successful, professional artists by the arts and wider community.



Over **1,000** square metres of public art created

11 major exhibitions featured Studio A artworks

14 leading arts & design partners

I'm a professional artist in the whole wide world! I'm in dreamland!

- Emily Crockford, Studio A artist

... see themselves as professional artists and earn income from their practice.

100% earn income as artists





97% increase in artist sales from FY2019



... are confident, learn new skills, and increase their social interaction .

90% have a bigger circle of friends and supporters



90% feel more positive about the future

I feel like a confident visionary, like I can accomplish almost anything.

- Skye Saxon, Studio A artist

... take on new creative and personal challenges.

26 unique design products



11 major corporate clients

My disability is part of my story. I turn my words into art and this makes me powerful.

- Lisa Scott, Studio A artist

... are creative leaders.

13 public & corporate workshops led by Studio A artists



94% of respondents say Studio A artists changed their perception of disability



... transform community perceptions of people with intellectual disability.

8 media features

52,423 studioa.org.au pageviews



5,500+ social media followers



This is such a wonderful exhibition!

It's very special to wander into this magical cave of fun and creative works.

- Home exhibition visitor

Our Supporters



Adam Mandarano, Studio A artist. Image courtesy of Louie Douvis.

Our Supporters

Our valued supporters give life to Studio A. Through their generosity Studio A provides the right support systems so artists with intellectual disability can thrive and practice as professionals. These important contributions create a richer and more diverse culture.

We THANK YOU! You are all part of Studio A and share the achievements of Studio A artists through your generous support.

Studio A is supported by:



Studio A donors

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Ricky Poon | Martyn Mordy |
| Simpson-Michel Foundation | Steve Badgery and James Hayes |
| Lorraine Tarabay | Mira Joksovic |
| James Phillips in honour of the late Claire Phillips | Gillian Corban |
| Cynthia Jackson | Hamish Cameron |
| Georgina Springer | Alice Holland |
| Kate Thorley | Carrie Kibbler |
| Tim Gerrard | Ruth Atkinson |
| Kim Spinks | Lindsay Clement-Meehan |
| Douglas Spencer OAM | John Hudson |
| Scott Wright | Skye Kunstelj |
| Sandra Ferman | Grace Mortlock |
| Lindsay and Celeste Showyin | Iva Strnadova |
| Roger Sebel | Sarah Kukathas |
| | Wendy Muir |

Studio A Volunteers and Interns

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Imogen Dixon Smith | Raghav Raj |
| Hannah Dunn | Margot Renton |
| Mamie Chen | Shelly Shao |
| Makere Gray | Erica Smith |
| Stephanie Howe | Rachel Stone |
| Belinda King | Jasmine Tate |
| Jessica Leggett | Tommy Tran |
| Lara Leonard | Chloe Watfern |
| Tsz Kin Liu (William) | Emily White |
| Susan Mordy | Andrew Wing Hymn Wong |
| Kathie Najar | Melissa Yang |
| Daryle Newman | Qiaoyi Zhang (Joy) |
| Cassilda Parkinson | Zoe Borhani |

Exhibi- tions



home exhibition, November 2019. Image courtesy of Studio A.

home

Retort House, Sub Base Platypus, North Sydney
18 October - 2 November 2019

home: [hom] n.

- 1. the place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household.**
- 2. an institution for people needing professional care or supervision.**

Home is a concept familiar and relevant to all but a reality experienced diversely. Moving out of home is a milestone moment in anyone's life. Living independently with an intellectual disability involves added challenges and hence is particularly significant. The potency of this subject inspired *home*, a Studio A group show curated by Gabrielle Mordy.

For the exhibition, Gabrielle asked ten Studio A artists – Victoria Atkinson, Thom Roberts, Katrina Brennan, Meagan Pelham, Guy Fredericks, Daniel Kim, Phil Sidney, Mathew Calandra, Annette Galstaun and Emily Crockford – to respond to the idea of 'dream home'. Utilising mediums spanning animation, augmented reality, textiles, painting and sculpture, they showed that home is not physical but in our relationships – in our dream loves, families, pets, loved ones and city circle lines.

Situated in the centuries-old Retort House and decidedly site specific, the works in *home* offered an opportunity to literally step inside an artwork, to be immersed. Audiences were showered in the lights and sparkles of Emily Crockford's *Disco Dream House*; were drawn into Thom Roberts' animated alternate universe in *City Circle Line*; and we ourselves animated Meagan Pelham's giant bride and groom marionettes, to see them wave as if king and queen of the land.

home was created with support from the Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, Big Anxiety Festival and our official partner, Harbour Trust, who honoured us with the inaugural exhibition at Retort House.

"I dream of living in a disco house. Swimming in sparkling colour and feeling so good, good, good."

- Emily Crockford



Images courtesy of Studio A.



Mobile Colour

Cement Fondu, Paddington
6 - 19 March 2020

“Colourful patterns inspire a sense of warmth and love, like the tin man finding his heart. I would love to live in a colourful mansion with the tin man and his heart.”

- Katrina Brennan

Continuing our partnership with Sydney gallery Cement Fondu, on March 7 2020 Studio A presented *Mobile Colour*, a group show of three Studio A artists: Jaycee Kim, Katrina Brennan and Emily Crockford. It was inspired by the artists’ deep connections with colour and pattern.

Drawing on their established repertoires of palette and form the artists created a space that danced and vibrated with bright hues and intricate repetitions. In this vibrancy, the artists find calm and focus; a sense of identity and place. Audiences were invited to bathe in this energetic aesthetic.

The exhibition also saw Jaycee Kim, Studio A’s newest artist, present his first major body of work. It included augmented reality wallpaper, a bespoke chess set with each piece made in his own image, and a series of watercolours centred around his alter ego, a Loreto school girl. On opening night, audiences were invited into an epic chess battle with Jaycee on his *Ultimate Chess Board* artwork. (Jaycee reigned victorious!)

Jaycee’s presentation was the culmination of yearlong mentorship arrangement between Studio A and Studio ARTES: a Professional Pathways Award sponsored by Liberty Special Markets. Jaycee is a committed and evolving artist and at the conclusion of his mentorship was offered a permanent place at Studio A.

“My work is about transformation. The degradation of colour reflects and allows the expression in my brain to change. Rainbow colours allow me to change colours and moods. The chess characters are inspired by my watercolour paintings. Using my new creative ensemble I invite you to check mate with my duplicates.”

- Jaycee Kim



Images courtesy of Four Minutes to Midnight.



Crows Nesting and Peacock Wallaby

Peacock Gallery, Auburn
10 August - 8 September 2019

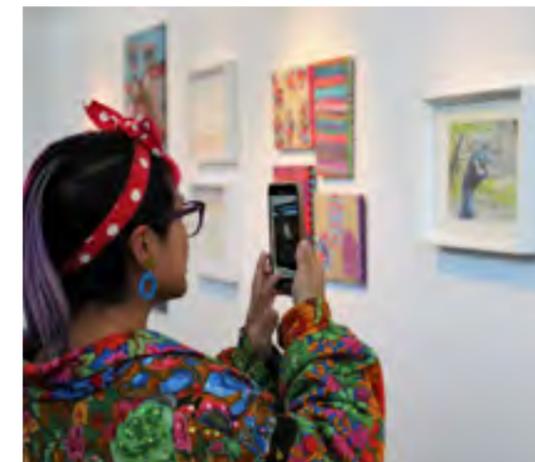
Migrating birds frequently visit Auburn's Botanic Gardens. In 2019 a flock of artists joined the migration.

From June to August 2019, seven Studio A artists – Katrina Brennan, Emily Crockford, Guy Fredericks, Lauren Kerjan, Daniel Kim, Catherine McGuiness and Damian Showyin – were the official artists-in-residence at Auburn Arts Studio and Peacock Gallery. There they took inspiration from the surrounding botanic gardens – spectacular, and replete with orange blossoms, parrots, peacocks and wallabies – to develop new work for exhibition. The resulting show, titled *Crows Nesting*, saw Lauren Kerjan exhibit *Magical Birds*, Damian Showyin a *Peacock Person* and Catherine McGuiness a series of garden-inspired characters: 'cockadoos', 'sunbaking kangaroos' and 'a little mermaid swimming in a pool'.

Studio A went on to develop a second exhibition for Peacock Gallery, this one in collaboration with the Markers Circle (a collective of local artists and craftspeople), students from Auburn West Primary School and members from the broader community. Together they created an installation featuring a mythical, half-peacock half-wallaby creature called 'the Peacock Wallaby'. Studio A's Guy Fredericks made the body of the creature and members of the local community contributed handcrafted feathers to make the cloak.



Images courtesy of Damon Amb.



Oddysee

Cement Fondu, Paddington
3 August - 29 September 2019

In August 2019, in Cement Fondu's Project Space, Skye Saxon presented *Oddysee*, the manifestation of a yearlong project working with artist Katy B Plummer and her first solo show.

Skye draws on memories and dreams to create mystic characters and magical stories. *Oddysee* – a magical circus tent come multimedia art installation – was the fullest expression of her vision to date. It offered a window into an alternate universe, accessible only to Skye. A place where Skye Fox (Saxon's alter ego) and her band of skilled misfits, Hank Octomon, Babaluey, Fauramondo ("the DJ Catfish"), Sugar Mama and Katerina the Steampunk Ringmaster live out their mystical lives.

The installation was composed of soft sculptures of each character, lovingly willed into existence by Saxon and Plummer, and a film of Skye recounting their many adventures together, produced by Kuba Dorabialski.



Images courtesy of Enzo Amato/Cement Fondu.

"It's a way of expressing what you can't say in ordinary words"

- Skye Saxon on why she made *Oddysee*



Sydney Contemporary

Carriageworks, Eveleigh
12 - 15 September 2019

Studio A was delighted to be invited to exhibit again at Sydney Contemporary in 2019. Sydney Contemporary is Australasia's premier contemporary art fair, showcasing the region's largest and most diverse gathering of local and international galleries.

This time Studio A showcased a suite of artists, including Emily Crockford, Catherine McGuinness, Lauren Kerjan, Meagan Pelham, Skye Saxon, Kristel Saxon, Thom Roberts, Greg Sindel, Phil Sidney and Guy Fredericks. Works ranged from drawings and paintings, to graphic novels and small sculptures. Guy Frederick's premiered his new major paper and digital art installation *Big Home for Beagles*, which later featured in Studio A's landmark exhibition, *home*, at Sub Base Platypus, North Sydney.

In exhibiting a suite of artists, we were able to showcase the breadth of Studio A's creative capabilities and afforded more of our artists the opportunity to present and sell their work (and sell they did!). Conversations were shared with fellow artists, collectors and curators; networks were broadened and great art was exhibited to an enthusiastic community.

"I sold 3 animal sculptures last year at Sydney Contemporary. [That] was a pretty proud moment!"

- Guy Fredericks



Images courtesy of Jasmine Tate.



Peter & Paul In Print

Hazelhurst Arts Centre, Gymea
7 - 26 March 2020

In 2019 Peter Dudding and his long time collaborator Paul Williams were invited to undertake a three month residency at Hazelhurst Arts Centre with master printmaker Matthew Ablitt.

Matthew introduced Peter and Paul to two techniques sympathetic to their established painting and drawing practices: monoprinting and etching. The fluidity of painted monoprints and the resistance of the etched mark provided a method that was familiar yet fresh, inspiring experimentation.

The resulting works were exhibited in March 2020 at Hazelhurst Arts Centre under the apt title *Peter & Paul in Print*.

"I liked printmaking and watching and learning about art making with Paul...My favourite song from the studio time was Morning Train by Sheena Easton".

- Peter Dudding

Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award 2019, Hazelhurst Arts Centre, 21 September - 17 November 2019

In 2019 Peter Dudding exhibited in the prestigious Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award. His *Happy Birthday 2*, an energetic abstract featuring his familiar textual scrawl, was selected from over 800 entries and exhibited alongside some of Australia's most esteemed artists including Adrienne Doig, Deborah Kelly, Peter Sharp and longtime collaborator Paul Williams.



Images courtesy of Studio A.



Commis- sions

Bird Life Jungle Disco, UTS Central commissioned by UTS. Image courtesy of Motel Picture Company.



Bird Life Jungle Disco

Victoria Atkinson, Katrina Brennan, Emily Crockford, Annette Galstaun, Meagan Pelham, Lisa Scott and Damian Showyin

Commissioned by University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
UTS Central, installed August 2019

7 artists, 7 support crew, 55 birds, 175 sq metres of vibrant public art!

Invited to enliven the newest social hub at University of Technology Sydney - UTS Central - and tell the story of the wider world in which students live and learn, Studio A artists Victoria Atkinson, Katrina Brennan, Emily Crockford, Annette Galstaun, Meagan Pelham, Lisa Scott and Damian Showyin, with 7 support crew members, hand painted this 175 square metre mural. This very large artwork features 55 birds of all shapes, sizes and colours.

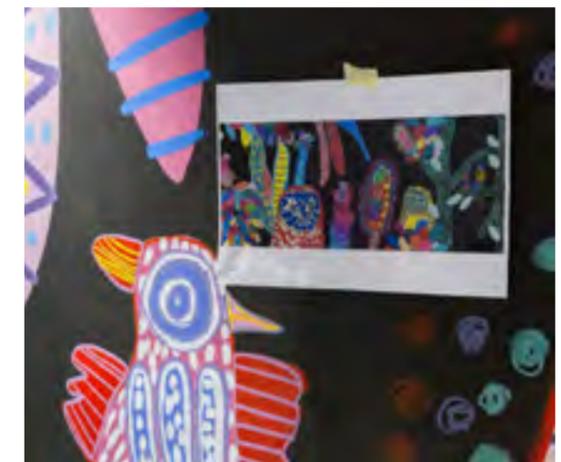
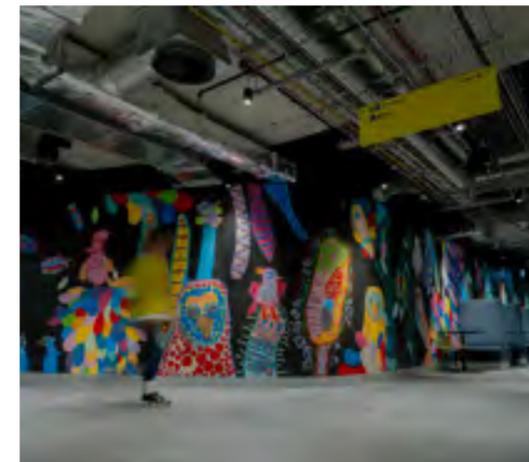
Bird Life Jungle Disco was commissioned by UTS ART. Since opening in August 2019 it's been seen by thousands of students every day.

"Bird Life Jungle Disco tells a colourful story of birds and animals at play in a busy social world. The mural speaks to the character and passion of each of the artists who made it, and to the diversity and energy of the UTS community itself."

- Stella Rosa McDonald, UTS ART



Image courtesy of Studio A.



Images courtesy of Motel Picture Company and Andy Roberts.

Garden Pop Bird Bop

Emily Crockford

Commissioned by Lendlease
Barangaroo, installed June 2020

“Mural breaks barriers to a diverse world of public art” Sydney Morning Herald

“I was imagining the koalas, some daisies and cockies and bottlebrush. The owls are singing and the tweety birds are watching and listening.”

- Emily Crockford

Commissioned by Lendlease to provide an engaging and colourful edge to their Barangaroo development, Emily designed this 160m hoarding.

Loved by construction workers, office tenants, families and visitors to Barangaroo, *Garden Pop Bird Pop* was headlined, “Mural breaks barriers to a diverse world of public art” by the Sydney Morning Herald and described it as a “...a riot of colour, displaying the young artist’s characteristic use of intricate patterns inspired by the natural world.” June 18 2020, Nick Galvin.

“We are thrilled with Emily’s artwork and her response to the brief. The artwork “Garden Pop Bird Bop” is filled with life and colour.”

- Emily Ravenscroft, Lendlease



Image courtesy of Lendlease.



Emily Crockford, Garden Pop Bird Bop, commissioned by Lendlease.

Midnight Zoo

Emily Crockford, Lauren Kerjan, Thom Roberts and Phil Sidney

Licensed by City of Sydney

Creative City Hoardings across Sydney, from May 2020

City of Sydney's Creative Hoarding program showcases artists' work on a large scale in very visible locations, beautifying and transforming the visual impact of construction sites throughout the city.

Selected from a national call out for artwork concepts, *Midnight Zoo* features the work of Emily Crockford, Lauren Kerjan, Thom Roberts and Phil Sidney. This evocative design, inspired by the artists' visit to Taronga Zoo has been installed in at least 12 locations across the city since its release in May 2020.

Midnight Zoo "... is a collaborative homage to the diverse and mesmerising species that populate our city and our world."

- City of Sydney website



Image courtesy of Anna Kucera/City of Sydney.



Midnight Zoo (collective of Studio A artists), Creative City Hoarding, commissioned by City of Sydney.

Spilt Milk Banner Murals

Emily Crockford and Meagan Pelham
Licenced by Spilt Milk Festival 2019, Canberra. November 2019

Studio A continued to bring special magic to the annual Spilt Milk summer music festival in Canberra. This year licenced artworks by Meagan Pelham and Emily Crockford were printed in large scale across the festival grounds. Young lovers adored posing for selfies in front of Meagan's love poem paintings.

Image by Billy Zammit.



Lauren Kerjan, North Sydney Gardens Sunset, 2020.

North Sydney Garden's Sunset

Lauren Kerjan
Licenced for Liberty Special Markets (LSM), Vinyl Wall Art on LSM Sydney Office

Lauren Kerjan's digital artwork *North Sydney Garden's Sunset* was selected by LSM as part of their 2020 In Our Art Program global art competition with Studio A. LSM reproduced Lauren's digital work as a large scale vinyl wall work in their Sydney CBD office.

Building Reflections in the Sunset

Emily Crockford
Commissioned by Leap In! For the Brisbane Head Office

Leap In! is a leading NDIS plan manager that supports thousands of Australians with disability across the country. Emily Crockford was thrilled to be commissioned by Leap In! to paint Brisbane, as seen from the Brisbane River. Leap In! licensed the acrylic painting on canvas (122cm x 61cm), using the image to create a large vinyl mural (400 x 150 cm) for the reception wall of their office. Leap In! also featured the artwork on their 200 printed Christmas cards.

Emily Crockford, Building Reflections in the Sunset, 2020.



Greg Sindel, Map of Cockatoo Island, 2020.

Map: Biennale of Sydney artwork, Cockatoo Island

Greg Sindel
Commissioned by Biennale of Sydney, 2020

Greg Sindel was commissioned to create a map of Cockatoo Island illustrating the location of the 2020 Biennale of Sydney artwork.

Partner- ships



Cement Fondu Art Store. Image courtesy of Four Minutes to Midnight.

Studio A x Live Softly

November 2019 saw the launch of Studio A's collection of 100% wool felted puppets, inspired by Australian fauna and created in partnership with fellow social enterprise [Live Softly](#).

In development since mid 2018, the range was designed by Studio A artists Meagan Pelham, Damian Showyin, Skye Saxon and Lisa Scott and produced by marginalised artisans in Nepal living with disability.

The furry felted creations celebrate Australia's diverse wildlife and were made available on the Studio A [Web Shop](#) and retailers around the state including the Australian Design Centre and Koskela. We are very proud of this range of Studio A design products, the result of an ethical international collaboration that will see the employment of artists and artisans with disability both locally and abroad.



Images courtesy of Live Softly.



Societas Raffaello Sanzio residency with Thom Roberts

In September 2019 Thom Roberts and Emma Johnston (Principal Artist, Studio A) travelled to Cesena, Italy to undertake a residency at the Societas Raffaello Sanzio, an established and renowned experiential theatre company.

For ten days Thom worked with Chiara Guidi (Director of Societas Raffaello Sanzio Director), Teodora Castalucci (performer at Societas Raffaello Sanzio), Scott Wright (Artistic Director, Erth Visual and Physical Theatre) and selected creatives, to explore new modes of performance art, including dance, light and shadow, set and costume design, film and virtual reality. The residency culminated in a theatrical nighttime performance experiment in a nineteenth century outdoor theatre at Giardino Pubblico, Cesena.

Thom and Emma also visited the 2019 Venice Biennale: 'May You Live In Interesting Times' curated by Ralph Rugoff. Thom was particularly struck by the works of Nabuqi and Lorenzo Quinn. Thom Roberts' residency at Societas Raffaello Sanzio was generously supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

"Last year in August Thom & Woody took the trip to Venice AND Italy! Yes! With Coyote & Millennium train. I'm proud by closing those doors in the aeroplane flight!"

- Thom Roberts on his residency in Italy.



Images courtesy of Studio A.



Meagan Pelham x Romance Was Born

With a special collection released for Valentine's Day 2020, Studio A's Meagan Pelham joined the ranks of artists like Jenny Kee and Del Kathryn Barton in collaborating with Australian design house Romance Was Born.

Meagan's Love Owls motif was screen-printed on cotton jersey tees, accompanied by dreamy text written by the artist on the back. This design was followed up with a range of hand dyed items featuring Meagan's artwork.

Artistic collaboration is integral to how Romance Was Born designs; they carefully choose artists who share their creative passion and dedication to the process. Anna Plunkett and Luke Sales of Romance Was Born reached out to Studio A with the specific intention of working with Meagan. They had fallen in love with her work and were enamoured with her art practice.

With a reputation for creating beautifully intricate and dreamy otherworldly designs, we couldn't think of a more perfect fashion pairing for Studio A's Love Poem Sorceress.



Meagan Pelham x Romance Was Born collection.



Fuji Xerox

In November 2019 artist Thom Roberts took inspiration from Fuji Xerox staff and machinery to deliver a unique and interactive creative experience. Thom invited staff to participate in a fun, creative engagement session guaranteed to build deeper connections within and between teams while also providing a new, energising perspective on the meaning and impact of Fuji Xerox within the community.

Staff were invited to bring in childhood photos of themselves, which Thom used as the basis to demonstrate the transformative process of the Fuji Xerox machine. Using the photocopier, Thom connected participants' childhood photos, forging them into a train to create a surprising printed outcome. Following the creative workshop, Thom returned to Studio A where he developed and refined an original artwork for exhibition at Fuji Xerox.



Images courtesy of Fuji Xerox Australia.



Liberty Specialty Markets

Studio A created a dreamy Christmas party for Liberty Specialty Markets' (LSM) staff with a series of large sculptural handbound dream catchers. The large statement sculptures were accompanied by a collection of small scale intimate dream catchers. Each table was adorned with a Studio A original reindeer centrepiece. The decorative sculptures infused the occasion with a touch of magic, encouraging LSM's team to loosen their antlers and embrace the spirit of the festive season.

Studio A's decorative sculptures have become an annual tradition at LSM's end of year party. For over five consecutive years our artists have beautified the company's event with bespoke ornaments designed to a unique theme.

In 2020 LSM and Studio A launched a new international partnership. The 'In Our Art Program' connects Studio A to LSM's international art awards designed to support emerging artists.

Studio A invited four artists to create work for exhibition in LSM's Sydney CBD offices. The 2020 artists included Guy Fredericks, Annette Galstaun, Lauren Kerjan and Jaycee Kim.

LSM staff select two of the exhibited works to be sent to London to participate in LSM's global Art Awards program. The selected artists win a \$3000 mentorship program and \$1000 licensing fee to see their artwork applied to a range of Liberty Specialty Markets merchandise.



Images courtesy of Studio A.



Westpac

Studio A brought flight and fantasy to Westpac's events and functions in 2019. Annette Galstaun's bespoke design of patterned birds dancing was licensed to feature on a limited edition range of tote bags presented to guests at the Westpac Foundation Awards Dinner.

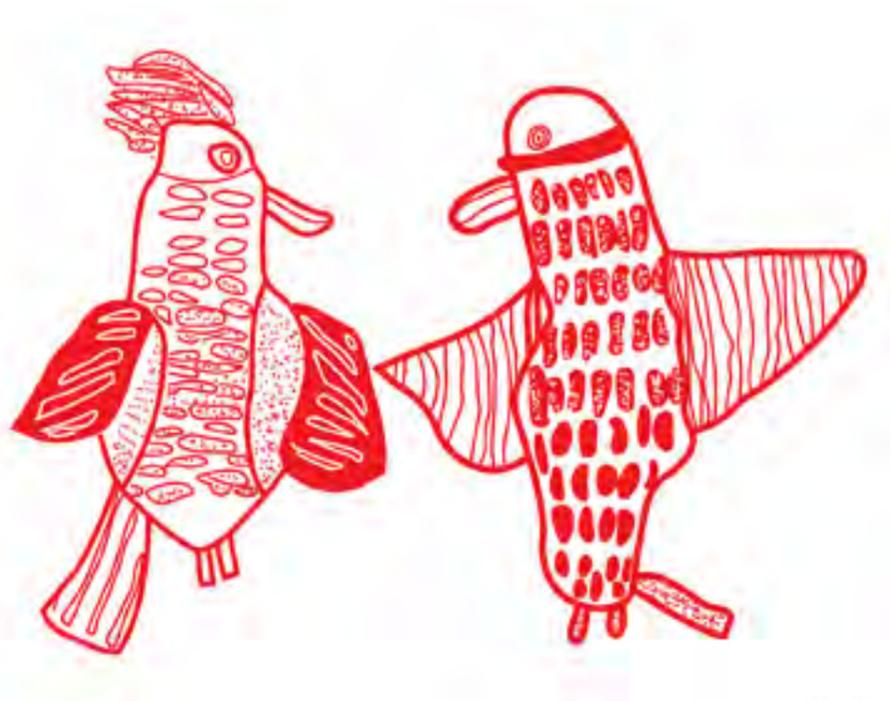
Studio A's Decorative Sculpture Team produced an elaborate range of paper feather sculptures for Westpac's Changemakers Summit at Barangaroo. The sculptures symbolised the Summit's emphasis on creativity, transformation and evolution. The works also inspired an interactive workshop where changemaker attendees reflected on new habits to foster their own growth.

Gold Design Award 2019 - Westpac Concord

Emily Crockford and Group GSA received a Gold Sydney Design Award in 2019 for their work on Westpac Concord, featuring Emily's mural *Lorikeet Bushy Tree Mandala (2019)*.



Images courtesy of Studio A.

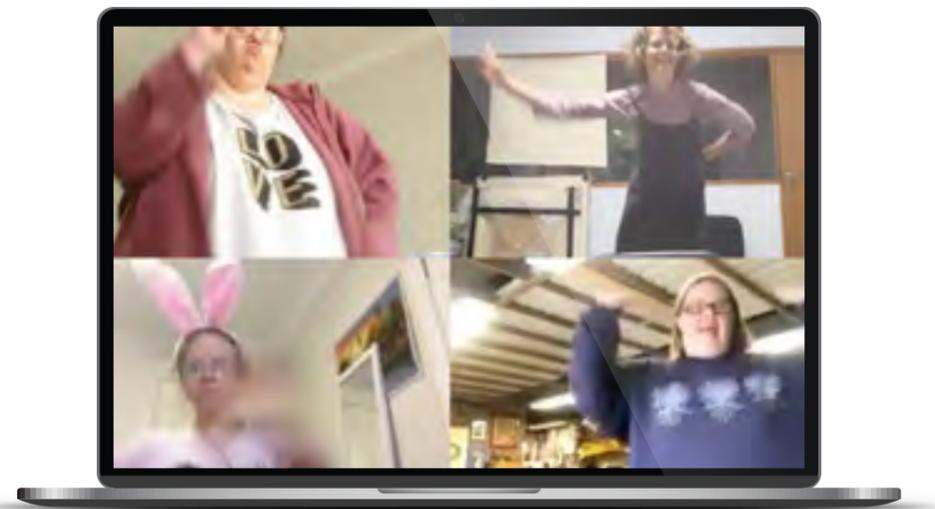


Dancing Together with UTS

Inspired by Studio A's online movement program, from June 2020 UTS Gallery partnered with Studio A to present *Dancing Together*, a participatory online program with a simple mission; to make you feel good while you're staying at home.

Studio A is more than a place to make art; it is a social and familial space to find connection, receive support and make meaning. UTS wanted to share this sense of community and culture with the public and put out an open call to individuals who wanted to join in a daily dance session with Studio A artists.

Participants were invited to choose their favorite song and dance with a select group of artists (Emily Crockford, Meagan Pelham and Victoria Atkinson), led by Studio A artists-in-residence Harriet Body and Rosie Deacon.



"A totally fabulous initiative and I absolutely loved it, and meeting all the lovely and talented artists!!! I'd love to see this become a regular event in the longer term. So great to connect people and have some fun too."

- Feedback from a Dancing Together participant

Stockland Shopping Centres

Stockland reached out to Studio A about licensing a number of artworks to bring colour and personality to their shopping centres, while also creating a greater connection of people to place. Their desire was to create a more inclusive culture within their community by showcasing selected artists across various in-centre hoardings and provide a platform to commercialise their creativity.

The artworks, which were selected from the Studio A collection, were printed in large format and used to enhance empty shop fronts between leases. The display included information and a photograph of the featured artist. Lisa Scott's painting *Two Love Birds* is one of the artworks licensed by Stockland for their centres nationwide. This placement was located at the Stockland Shopping Centre in Balgowlah, NSW.



Lisa Scott, Two Love Birds, 2017.

Red Room Poetry

Red Room Poetry makes poetry in meaningful ways. *Past/Present Pets* was a collaborative project with Red Room and Studio A honouring the life force of animals through a body of poetic and visual work that captures the spirit of companionship.

Fourteen Studio A artists were matched with six Red Room poet mentors to create a series of poems to accompany artworks inspired by pets – past, present, fantastic and future – reflecting on their role in our personal, social and sacred worlds. The Red Room Poetry poets, Robin M. Eames, Rozanna Lilley, Johanna Featherstone, Gareth Jenkins, David Stavanger and Tamryn Bennett, worked one-on-one via Zoom with Studio A artists illuminating pathways to expand their creative practice.

The final poems and artworks were published by Red Room Poetry.

Holly

She was very cheeky and clever

a little naughty as well

She used to go to

our neighbour Ted's place

It was always dark inside

even in the daytime

Ted sat on the front verandah

simple wooden

He was tall and thin

he blew smoke rings from his pipe

Holly went there to get a sausage

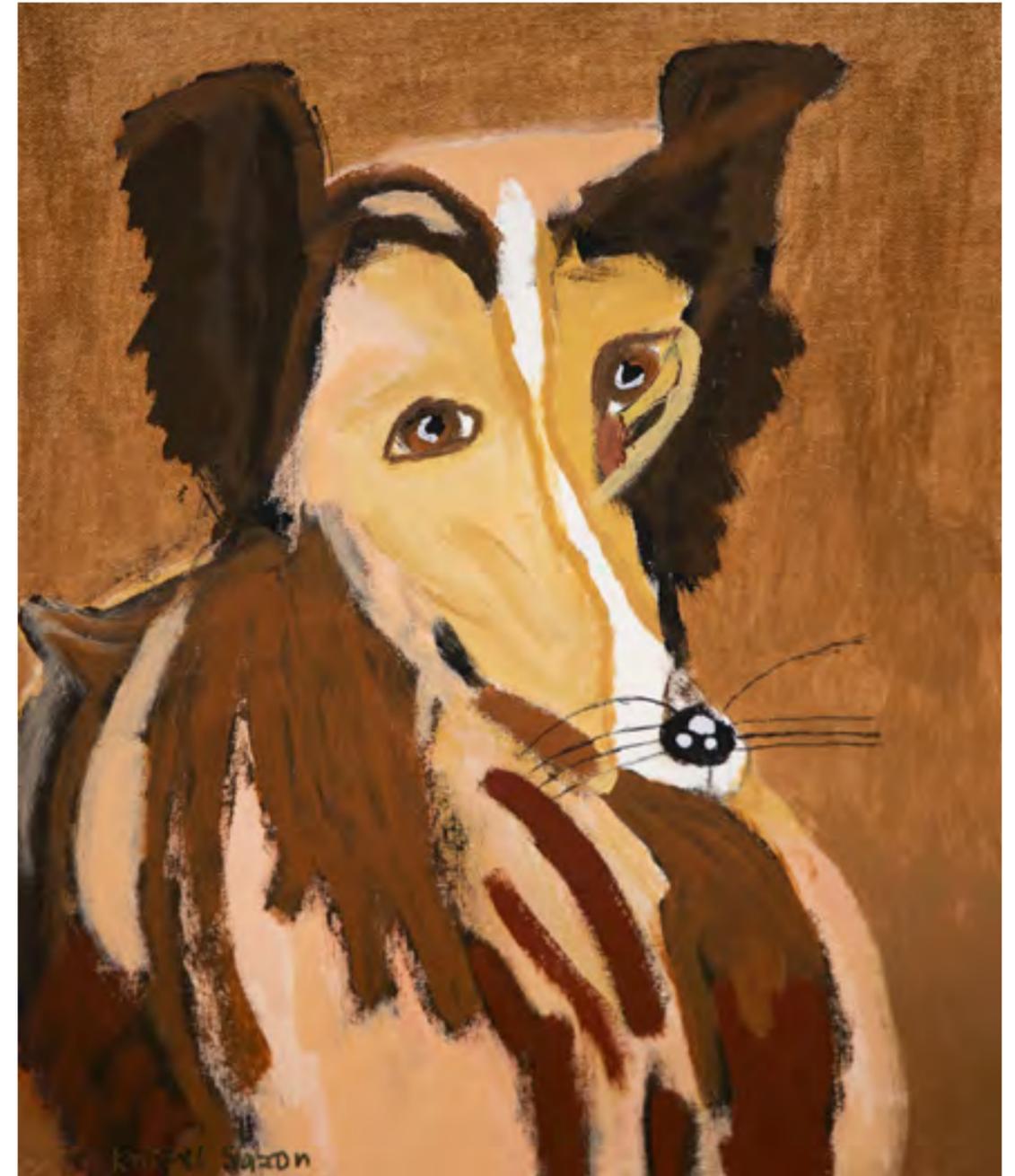
always raw

Like my feelings

when I went back to Bright

Warm and fuzzy

and a little sad too



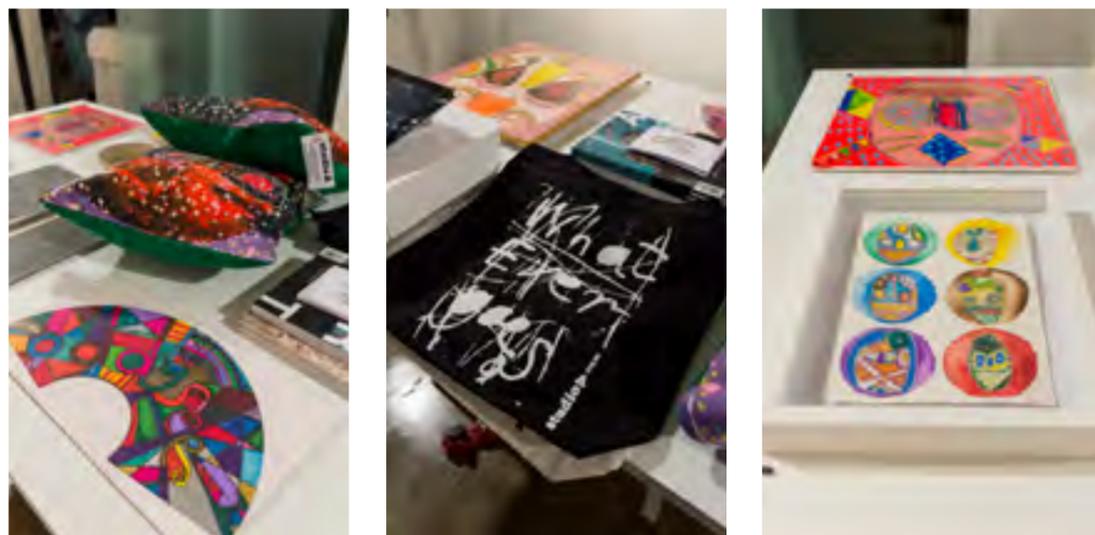
Kristel Saxon, Great Grandfather's Dog, 2020.

“Working with the artists at Studio A introduced me to radical imaginations and courageous hearts that challenged what a poem could be and might mean to the reader and to the creator.”

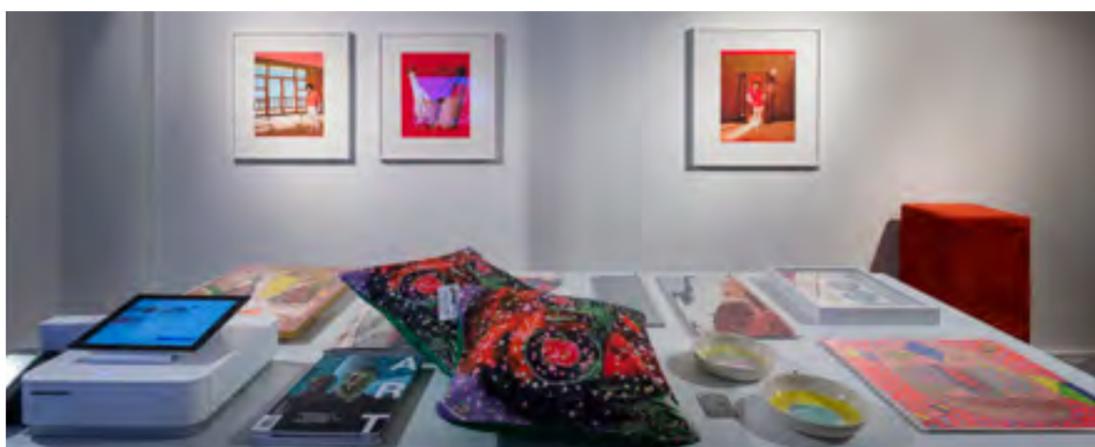
- Johanna Featherstone founder Red Room Poetry

Cement Fondu: Art Store

Following on from our consistent exhibiting partnership with Cement Fondu, in 2019 Studio A was invited to provide a collection of design product and original artwork for Cement Fondu's artist-run art store. Countless works and merchandise have been sold via the store, resulting in additional income and patronage for our artists.



Images by Enzo Amato/Cement Fondu.



Images courtesy of Corban & Blair.

Studio A x Corban & Blair

In 2019 Studio A continued its partnership with designers/manufacturers, Corban & Blair. Artists produced unique designs on Corban & Blair products, creating a bespoke range of lifestyle items adorned with original artwork. The individual pieces are created from products that Corban & Blair want to give a new life: to create authenticity, inspiration and a new narrative that extends a product's life or creates a completely new cultural artefact.

Studio A artworks were also licensed to be used as fabric linings in a product range including luggage tags, coin purses, journals and hold-alls. Information regarding the commissioned artist and their practice is included with these products. Corban & Blair collaborate with artists, designers and artisans to create products that are unique, authentic, and that tell Australian stories.

Audi- ence Engage- ment

Catherine McGuinness, Bush Koala, 2019.



Workshops

Public engagement is a key part of Studio A's creative program. Workshops foster and build creativity in the community and workplace, all while offering engaged employment opportunities to artists with intellectual disability.



- Atlassian artist-in-residence workshop series. Commissioned to host creative workshops for staff each week at the Atlassian offices in Sydney, this series was kicked off by Meagan Pelham but unfortunately cut short due to COVID-19.



- North Sydney Children's Festival. Articulated puppet workshop led by Lauren Kerjan and Catherine McGuinness.



- home workshop with Macarthur Anglican School Camden led by Meagan Pelham.

"(The workshop) encouraged me to go outside my comfort zone with creating with no judgement."

- Macarthur Anglican School student



- Superhero Alter Egos with Greg Sindel at the Coal Loader International Day of People with Disability



- Feather making creative workshop for Museum of Contemporary Art's Bella Plus Connect program led by Lauren Kerjan and Catherine McGuinness.

"The integrity of working with Studio A artists created positive experiences for both our audiences and staff. This has an on-going positive and supportive influence on how we continue to create opportunity for artists with disability to be engaged with our creative learning programs and connect our audience with the work of artists with disability."

- Rachel Ireland Museum of Contemporary Art, Studio A at the Bella Connect Program

Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference

Presentation by Lisa Scott and Chloe Watfern
Hilton, Adelaide, November 2019

In November 2019 Lisa Scott and UNSW PhD student Chloe Watfern travelled to Adelaide for the ASID - Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference.

The two delivered a presentation titled "Taking control through writing and making art", which focused on Lisa's work, primarily a textile artwork hand embroidered with her words. Lisa and Chloe shared their thoughts and research on what artwork means to people with intellectual disability and to the audiences who view it.

"Hi my name is Lisa Scott. I'm an artist. My art is a talent. It is also an experience that I can share with other people."

- Studio A artist Lisa Scott



Thom Roberts, Emily Crockford and Gabrielle Mordy with Tim Reardon, Secretary Department of Premier and Cabinet, and senior staff.

Presentation to Department of Premier and Cabinet

Thom Roberts and Emily Crockford
November 2019

To celebrate International Day of People with Disability 2019, Thom Roberts and Emily Crockford were invited to present at the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Representing Studio A alongside our Artistic Director/CEO Gabrielle Mordy, Thom and Emily were also joined by DPC Secretary Tim Reardon. After screening their episodes from the Studio A ABC Art Bites series, the two shared their stories and work as an introduction to DPC of the disability arts sector.



Online Community

		
Social Media	studioa.org.au	Newsletter
5,500+	52,423	1,020
FOLLOWERS	PAGE VIEWS	SUBSCRIBERS

Bird Life Jungle Disco

19/08/2019

- reach 4,913
- engagement 686

 Studio A



 607  61

- @australiandesigncentre: Congratulations! It's magnificent 🙌👍🥰
- @redstonemarketing.design: Looks amazing! Beautiful and exciting work 🙌🙌🙌
- @antoniaillustration: Stunning, I can't wait to see it in real life

 Studio A



 276  36

- @eggpicnic: Congratulations Thom! What an incredible experience, enjoy Italy!
- @sanchadonald: What a precious experience for you both, and will only add to the deepening credibility of all those behind this residency and studio a.
- @moniquelovingstudio: That is such a treat to read.....have a fab time in Italia. 🙌

Thom goes to Italy!

2/09/2019

- reach 1,349
- engagement 312

home Exhibition

28/10/2019

- reach 1,501
- engagement 257

 Studio A



 257

Media

studio A

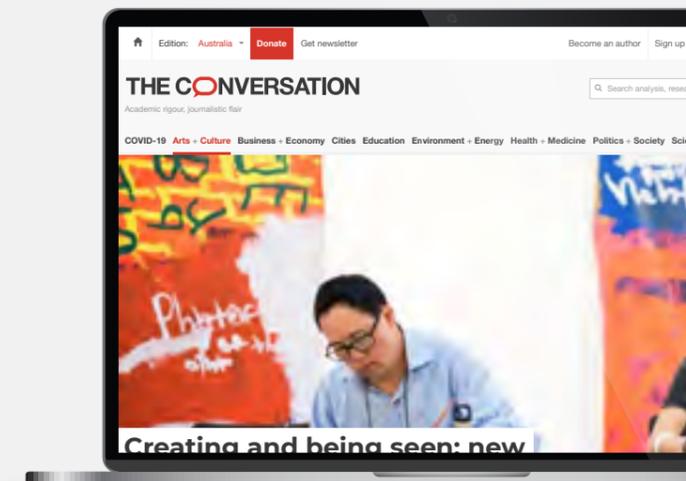
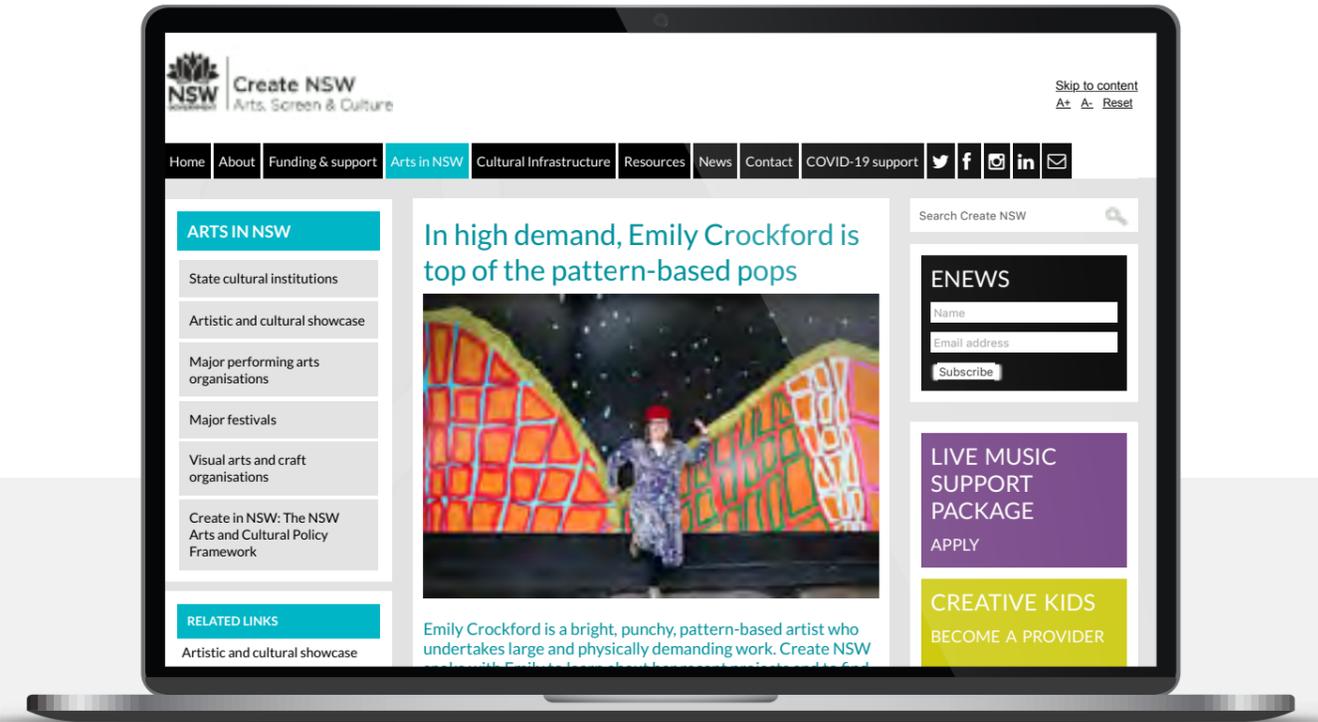
Annette Galstaun, Studio A artist.



studio A

In the Media

- [Mural breaks barriers to a diverse world of public art](#) by Nick Galvin, The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 June 2020
- [In high demand, Emily Crockford is top of the pattern-based pops](#), Create NSW Q&A, 3 December 2019
- [Top 10: Ethical Gift Guide](#) by Penny Craswell, The Design Writer, 28 November 2019
- [It's a jungle in here \(and out there\)](#) by Anita Dawson, U Mag, 6 November 2019
- [Australian artists with disability getting more support to unearth their talents](#) by Charlotte Lam, SBS News, 3 November 2019
- [Creating and being seen: new projects focus on the rights of artists with disabilities](#) by Chloe Watfern, theconversation.com, 23 October 2019
- [Corban & Blair - Women's Product Collaboration](#) by Jade Collins, femeconomy.com, 23 October 2019
- [Exploring Sydney's Social Enterprises](#), by Lisa Cugnetto, Matters Journal, 4 September 2019
- [Oddysee - Skye Saxon](#), by Chloe Watfern, Running Dog, 15 August 2019



Develop- ment



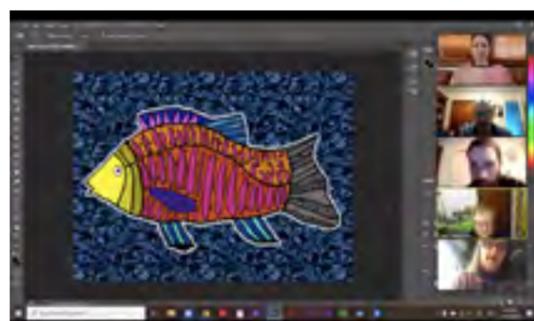
Thom Roberts, Studio A artist. Image courtesy of @godaddy.

COVID Adaptation

In March 2020 Studio A transformed its centre based art studio into a remote working model in the space of one week. We adjusted our service delivery to ensure we were operating in line with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission guidelines for adjusting supports and reducing infection risk during COVID-19.

Studio A worked with each artist and family to design bespoke creative programs to ensure artists were safe and engaged. Programs were delivered digitally, some artists working via Zoom, whilst others practiced from home studios with staff providing 1:1 visits. A very reduced number worked at Studio A to ensure social distancing measures were complied with, and Studio A staff not necessary for supporting artists at Studio A's premises worked from home.

To preserve morale, from March 2020 all Studio A artists and staff met for a conference call via Zoom at 9.30am and 3pm daily. This instilled a sense of structure and community between our artists. Guest artists were recruited to lead specialised creative projects, which provided employment to self employed artists who had overnight lost projects and income. Textile artist Paula do Prado created a collaborative textile work via postal exchange with Studio A artist Katrina Brennan (based in Orange); and performance artists Harriet Body and Rosie Deacon lead daily movement sessions with six Studio A artists. The daily dance helped Studio A artists stay connected and active while working remotely.



The Zoom dance and convos with the artists has been just so wonderful. I find it a really uplifting experience and I know the artists do too...This project has only run for a week but is already touching souls and sparking creativity within the community!! Exciting stuff!

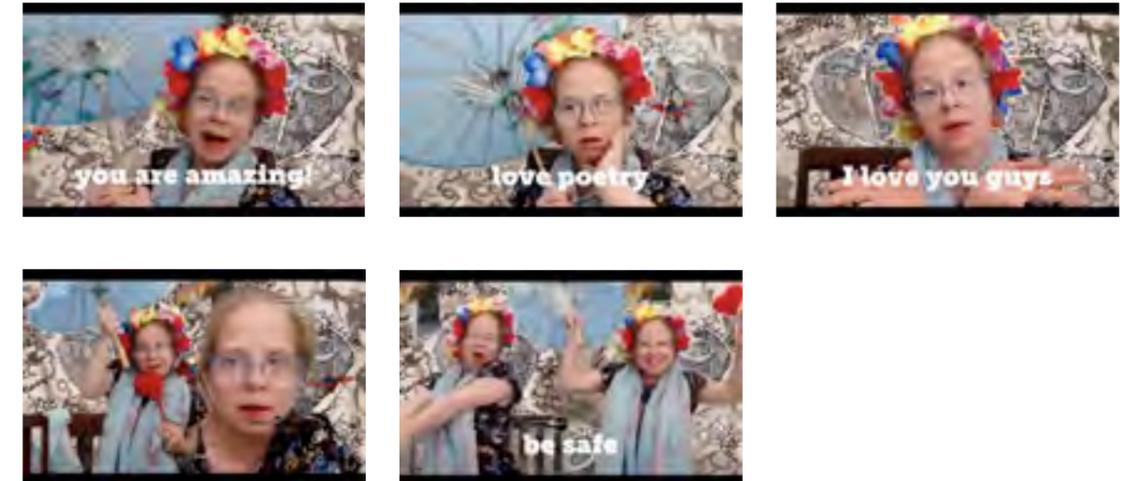
- Harriet Body, Performance Artist

The programme is working really well, Emmy is really loving Zoom!!! I asked her whether she would like to be involved with the digital - answer was "cool". Have a happy weekend - thank you for all your initiatives and creativity - who would have thought our way of life could change so much. Take care, Lots of love, Sue and Emmy.

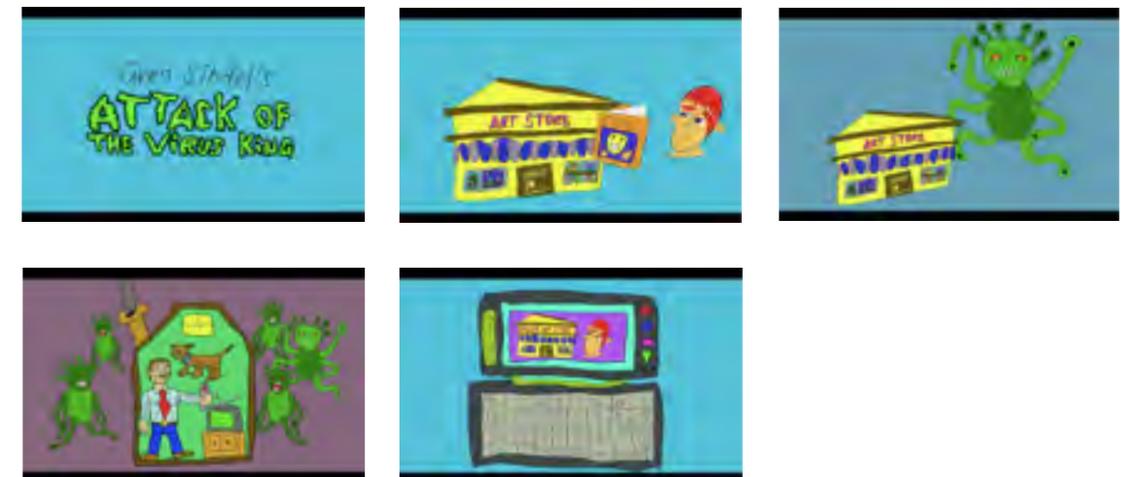
- Sue Crockford, Emily Crockford's mother

Connecting with our audiences

Studio A focused on delivering an engaging, creative and connected artistic program during COVID-19. A program that connected our artists and audiences during this time of isolation. Two key initiatives were Studio A online exhibitions, curated by Studio A's Collection Coordinator Lise Anderson, and Studio A 'Covid Tales', a series of videos produced by Studio A artists in response to the pandemic. The first two online exhibitions - *Annette Galstaun : Flights of Fantasy, Whimsical Dreams & Fairytales* (May 2020) and *Catherine McGuiness: Love and Cockadoos* (June 2020) - received over 200 page views and prompted sales.

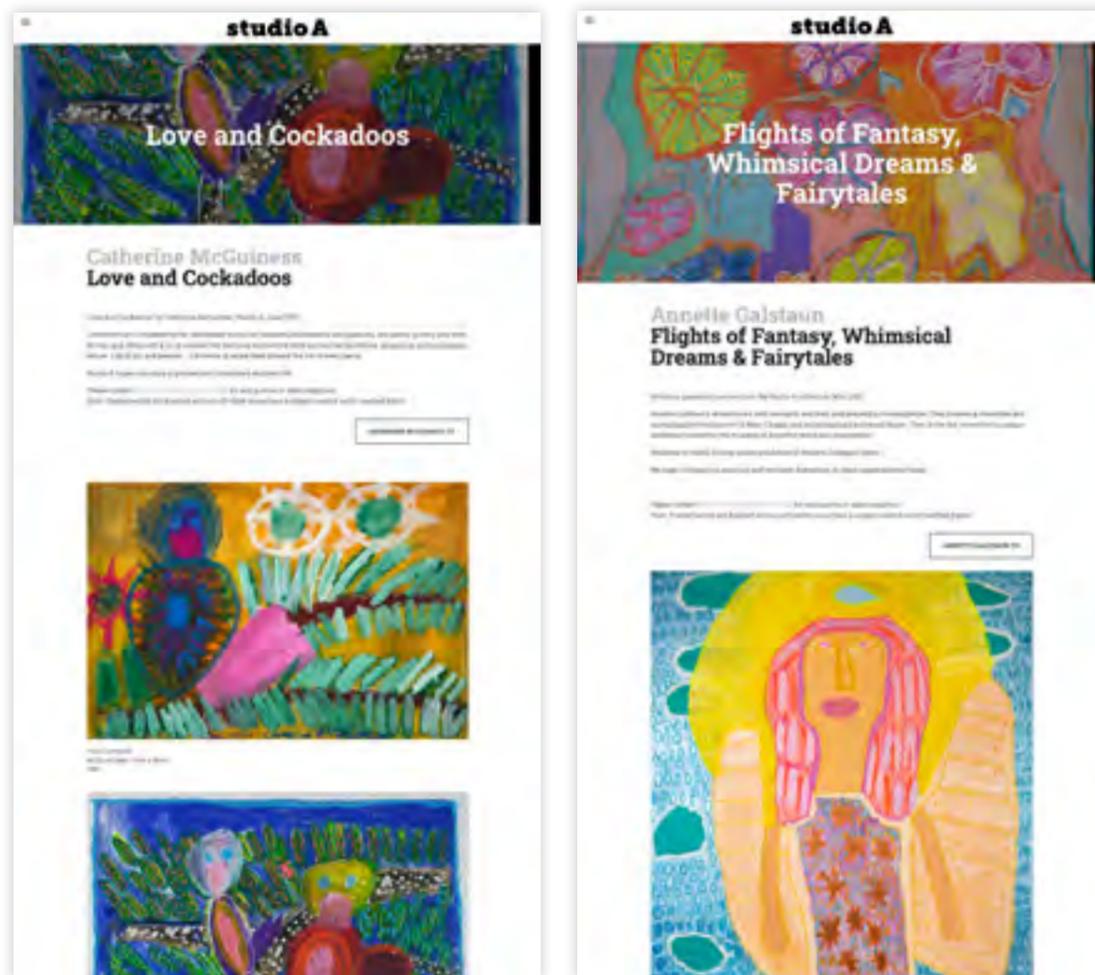


The real star of the program were the Covid Tales: *Greg Sindel's Attack of the Virus King*, which offered Greg Sindel's unique perspective and personal story of the pandemic, and *Meagan Pelham's Message on Love and Life*, an outpouring of comfort and words of affirmation to her studio colleagues, and anyone feeling lonely in the pandemic. "Beautiful supermodel" she declares in the opening, "you are amazing!... You are wonderful wonderful wonderful artists!"



You have done a really fantastic job in remodelling the studio's ability to cater for the artists and staff in the Covid-19 world and we really appreciate it. Regards - Peter, Sharyn and Greg.

- Greg Sindel's family





Meagan Pelham, Home Love Haven Sorceress and Studio A artist

Studio A utilised social media to action a series of audience engagement initiatives. This kick started with *Meagan Pelham's Home Love Haven Sorceress* project that offered romantic musings to survive isolation, Meagan invited people to request her advice on 'how to create romance from a distance'. Studio A received a stream of requests and Meagan busily responded. Her letters and decorated envelopes were posted to all recipients.

"♥♥ Meagan ♥♥♥♥♥ we feel your love from here!"

- Elise Slater, Live Softly

"Seeing your posts always makes me happy. Thank you."

- @daryle_shefloats

New design products

Inspired by the popularity of previous Studio A merchandise we expanded our range of tote bag and notebook designs. Thom Roberts' popular 'Tweety the Fake Train Bird' portrait exhibited in The National 2019 can now be purchased on the cover of an original Studio A notebook. Meagan Pelham's love poetry is available to adorn your own paper journal. Or you can select Annette Galstaun's colourful chattering jungle birds perched in Emily Crockford's lush greenery to get you writing and drawing.

Skye Saxon launched her first tote bag with her distinctive text and phrase 'What ever goes'. Scrawled in her raw graphic style Skye's slogan seemingly encompasses her own approach to art making.



Governance and Financial Report

Damian Showyin, Opera House, 2020.



The Board

Shane Simpson AM, Chair

Shane is Special Counsel at Simpsons Solicitors, a firm specialising in the arts, entertainment, cultural property and copyright. He was the founder of the Arts Law Centre of Australia and Prelude (a national network of composer houses).

He is on the Council of the National Library of Australia and is the independent director on several private foundations.

He was formerly chair of the Bundanon Trust; the Advisory Council of the Faculty of Art + Design, UNSW; the Aboriginal Benefits Foundation; the Peggy Glanville-Hicks Composers' House Trust; the NSW Film and Television Office and Museums and Galleries NSW. He has also been a non-executive director on numerous boards in the cultural industries including: the Australian Maritime Museum; the New Zealand Film Commission; the Australian National Academy of Music; the National Association for the Visual Arts; the Crafts Council of Australia; the Music Council of Australia and the Copyright Agency.

He was appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "service to the law and to the arts through leading roles in intellectual property and entertainment law, and as a contributor to a range of cultural organisations." In 2019 the University of New South Wales awarded him an honorary Doctorate of the University.

Steve Badgery

Head of Customer Experience at LAVO

Steve has breadth of experience across all functions of marketing, business planning and strategy as well as business development and project management. Steve has worked across various functions of marketing at Westpac and CBA as well as previous roles in Agricultural Investment Management with a focus on business planning, corporate advisory and asset management. Steve has recently changed industries and now works in the renewable energy space with a company investing, building and owning community solar farms in regional Australia.

Steve first became connected to Studio A as their mentor on the Social Traders "Crunch" program. Steve worked closely with the team to test and develop a business and marketing plan that would allow Studio A to compete in the corporate sector. Steve is also passionate about building the profiles and forging sustainable career paths for the artists but also ensuring that they gain professional development along the way.

Steve is a lover of the arts having studied art throughout secondary school with a particular interest in modern art and sculpture.

Kim Spinks

Kim Spinks is Director of City People, a new company devoted to culture-led placemaking.

She was previously at Arts (now Create) NSW for twenty years where she worked in a variety of positions including Manager Arts Strategy and Planning, Director Arts Development and Director Strategy & Capacity and for 9 years managed the state funding for theatre and dance. In her last position as Manager Strategic Initiatives she led the team responsible for strategic programs such as the Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Strategy, the Arts and Disability Partnership with FACS, the NSW Health and Arts Framework and Western Sydney. Her responsibilities included policy development and implementation and fundraising.

Prior to working at Arts NSW Kim spent twenty years in the performing arts in many different professional capacities including co-founding Urban Theatre Projects.

Barbara Ward

Barbara Ward is the founder and Managing Director of Impact One an international strategy, capital raising and advisory company. Her vast experience in the above areas and particularly in healthcare range from small to large. Barbara has been awarded several awards for her outstanding contributions to corporate, not for profit and charity sectors. She was also awarded NSW Government Local Woman of the Year 2017, Paul Harris Fellow and NSW Volunteer of the Year 2019.

Barbara is the President of Rotary Club of Sydney, Immediate past President of Australia India Business Council NSW, fellow and former President of Fundraising Institute of Australia. She sits on a number of corporate and charity Boards and is the President of four.

Dan Wright

Commercial Finance Manager - Seven West Media

Dan is an experienced Chartered Accountant currently supporting the News and Public Affairs division at Seven. Dan has also worked across media and retail sectors in Sydney and London. Dan gained his CA with Deloitte in Auckland in 2013 and is a University of Auckland graduate.

Financial Performance

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income		
Fundraising	175,421	131,008
Grants	118,684	113,571
Artist Fees	44,390	53,791
Artwork/ Merchandise Sales	197,704	88,734
NDIS Funding	446,479	325,444
Other income	47,589	1,222
Total revenue	1,030,267	713,770
Expenditure		
Administration	-81,034	-64,864
Artistic	-622,972	-493,338
Studio	-70,632	-65,934
Total Expenses	-774,639	-624,136
Interest income	-1400	680
Surplus for the year	254,228	90,313



Live Softly artisan in Nepal with a Bush Turkey puppet designed by Studio A artist Lisa Scott. Image courtesy of Live Softly.

Income

Where our funding came from in FY20

Fundraising

Donations have increased 34% on FY19 and we sincerely thank all our donors for their generous contributions. Donations are critical to the success of our artists.

Grants

Create NSW is the main contributor of grants for Studio A. Income from Create NSW increased to \$90k in FY20 (FY19: \$80k).

Artist Fees

Artist fees have continued to be strong in FY20, reflecting the development of Studio A artists. Continuing growth in artist fees is key to the success of Studio A as a social enterprise.

Artwork / Merchandise Sales

Artwork and merchandise sales have more than doubled between FY19 and FY20 which is testament to the development of our artists and the value placed on Studio A creations in the community.

NDIS Funding

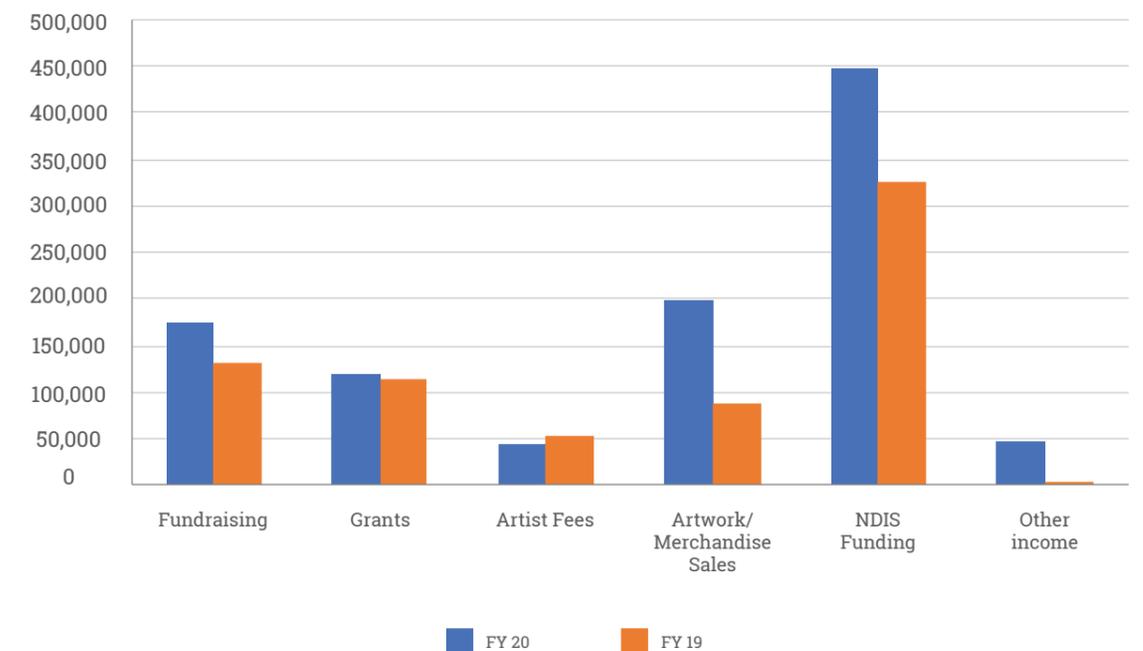
This includes member funding, one on one funding and community access income received from the NDIS on behalf of artists. The increase in NDIS income is due to artists attending increased hours, some with a 1:1 staff ratio.

Other

Other income has increased due to Federal Government COVID-19 support (JobKeeper)



Mathew Calandra, Studio A artist. Image courtesy of Louie Douvis.



Expenditure

How our funding was used in FY20

Administration

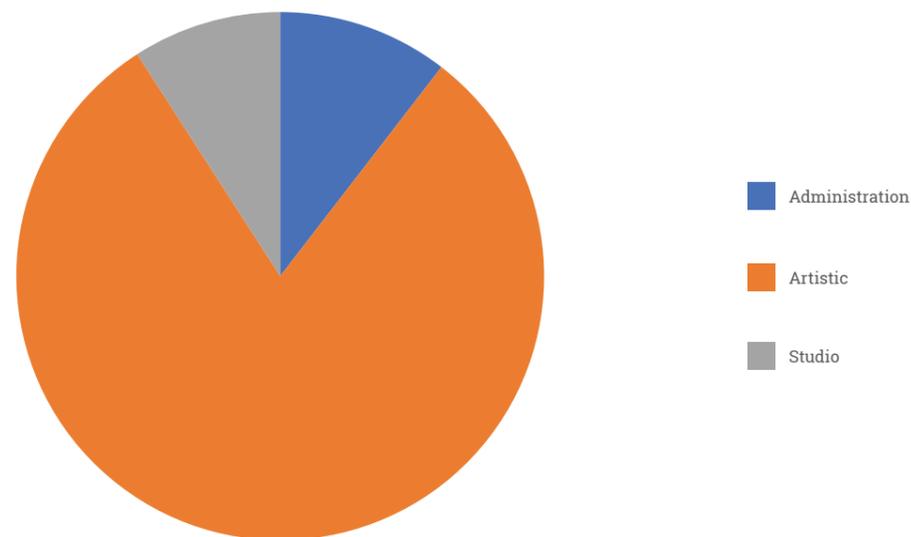
Administration costs are kept low at Studio A and represent just 10% of overall expenditure. This includes travel/fuel costs, accounting, audit fees and insurances.

Artistic

Artistic expenses are at the core of what we do and make up the bulk of Studio A expenditure. This includes payments to our artists, art consumables, framing/printing, artistic staff salaries and guest artist costs.

Studio

This is the cost of 'keeping the lights on' at our Crows Nest studio and includes rent, cleaning, IT support and depreciation.



Daniel Kim, detail of Kingfisher Standing on the Branches, 2020.

Jaycee Kim, Studio A artist. Image courtesy of Jasmine Tate.





On the cover: Victoria Atkinson, Katrina Brennan, Emily Crockford, Annette Galstaun, Meagan Pelham, Lisa Scott and Damian Showyin, Bird Life Jungle Disco, 2019 (in progress detail). Commissioned by University of Technology Sydney for UTS Central. Image courtesy of Andy Roberts.

studio A

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