

MEDIA RELEASE

31 March 2021

Regional Artist Fellowships in high demand

Regional Arts WA has opened its highly competitive Regional Artist Fellowships program again this year. The program will enable four established artists and arts workers to focus on a self-directed program of creative activity and professional development, with \$50,000 each for a period of two years.

The Regional Artist Fellowships will be investing \$200,000 in developing regionally based artist and art workers' careers through the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program (RACIP), supported by the State Government.

Last year, the inaugural Regional Artist Fellowships supported four recipients to strengthen their creative careers in the regions. They were **Alana Hunt**, Kimberley based Artist and Writer; **Monique Tippet**, Peel based Visual Artist, **Helen Siever**, South West based Visual Artist, and **Renee Pettit-Schipp**, a Great Southern based writer.

Renee Pettit-Schipp says receiving the inaugural Regional Artist Fellowship was vital to the development of her career as a regionally based artist.

"What my Regional Artist Fellowship has gifted me is time. It has given me time to think, to consider myself as person in a particular place at a particular point in history, to consider what this means and what my responsibilities are.

"This has been a rich and challenging space to write from and I am excited by the work that is unfolding. The grant has also allowed me the opportunity to collaborate with other artists, meet and consult with elders from Perth to Jerramungup, as well as get behind local creative initiatives—allowing me time to give back to the unique and generous community in which I live."

The Regional Artist Fellowships will close 13 May and for more information, please visit www.regionalartswa.org.au/funding

The Next Level Regional Grants, presented by Drug Aware, are also open and will provide five young emerging artists and arts workers, aged between 18 and 26, funding of \$7,500 each to support their career development in the regions.

The RACIP is administered by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

End.

Media Contact Weng-Si Cheang – Program Manager, Regional Arts WA

P: 08 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall: 1800 811 883 | E: wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au

SUPPORT MATERIAL

About Regional Artists Fellowships Recipients in 2020

1. Renee Schipp (penname Pettitt-Schipp) | Albany | \$50,000 across 2 years

Renee Schipp (penname Pettitt-Schipp) will undertake the development of a manuscript, 'All the Stories We Do Not Know', researching local history and the biodiversity in the Great Southern and to a lesser extent, the Wheatbelt region, to inform a collection of poetry. The Great Southern is a unique biodiversity hotspot under enormous pressures from human impacts such as land clearing and climate change, steeped in a largely unknown and uncelebrated Noongar history. 'All the Stories We Do Not Know' seeks to explore the tensions and contradictions in what it means to be a seventh generation white West Australian living in the shadow of a complex colonial history as well as in the contemporary context of a climate emergency, while being surrounded by abundance and beauty.

2. Alana Hunt | Kununurra | \$50,000 across 2 years

Alana Hunt lives on Miriwoong country in the north-west of Australia. As an artist and writer Alana Hunt's activities are driven by the violence that results from the fragility of nations and the aspirations and failures of colonial dreams—on Miriwoong country and in Kashmir. With the Regional Artists Fellowship, Alana will follow this line of thought through two main activities: making new community-engaged art with Spaced:04 (International Art Space) and for a number of other exhibitions, and writing and publishing the life story of artist and lawman, the late Alan Griffiths. Alana will further cultivate professional relationships and cultural discourse, locally and internationally, through her involvement with Hearth, The Border Line, and the 2020 publication of her decade long work Cups of nun chai with the New Delhi based Yaarbal Books.

3. Helen Seiver | Capel | \$50,000 across 2 years

Helen Seiver is a visual artist from Capel, Western Australia. Helen's practice explores personal narrative through sculpture. Helen regularly use found objects and materials, exploring their unique quality of suggesting time, place and era. Artistic processes often involve long and sometimes quite laborious and repetitive processes which allows time to reflect deeply on the issues she is discussing or working through. Making art gives her processes to investigate, and a platform from which to talk about, the things that really matter to her; be they environmental, political or intensely personal issues. Helen has a fundamental belief in the strength and power of women that is drawn from the everyday and her work reflects this. Frequently Helen is reshaping and reformatting traditional female identified processes with non-traditional welding, woodwork and needlework.

Helen Seiver will undertake a creative development concerning the creation of a deeply personal body of work that speaks to forgiveness and transformation, with wisdom and discernment. The work will attempt to express those concepts, which in truth, 'represent the incomprehensible and non-representational' (Anselm Keifer). The Fellowship will allow financial support, space and reflection time needed to work through and experiment with ideas that life has pushed aside: allowing Helen to extend the boundaries of her practice, concepts materials and processes.

4. Monique Tippet | Dwellingup | \$50,000 across 2 years

Monique Tippet is a visual and sculptural artist based in Dwellingup, in the Peel region of Western Australia. She will undertake two years of intense, artistic output and creative innovation, culminating in three distinct solo exhibitions. Significant invitational shows at Gallery 25 Edith Cowan University, Holmes á Court Gallery in West Perth and Bunbury Regional Art Gallery. Monique will also be creating new work as one of seven headline artists for the 2021 Indian Ocean Craft Triennial. Monique's artist run initiative, Lost Eden Creative in Dwellingup, is also a satellite venue for the Triennial and will be curating, participating in, and hosting a group exhibition as part of this significant cultural event for Perth and Indian Ocean rim countries.

About Regional Arts WA

Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities. More at: www.regionalartswa.org.au

About Regional Arts and Culture Investment Program

The Regional Arts and Culture Investment Program will deliver almost \$20 million over four years to regional WA. The purpose of the program is creating jobs, economic development, tourism and improving social cohesion by supporting the creative and cultural industries in regional Western Australia. Through strategic investments, it will build capacity in the regions and contribute to liveability and vibrancy of regional communities.