

MEDIA RELEASE

5 July 2021

Fellowships Strengthens Four Artists across Regional WA

Four established artists from regional Western Australia will receive \$50,000 each over two years, through Regional Arts WA's Regional Artist Fellowship program, supported by the State Government's Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program (RACIP).

The Regional Artist Fellowships will go to Abdul-Rahman Abdullah (Peel), Adelina Adrianna Larsson Mendoza (South West), Annette Carmichael (Great Southern) and Chloe Flockart (Wheatbelt). They will use their Fellowships to extend their practice, build new networks and connections across the sector, and strengthen their careers.

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah

Keluarga (family) - A Shared Story

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah will explore new modes of storytelling through a visual language that is immersive, technically challenging and accessible to broad audiences, including families and young children. He will work in close collaboration on different projects with family; his brother; Abdul Abdullah and wife Anna Louise Richardson, while building a creative relationship with mother/daughter, metro/regional artistic duo Jill and Holly O'Meehan, 'Golden Wattle Hookers'.

Adelina Adrianna Larsson Mendoza

Min Folkdans – Creative Development

Adelina Adrianna Larsson Mendoza will draw from her extensive experience working in collaborative processes with inter-disciplinary artists and community to create an original choreographic solo work in collaboration with four regional Culturally and Linguistically Diverse artists to create 'Min Folkdans' ('My Folk Dance') that explores diaspora, identity and new cultural myths. She will also develop a community project; 'Din Folkdans' ('Your Folk Dance') that aims to promote cultural rights and visibility for the regional multicultural community.

Annette Carmichael

The Beauty Index 2017-2021 – Men who Dance are Happy

Annette Carmichael will develop and publish a book which will enhance a broader understanding of the value of the arts to regional communities. It will focus on the stories and research attached to The Beauty Index, a men's dance project created with communities of men in regional WA, 2017-2021. Through this fellowship she will build her capacity in public speaking through a mentorship program and develop a series of scripts for keynote addresses for presentation to non-arts sector audiences and public sector conferences.

Chloe Flockart

Practice transition- from puppetry arts to projection mapping

Chloe Flockart will undertake a 2-year practice transition from venue and theatre based artforms, to developing and presenting visual theatre in public spaces facilitated through projection mapping technology. She will undergo mentoring with Illuminart and Lewis Horne, and work with Meridian Regional Arts Inc to deliver two projection mapping projects in the Shire of Merredin.

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says the Regional Artist Fellowships will provide pivotal support to established artists to sustain a career in regional Western Australia.

“The demand for Regional Artist Fellowships continues as we see a large amount of applications in the second year of the program. The number of high calibre artists applying for a Fellowship demonstrates a strong level of artistic excellence in the regions.

“Funding like the Regional Artist Fellowships is pivotal in enabling artists to stay and contribute to their regional communities in a long-term sustainable approach, where they have the freedom to seek their own career pathways, at their own pace.”

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

End.

****To see full artist bios and statements, please see the Support Materials (next page).***

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SUPPORT MATERIALS

Regional Artist Fellowships Recipients

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah | Peel | \$50,000 across 2 years

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah lives and works on Wadjuk Nyungar country in the Peel region. His practice explores the different ways that memory can inhabit and emerge from familial spaces. While his personal experiences as a Muslim Australian of mixed Malay and Anglo ethnicity provide a starting point, his work foregrounds shared understandings of individual identity from a cross-cultural perspective, creating new mythologies for an uncertain future.

Working primarily in sculpture and installation, Abdullah's work has been described as 'magic realism', creating poetic interventions with the built environment and since 2014 he has been exploring realistic wood carving alongside sourced materials, domestic objects and atmospheric lighting to create emotive environments and unexpected encounters.

The fellowship will allow Abdul-Rahman to expand on common threads of intuitive exchange, inter-generational knowledge and mutual understanding over a two year period of related projects, building on a network of relationships with artists in Mardella, Borden and Fremantle, and galleries in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Bowral and Newcastle. Understanding how shared perspectives on the ways that identity is framed by geography and placemaking is key to communicating the complexities of contemporary Australian life.

Scheduled projects will bring together different approaches to art making including woodcarving, painting, drawing, crochet, digital illustration and embroidery alongside critically engaged public programming, fully developed in regional WA for confirmed exhibitions in WA, VIC and NSW. Developing collaborative relationships allows for creative outputs far greater than the sum of parts, amplifying bonds of family through materiality, narrative and inclusive cultural perspectives.

Abdullah is a current board member for Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, founding member of eleven collective; a group of Muslim Australian creative practitioners and is commercially represented by Moore Contemporary, Perth, WA. Abdullah's longer term goal is to become an active participant in pressing cultural conversations and contribute to broader artistic narratives around Australia and internationally.

Adelina Adrianna Larsson Mendoza | South West | \$50,000 across 2 years

Adelina Adrianna Larsson Mendoza is a Swedish/Mexican choreographer, curator, producer, performer and educator. She trained at DOCH, Stockholm and CODARTS, Rotterdam.

Through this Fellowship and in addition to the choreographic development work with four CALD artists, she will also facilitate a community project; 'Din Folkdans' ('Your Folk Dance') that aims to promote cultural rights and visibility for the regional multicultural community and aims to develop and deepen her artistic intentions within a social arts paradigm that drives social change and promotes skill-development for young CaLD participants in the South West.

Adelina has been affiliated with Critical Path Choreographic Centre as Associate Artist (2017-2019) and was the Caretaker of ReadyMade Works - a centre for independent artists based in Sydney and regional NSW. Adelina is the recipient of the 2020 Australian Dance Award for Independent Dance

for her choreographic work 'In the Rite II: Solo' commissioned and performed at the WA State Theatre Centre's Heath Ledger Theatre.

She is also the founder and director of Strange Attractor Lab (an interdisciplinary lab that focuses on experimentation and artistic research) and a long-serving Associate Artist with BighART, an arts and social change company, contributing to the creative direction of the company with a range of interdisciplinary skills.

Annette Carmichael | Great Southern | \$50,000 across 2 years

Annette Carmichael is an Australian dance artist and creative producer who specialises in regional cultural development and community engagement. Annette has created numerous multi-art projects that use contemporary dance at their core but also include theatre, writing, music, textiles, photography, film and installation.

Recent works include Solace+Yearning (2012 & 2014), My War? (2015), The Creation of Now (2015, commissioned by Ausdance WA), The Snake Run Project (2016, for Perth Festival and City of Albany), The Beauty Index (2017 for Brave New Works festival) and A Light Shade of Red (2018, Albany Entertainment Centre). These works were created in collaboration with regional sound, visual and media artists and a range of community partners.

In 2020, Annette created Chorus a dance work for 150 women that completes a trilogy of community dance works examining violence, beauty and compassion. The Beauty Index is currently touring regional Western Australia and has engaged 40 men in the creation of 5 unique iterations of the work in Moora, Kalgoorlie, Mandurah, Harvey and Ravensthorpe.

Annette is a published author with one e-book "Solace & Yearning: Poetry of Dance and Belonging" (2014, Vivid Publishing) and co-author of an academic article on Future Landings with Dr. Julia Anwar McHenry (Journal of Rural Health, 2018). She is currently collaborating with Dr. Vahri McKenzie on a book chapter and academic articles about Chorus.

Annette provides professional development services to CircuitWest, regional touring network and often speaks on community development and the arts at State and National conferences. In 2019 Annette was Curatorial Chair of the National Dance Forum, Darwin and was a member of the Australian delegation attending the IETM Spring Plenary Session in UK. In 2018 & 2019 Annette collaborated with PAC Australia's Executive Director, Rick Heath to deliver the PowerPAC workshops to community leaders and LGA elected members and senior staff in regional WA and QLD.

In 2020, Annette was Independent Facilitator for Regional Arts WA, Regional Arts Sector Investment Program. She is known for her extended knowledge of the various contexts, challenges and strengths of the regional arts sector in Australia. Annette has coached over 25 regional artists and artworkers through her development program An Ecosystem for Art and Ideas that has resulted in scores of arts projects being delivered in regional WA. Between 2009 – 2013 Annette was the State's Regional Contemporary Dance Facilitator for Ausdance WA creating the ground-breaking 'Future Landings' model for animating regional communities through dance. As an Arts Manager Annette has worked with leading arts organisations in Western Australia and London. She is a graduate of West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (BA Arts Man. 1996). "The scale of Carmichael's achievement, both on and off stage, is immense." Nina Levy, SeeSaw Magazine,

2020. Australian Dance Award (shortlist 2018 & 2012) Recipient Tasdance Residency by Invitation Only (2016) West Australian Dance Award (winner 2011, shortlist 2013)

Chloe Flockart | Wheatbelt | \$50,000 across 2 years

Chloe Flockart is a multidisciplinary artist from Central Wheatbelt/Njaki Njaki land, specialising in dramaturgy, puppetry, design, visual arts and community practice.

She has worked with Black Swan STC, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Barking Gecko, Awesome Arts, Cirque Du Soleil, Emergency Exit Arts UK, and Moving Parts Arts UK, The Last Great Hunt, has been nominated for a PAWA award and worked on Helpmann and DORA award-winning and nominated shows as puppet mentor and maker.

In 2020 she was awarded an exceptional talent visa for the UK to spend 5 years creating theatre work with marginalised communities, however, due to Covid-19 was unable to fulfil the commitment, and instead remained in Merredin and assisted with the creation of an online puppet school for low-income households, built puppets for a Screenwest funded project, and WA company The Last Great Hunt, and formed a not-for-profit company; Meridian Regional Arts Inc which focuses on generating arts opportunities in the Central Wheatbelt region.

In late 2021 she will also be completing an Ebb+Flow residency in Carnamah (a Regional Arts Network project), with fellow regional artist Vahri Mckenzie, directing a work of puppetry based in the UK online via zoom, and completing a Playing Australia tour with The Last Great Hunt.

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 the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program

The Regional Artist Fellowships is supported by the Departments of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries, and Primary Industries and Regional Development through the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program, and Regional Arts WA

The purpose of the program is to drive the creation of jobs, drive economic development and tourism and improve social cohesion by supporting the creative and cultural industries in regional Western Australia. Through strategic investments, the program aims to build capacity in the regions and contribute to liveability and vibrancy of regional communities.