

Unmapping: Charting New Paths to Creativity Commission

2017-2018

Project Brief

Project Overview

The Sydney Story Factory (SSF) and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) are seeking to appoint four artists to collaborate on a workshop program, titled *Unmapping*, that will take place throughout 2017-2018. As part of this program artists will devise and create an original work to be housed at SSF for a period of three to six months, as well as develop a teachable explanation of their creative process alongside the SSF and MCA learning teams.

Unmapping: Charting New Paths to Creativity is an extended workshop experience for 160 primary and secondary students to develop creative stories with artists and writers as mentors. Artists will guide art and writing workshops led by experienced MCA Artist Educators and SSF workshop leaders and assisted by volunteers at the SSF and taking place across both venues.

Unmapping will also lead to the development of 4 new artworks by leading contemporary Australian artists to be installed in the SSF over the program period. Artists may include MCA Artist Educators or guest artists. Participating artists may explore a diverse range of art forms, including drawing, painting, sculpture, performance, textiles, photography and digital forms (including sound and video).

SSF runs free creative writing and storytelling workshops for young people aged 7 to 17, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds. Programs aim to give young people the skills and confidence with language that are essential for future success.

Through the National Centre of Creative Learning (NCCL), MCA Learning provides tailored creative learning programs for students and teachers and produces online resources to support engagement with the MCA Collection and Exhibitions. MCA Artist Educators facilitate gallery explorations, hands-on workshops and online learning experiences which encourage students and teachers to look and think about contemporary art in new ways.

The *Unmapping* Program

The *Unmapping* program will see students embark on a journey through the creative process, tracking the development, creation, and reflection of a professional visual artist, and remoulding the artists' practices into their own creative writing journey.

The aims of the program are:

- To encourage participants to explore different creative processes through the mentorship and modelled example of professional artists, writers and educators.
- To challenge students to seek inspiration from contemporary art and artists, and show them the possibilities of visual storytelling, including (but not limited to) collage, movement, performance and digital forms, such as sound and video.
- To encourage students to negotiate the world and find individual methods to share their stories including visual, kinaesthetic, non-linear and non-written means that will fit into their ongoing everyday experiences.
- To assist students in devising a piece of creative writing that is process driven.

- To broaden students' attitudes and understanding of the creative process, including diverse perspectives of Australian contemporary artists.
- To encourage students to take risks with their writing and approach storytelling in new and creative ways.
- To support young people to develop critical social skills through collaboration.
- To include a variety of students, particularly Indigenous students, students for whom English is a second language, and those with additional learning support needs.
- To extend skills and creative processes of our own through the collaboration between the two organisations to better inform our workshops and teaching practice in the future.
- To give additional students and the greater public access to view and reflect on the work at the SSF/ in the SSF shop front window during its period of installation, and interact with the artwork through ongoing digital activities created by SSF.

SSF and MCA Collaboration to Date

In 2012, the Balnaves Foundation generously funded a joint program between the SSF and MCA. The 6-week program saw 20 marginalised primary students produce their very own stop motion animated films. Their films were screened in the National Centre for Creative Learning at the MCA for an audience of family, friends and community. Feedback on the program was very positive.

The program showed the powerful ways that literary and visual storytelling could overlap. Moreover, students demonstrated greater confidence in their creativity and ability to tell their own stories. This proposal builds on these insights and seeks to explore in more depth the intersection of the creative processes involved in visual and literary storytelling.

Both the SSF and the MCA are deeply committed to providing marginalised, and particularly Indigenous, young people with arts and creative learning opportunities that will allow them to flourish and ultimately build a better Australia.

Project Brief for Artists

In responding to the *Unmapping* program brief, please consider the two essential artist components, **Workshops** and **Artwork**.

WORKSHOPS

- **Learning opportunities**
 - The *Unmapping* program looks to engage young people with the process of creative writing through alternative perspectives, tracing the footsteps of artists as they devise and create a work and following this path to a creative outcome in the form of writing.
 - The artist will be a key collaborator in two workshop programs, one for primary aged students and one for high school aged students. These two programs will run simultaneously for eight weeks each. The artist will need to be available to co-deliver four workshops in each program (ie. two primary and two high school), two at the beginning of the program and two at the end.
 - The artist will need to unpack and explain their creative process to the young people involved in these workshops. Prior to the beginning of the workshop program the artist will work with learning experts from both SSF and the MCA to devise workshop strategies and scaffolded creative experiences for young people that will use the artists' own process as a launching point for creative writing activities and art-making experiences at the Museum.
 - Workshops will be from 60 – 90 minutes in length, during school hours.
- **Availability**
 - The artist will need to be available for up to two collaborative meetings with SSF and MCA staff prior to the commencement of the workshop programs. The conversations in these meetings will guide the *Unmapping* program, assisting in the learning teams interpreting the artist's process and creating workshop activities for students based on these processes.
 - The artist will need to be present at four workshops per program (two primary, two high school). This will include two workshops at the beginning of the program (held at SSF, during the week beginning Oct 16th), meeting with and working with young people as they explore process, and two final workshops (one primary, one high school, during the week beginning Nov 27th) at SSF, where the completed artwork will be launched, and students and artist can reflect together on their shared and differing processes.
 - A written reflection on the program will be requested on completion of the program. This will be used to evaluate the program and for future promotions of the program and both organisations.

ARTWORK

- **Commission:** Artists will be commissioned to create a new work to be installed at Sydney Story Factory to be exhibited for three to six months. Participating artists may explore a diverse range of art forms, including drawing, painting, sculpture, performance, textiles, photography and digital forms (including sound and video).
- **Completion and Deadlines:** The artwork must be produced within a five-week period, with conception to coincide with the first student workshops, and completed installation before the final workshops. The development and construction of the artwork can take place either at SSF, or a location of the artist's choice, before final installation on the site.

- **Content:** The content should be suitable for an all ages audience.
- **Learning opportunities:** The artwork will be used as the basis for a range of creative learning and educational opportunities in relation to the stated aims of the Sydney Story Factory. The art forms and processes of the proposed artwork will inform the learning experiences developed for primary and secondary students in the Unmapping workshops.
- **Consultation:** The MCA and SSF will consider the inclusion of children, people with specific needs, Indigenous and other community groups and support agencies and will discuss these needs with the artist during the artwork's conception. SSF and the MCA will consult with representatives of learners with specific needs, Indigenous and other community groups and support agencies. The artist may be required to adjust their proposed artwork during installation to be accessible to audiences with access requirements.
- **Sustainability and ongoing maintenance:** The artwork should be robust and require minimal maintenance by Sydney Story Factory staff over the course of the three to six-month period of exhibition. Consideration must be given to the impact on the artwork as it is exposed to students and the general public.
- **Promotion:** The *Unmapping* program will be used as a key promotional point for the SSF and MCA throughout 2017 and 2018. The artist is encouraged to document the process and final work, and share their experience of the project through their social media channels and networks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **Diverse audiences:** Students participating in SSF workshops range in age from 8 – 18yrs old. Beyond that, the artwork will be available for viewing by the general public on a daily basis.
- **Access Needs:** Beyond the Primary and Secondary workshops we are running for Unmapping, the artwork may be accessed by all of SSF visitors. While the Unmapping program is not designed specifically for people with access requirement, the artwork will be accessed by people with a range of access needs, including physical, intellectual, behavioural or sensory disability. This includes diverse needs, with examples including people who: are blind or vision impaired; are deaf or hard of hearing; are non-verbal; use a wheelchair; have an intellectual disability; have mental health support needs; have challenging behaviour; have autism spectrum disorders; have cerebral palsy; have Down syndrome.
- **Ongoing Interaction:** The artwork will be installed for three to six months at SSF, with students from other workshop programs and the general public having the opportunity to view the artwork. A series of prompts and provocations (as devised by SSF learning staff) will be in place at SSF, encouraging people to respond creatively to the artwork and share their results.

Artist Submission

Artist must submit a proposal (roughly one page in length) that includes:

- Artist Statement, including an explanation of their artistic process.
- A proposal for the artwork, including a description of how the work could be installed in the SSF front window/ foyer.
- References (attached or online)- max. 5 PDF images or links to previous works online.
- A brief budgetary outline, with reference to materials, transport, and installation costs.
- A statement of any relevant experience in arts education.

Approximate Installation Space

- The installation space is approximately 1600 x 1200mm with floor to ceiling height of 2500mm
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- Space has concrete flooring and minimal access to walls (ie. Artwork will need to be mostly freestanding).
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- Space is in store front window and will be viewed by pedestrians.

Project Timeline – Phase 1

By 24 Aug 2017	Artists are approached to book interviews for August Mon 28 th
By 30 Aug 2017	One artist is invited to undertake the Commission and a draft Letter of Agreement is sent
By 24 Sept 2017	The artist will make a site visit to the SSF, and to the MCA to meet with the SSF and MCA Learning/ education team to present artwork proposal and plan workshop. Artist fee #1 (60%) paid.
Oct 16 2017	Workshops begin at SSF. Artwork commences.
Nov 13 2017	Artwork is complete and installed.
By 1 December 2017	Artwork and final results of program are launched. Artist fee #2 (40%) is paid.
By 1 December 2017	Reflection and evaluation undertaken by SSF and MCA.
Until 1 May 2018	Artwork remains on display and used as inspiration for future workshops. Artist completes evaluation form to help shape further development of Unmapped program.

Project Budget

Artist fee: \$5000

Fee includes:

- Attendance and transportation for 2 x consultation meetings (eg. \$200 x 2)
- Attendance and transportation for 4 x 90 minute workshops (eg. \$300 x 4)

- Time and materials for artwork construction, transportation and installation (eg. \$3400)

Artist must submit brief outline of budget allocation.

Project Team

Project Management and Creative learning	Matt Roden , Sydney Story Factory Creative Projects Manager	matt@sydneystoryfactory.org.au 0404707209
	Cara MacLeod , Museum of Contemporary Art Manager, Student & Teacher Engagement	61 2 9245 2444 cara.macleod@mca.com.au

Project brief prepared by + date: Matt Roden 07/12/2017
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