

Re: Letter of support for Arts Capital 5 year funding application

As a current resident of Gorman Arts Centre, I am writing to strongly support Arts Capital's application for 5 year organisation funding from Arts ACT.

For more than 20 years, I have been developing my practice as a contemporary jeweller which is strongly influenced by the Bauhaus and Constructivist movements, striving for order and balance and seeking to reduce each piece to its necessary elements. Over this period, I have exhibited extensively with notable exhibitions such as *A fine Possession* (Powerhouse Museum, 2014), *Melbourne Now* (NGV, 2013) and *The Way We Wear* (Embassy of Australia, Washington DC, 2019). My work has been acquired by permanent collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Powerhouse Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia and I have received awards including a Victorian Premier's Design Mark, DESIGN Canberra designer-in-residence and Grants from Arts ACT, Arts Victoria, Australia Council, City of Melbourne and CAPO. I am a Professional Accredited Member of Craft ACT and have taught at the ANU School of Art and Design and NMIT in Melbourne.

Since 2017, I have enjoyed the privilege of working from Gorman Arts Centre where I love the combination of being able to work uninterrupted in my studio while still being part of a vibrant creative community. Finding affordable and secure studio space has been one of the biggest challenges of my career. Before settling at Gorman Arts Centre, I had relocated my studio 8 times in a 12-year period, which obviously has a significant impact on my ability to develop my work and earn a living. Gorman Arts Centre has provided me with long term studio accommodation with the added support of excellent administration facilities such as concierge for deliveries, access to meeting rooms, printing and copying as well as excellent maintenance of shared facilities such as kitchens, gardens and bathrooms. These things may sound small, but the excellent delivery of all these services as well as the supportive and capable A+G staff has had a huge impact on my productivity and professionalism and has really helped me carry on as a sole practitioner during these challenging times. I'm truly grateful of the rental relief offered by Arts Capital to support their resident artists during the pandemic and their hard work to develop Covid safe strategies that would enable our work as residents to continue wherever possible.

During my time at A+G, I have enjoyed being involved in a number of highly successful Open Studio events, some initiated by A+G and others as part of the DESIGN Canberra festival. I've also benefited from participating in the A+G *Artist Toolkit Program* and other initiatives such as visiting artist talks, information sessions and social gatherings. These opportunities are so enriching for my practice which is most often undertaken in a solo capacity. I've also enjoyed more informal exchanges with my fellow residents, providing inspiration, support and information to each other.

A+G strive to facilitate emerging and experimental arts practice, development opportunities and cultural participation. Some of my most memorable experiences of their programs include *Sensory Art Lab* (2022) a highly engaging hands-on experience for young and old and *Pheno* performing live at Ainslie Art Centre – an extraordinarily intimate live performance.

My ongoing tenancy at A+G enables me to continue my acclaimed craft practice encompassing production and custom jewellery making alongside regular exhibitions of new creative projects. By adequately supporting Arts Capital to continue their important work as stewards of these Art Centres, Arts ACT will be supporting the many excellent art practitioners and organisations currently thriving as part of the A+G community and strongly benefit the wider community who are enriched by all of our creative endeavours.

Phoebe Porter

Phoebe Porter 5 Sept 2022

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