

OPEN CALL FOR HYPHENATED BIENNIAL

Development and presentation opportunities for First Nations and Asian-Australian artists

Hyphenated Projects acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation, on whose land we operate. We pay our respects to their Elders and acknowledge that this land was never ceded and we occupy it as uninvited guests.

Curated by Hyphenated Projects (Nikki Lam and Phuong Ngo) in collaboration with an external curatorial committee (Eugenia Flynn, Nur Shkempi, Tian Zhang, Erica McCalman, Kat Clarke, Lana Nguyen and Soo-Min Shim), the Hyphenated Biennial is our first large-scale project that hopes to facilitate ongoing dialogues and collaborations in solidarity with First Nations artists, with Asian diasporic artists living and working in so-called Australia today. We want to challenge artists to decentralise the white gaze in their work, and instead, centralise their art making in questioning how we could build stronger communities in solidarity with each other. Acknowledging that while Asian diaspora often deals with their own cultural narratives and/or own struggles with colonialism, settlers of colour are contributing to the ongoing colonisation of this land and the dispossession of First Nations people.

We would like to invite First Nations artists to set the tone and context for this biennial. We would like to nurture meaningful relationships between First Nations and Asian-Australian artists, and to be guided by the de/anti-colonial practices of First Nations artists. Drawing upon the long history of exchanges between First Nations communities with Asia and Asian-Australian communities, we want to invite artists to consider their relationships with these communities who might also once have been colonised themselves. We want to generate new and sustainable forms of compassion and solidarity between communities of colonised and formerly colonised people, while acknowledging the ongoing colonisation that continues here today.

As a provocation, we would like to invite Asian-Australian artists to imagine a practice that centres this discomfort and interrogates migrant narratives in Australia. We want artists to consider their own process of decolonisation in 'Australia', when they or their ancestors may have once been colonised themselves.

Presented in collaboration with LIMINAL, The SUBSTATION, Incinerator Gallery, Footscray Community Arts Centre and Brimbank City Council, the first outcomes are planned to be delivered in November/December 2020. Selected artists will be given opportunities to take up an artist residency at Hyphenated Projects and/or with one of our presenting partners in Melbourne's west and online. Considering the evolving situation of travel and public gathering, the biennial will have a strong focus on development, and presentation will be negotiable once development has taken place.

A Note on Identities:

We understand the term First Nations peoples refers to different Indigenous peoples around the world, but we use the term here to refer to artists who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders.

We understand the broad and contentious interpretations around 'Asian-Australian' identity. This project is about unpacking some of the complexities caught up in this hyphen, and working towards a meaningful and nuanced representation that goes beyond what is broadly interpreted as 'Asian-Australian'. We welcome everyone who identifies as being part of the Asian-Pacific diaspora including South and Southeast Asia, North Asia, West Asia (Middle East, Iran, Turkey and surrounding regions) and Pacific.

About Hyphenated Projects:

Hyphenated Projects is a platform for artists with transcultural practices and a collective that presents, collaborates and develops new ideas. Hyphenated Projects focus our work on supporting artists who operate with the hyphens: culturally, socially and geographically. Situated in a suburban house in Sunshine West, the space supports artists, producers and researchers through an on-going studio residency and development program.

About the Residency:

Hyphenated Projects is a space for development and experimentation for artists all year round. The residency offers artists, writers and producers access to a studio space within a private residence in Sunshine West, Melbourne that includes a full kitchen, bathroom, outdoor space and laundry. If selected, you will have access to the whole private residence/studio. The residence is accessible via public transport. The house has wheelchair access upon request.

The length of residency will be negotiated upon selection. If you have specific questions about the residency, please contact us via email.

What we are looking for:

- An unrealised idea that fits the Hyphenated Biennial theme in any contemporary artforms that could be presented in a gallery, public or digital context, including visual art forms, interdisciplinary, performance, sound works and other creative interventions;
- Artists who are interested in participating but yet to develop an idea are welcome to apply. Please attach your portfolio as support material;
- Artists/Writers who are interested in contributing to the biennial's public program in 2020 or 2021.

Who we are looking for:

- First Nations artists and Asian-Australian artists living and working in Australia;
- Artists at all stages of their careers are welcome to apply;
- Groups and collectives are welcome to apply;
However due to limited resources, a group or collective will receive the same amount in artist fee and travel / production support as an individual artist.

What we offer:

- An artist residency at Hyphenated Projects and/or one of our presenting partners (duration varies, minimum 1 week) with a modest stipend (~\$70/day) and free accommodation;
- Mentorship from Hyphenated Projects and curatorial committee members;
- Presentation opportunities as part of Hyphenated Biennial in 2020/2021, an artist fee at \$1500 per project and production support upon negotiation;
- For interstate artists, we will offer return flight(s) from your nearest city and some travel allowance for your residency and/or presentation.

How do we select:

- The curatorial committee and team will be selecting based on artistic merits of the idea/portfolio, relevance to the biennial themes, and history of artistic practice;
- The committee will consider equal representations in the selection;
- If applicable, the committee will consider scale and viability of the project;
- Up to 12 applicants will be selected to participate in the residency program at Hyphenated Projects as well as presentation at Hyphenated Biennial;
- Artists may be selected to participate in the biennial's public program or participate in a future residency program at Hyphenated Projects;
- We highly recommend that you speak to us before you apply.
You can email us at hyphenated.projects@gmail.com

How to apply:

- Submissions close: Sunday 12 July midnight (AEST)
- Before you apply, please read our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#).
- Fill in the form [via this link](#).
- Upload your support material to Dropbox/Google Drive and include the link in the online application form, or upload directly via Google form;
- We accept support material in the following formats:
 - up to 10 images (jpegs/PDF) (max 100MB)
 - up to 5 minutes of video or audio (if applicable)
 - up to 2 pages of written material (if applicable)

- If you are providing a link to your support material, please make sure you've set permission for us to view. For how to share Google Drive link, [please visit here](#). If it is a password protected link, please make sure you have included your password in your submission form.
- For enquiries or technical issues, please email: hyphenated.projects@gmail.com

Important Dates:

Submissions open: Wednesday 24 June

Submissions close: Sunday 12 July midnight (AEST)

Notification: Early-August

Hyphenated Biennial: November - December 2020

Important Information regarding COVID-19

We want to acknowledge the risks of COVID-19 and that it is an evolving situation. For the safety of our artists and communities, we will be closely following the state guidelines for venue operations and gatherings.

We also would like to encourage all interstate artists to consider travel restrictions before you apply. Please refer to FAQ for more information.

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply if I'm not living in Australia right now?

No. Unfortunately we don't have the capacity to facilitate development residency internationally :(

Am I a First Nations artist?

We understand the term First Nations peoples refers to different Indigenous peoples around the world, but we use the term here to refer to artists who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders.

Who's Asian-Australian?

We understand the broad and contentious interpretations around 'Asian-Australian' identity. This project is about unpacking some of the complexities caught up in this hyphen, and working towards a meaningful and nuanced representation that goes beyond what is broadly interpreted as 'Asian-Australian'. We welcome everyone who identifies as being part of the Asian diaspora including South and Southeast Asia, North Asia, West Asia (Middle East, Iran, Turkey and surrounding regions) and Pacific Islands.

What kind of production support will I receive if I am selected?

Production support refers to a combination of monetary support for materials, equipment hire, shared resources and other in-kind support. It will be negotiated between the artist and the team as this may vary depending on the art form and production needs.

I'm a performing artist, can I apply?

It depends. While our team is also experienced in performing arts, we would prioritise visual artists unless your idea could be facilitated within a gallery, domestic, digital and/or public space.. Not sure? Speak to us :)

I'm a writer, can I apply?

You can! Just make sure you're applying to the public program stream.

I'm a sound artist, can I apply?

Yes! Please make sure you include the format of your idea in the application. (i.e. Is it a performance or a listening experience?). If you do not yet have an idea, please submit your portfolio.

Can I apply as a group / collective?

Of course. However due to limited resources, a group or collective will receive the same amount in artist fee and travel / production support as an individual artist.

I can't make the deadline of the application but I would still like to submit. What do I do?

We understand deadlines can be tricky sometimes. Please notify us at hyphenated.projects@gmail.com before the application closes and we can make exceptions to accommodate :)

If COVID-19 brings another lockdown, will the biennial still proceed?

For the safety of our artists and communities, we will be following any guidelines coming either from the government or our partnering venues. In the case of a lockdown, the biennial will likely to be postponed, or evolve to allow for social distancing. We are committed to being transparent with artists when the situation evolves, and we respect selected artists' decisions made in response to public health concerns.

Will residencies be cancelled if COVID-19 brings another lockdown?

For the safety of our artists and communities, we will be following any restrictions coming either from the government or our partnering venues. For Victoria-based artists, we may be able to facilitate residencies despite lockdown rules. However we will only do so when it is safe. For interstate artists, we will try to postpone the residency when we can.

If selected, can I pull out because of COVID-19? Am I contracted to deliver an outcome regardless?

We are humans too and we definitely won't force artists to deliver in the middle of a pandemic. We thrive to build long-term relationships with artists and if it all falls apart in the second half of 2020 (because, surprise!), we will work very hard to be flexible and ensure your wellbeing is prioritised :)

Can I join Hyphenated Projects outside of the biennial?

This open call may be a competitive process but we are committed to developing new relationships with artists at Hyphenated Projects. We run residencies all year round and we are always expanding our communities. Please get in touch if you're interested in working (or feasting) with us!