

Regional // Regional

Alliance members and bios



Regional Australia Members



Alex Wisser - Creative Director, Cementa (Kandos NSW)



Alex Wisser is an artist and creative producer living and working in regional NSW in the town of Kandos. His practise involves large scale and long-term projects within a cross disciplinary, community engaged practise exploring the potential of art to participate in everyday cultural context.

He has participated in delivering five successful Cementa festivals, presenting over 200 artists.

Aven Noah Jr – Curator and Gallery Officer, NorthSite Contemporary Arts (Cairns QLD)



Aven Noah Jr is an alumnus of the National Gallery of Australia's Indigenous Arts Leadership Program (2015) and has over 14 years' experience as a Gallery Officer at Gab TiTui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island.

Aven is a Curator and Gallery Officer at NorthSite Contemporary Arts.

Ashleigh Campbell – Executive Director, NorthSite Contemporary Arts (Cairns QLD)



Ashleigh Campbell is a skilled strategic thinker, creative leader, curator/producer who hails from Jagara/Giabal Country.

Experienced in the formation and delivery of regional arts festivals, she's worked on curatorial and arts management roles for local government, public galleries, art fairs, artist-run-spaces and organisations.

Diat Alferink– CEO, Torres Strait Islander Media Association (Thursday Island Torres Strait QLD)



Diat Alferink is a performing artist, festival director, comedienne and creative producer from the Kala Lagaw Ya language group of the Western Torres Strait Islands. She's a skilled project manager with extensive experience leading, developing and directing community arts organisations, large scale festivals and events, and community and youth arts projects.

Regional Australia



Emma Porteus – Executive Producer, Situate Art (Launceston TAS)



Emma Porteus has over 15 years' experience working as a performance maker and producer on dance, community and festival projects throughout Australia, South Africa, Finland and Asia. In her current role at Situate, she is really interested in performance and art-making models that connect people and places.

Henriette Kassay-Schuster– Independent Producer (Castlemaine VIC),



Henriette Kassay-Schuster has worked in the arts and culture for over 20 years, in festival administration and event management roles as well as creative practitioner and scholar.

She has worked for key cultural event and organisations in Australia and Germany and has also completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne.

Hannah Clissold- Strategy Manager for Cultural Tourism, Arts Queensland (Sunshine Coast QLD)



Hannah Clissold has an extensive background in the arts and culture sector and has held previous roles in partnerships, funding and program management at the Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Woodford Folk Festival, The Planting Festival and The Dreaming Festival

Jude Anderson– Artistic Director, Punctum (Castlemaine VIC),



Jude Anderson has collaboratively devised new works and programs with regional artists and their communities for over 30 years. Her works have been commissioned in major festivals in Chile, Europe and South Africa. Jude founded Punctum on Djaara Country central Victoria in 2004 working with over 400 artists to support their practise and new works.

Jude is also the Green Room Awards recipient of the Geoffrey Milne Memorial Award in 2019.

Regional Australia



Lia Pa'apa'a – Creative Producer, Artback NT (Darwin NT)



Lia is an artist and creative producer who has cultural connections to Samoa and the Luiseno nation in Southern California. Based in Gimuy (Cairns) Lia is committed to creating culturally and creative spaces for communities to come together and works across regional and remote northern Australia. Lia has delivered large and small scale community events including the Contemporary Pacific Arts Festival, Malandarri Festival and the First Nations Children's Festival.

Loren Kromneyer – Artistic Director, The Unconformity (Queenstown TAS)



Loren Kronemyer is the Artistic Director of The Unconformity. An artist and curator living and working in regional lutruwita / Tasmania, her works span interactive and live performance, experimental media art, curatorial, and large-scale worldbuilding projects aimed at exploring ecological futures and survival skills. She also works solo, and in collaboration as Pony Express. Her approach of deep and immersive research has led her to foster collaborations with a number of experimental societies, labs, and specialists.

Melania Jack – Program and Events Producer, NorthSite Contemporary Arts (Cairns QLD)



Melania Jack is a queer, non-binary artist and producer working within digital art, projection, electronic music and performance platforms.

As programs and events producer for NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Melania facilitates a range of programs aimed at developing the local arts community and creating connections to other regional areas.

Ruth Langford – Founder, Nayri Niara Good Spirits Festival (Bruny Island TAS)



With a diverse background in cultural arts/environmental/social/justice/ youth work and Indigenous Medicine Therapy, Ruth Langford divides her time in projects that reflect her passion for uniting ancient traditions and contemporary innovations for optimistic action and healing for all.

As the Founder of Nayri Niara Good Spirits Festival, Ruth aims to rebuild indigenous knowledge and build new futures within and beyond the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

Regional Australia



Sarah Parsons– Creative Producer/CEO, Outback Theatre for Young People (Deniliquin NSW)



Sarah Parsons is the Creative Producer/CEO at Outback Director for Young People, a role that sees her design and deliver projects within regional and remote communities across 30,000 square km area.

Most of her arts project to date has been dedicated to arts in counter-urban areas. She is fiercely passionate about community-driven work and advocates for regional based practise.

Shay Vigona-Goudge– CEO, Artback NT (Darwin NT)



Shay Vigona-Goudge is a local First Nations woman born and bred in the Territory with family from the Tiwi Islands. She has worked for many years in the Northern Territory arts and cultural sector and has an extensive understanding of the diversities, challenges and opportunities that make up the rich fabric of the Territory.

Tom Müller– Co-Founder and Artistic Director, Fremantle Biennale (Fremantle WA)



Tom Müller is a multi-disciplinary artist with an active international practise spanning the realms of site-responsive, temporal and permanent projects. His works were included in major institutions like the Adelaide Biennale, Biennale de la Chaux-de-Fonds and the Northern Alps Triennale in Japan.

In parallel to his personal practise, Tom is also the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Fremantle Biennale.

Vanuatu



David Nalo – Executive Director, Lokol Eyes (Gaua Vanuatu)



David Maseng Nalo has led and created festivals in Vanuatu to support youth engagement in creative industries. He has travelled in the Pacific to promote Vanuatu music, taking bands on tours to Australia, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Europe.

Together with his wife Dely, he works on numerous projects in the arts and cultural sector and community development in Vanuatu.

Dely Nalo- Founder, Lokol Eyes (Gaua Vanuatu)



Dely Nalo has been supporting *kastom* as a means to encourage respect in youth-led activities, involving the arts. From 2011-2015 she founded and led a grassroots movement in Vanuatu called TEKS to revive and maintain biocultural knowledge and practises in rural communities through project support and co-producing creative multimedia content.

India



Masoom Parmar– Director, Alif Arts (Bengaluru India)



Masoom Parmar is an artist, arts manager, curator and educator.

Masoom is the Director of Alif Arts, an arts management organisation representing some of the finest Indian artists from classical dance, folk dance and music and puppetry forms. His artistic work explores ideas of identity and belonging through oral, literary and cultural heritage.

Smriti Rajgarhia–Director, Serendipity Festival (Goa India)



Smriti Rajgarhia is an arts director, architect and curator.

Currently, she is leading Serendipity Festival to bring her passion for art and design to the forefront by creating unique opportunities for creative individuals. She endeavours to explore newer forms of representation and re-contextualise the kind of programming institutions need to engage with to widen the demographic of the arts audiences in India.

Ruchira Das – Director, ThinkArts (Kolkotta India)



Ruchira has worked over 15 years with various arts organisations across India, in different capacities, and she founded ThinkArts in December 2013.

Based in Kolkata, Think Arts has collaborated with partners across India and internationally to bring a diverse programme of literary, visual art, dance, theatre and story-telling events to young audiences in several cities across India.

Japan



Makoto Kuzuya– Head of Secretariat, SanFes (Sanriku Coastal Region, Japan)



Makoto Kuzuya was born in Aichi Prefecture in 1972 and completed an Elementary Education Training Course at the Aichi University of Education. He taught at a special support school for the mentally handicapped in Nagoya before becoming a painter.

He has been involved at SanFes as a staff member since 2019 and assumed the position of Head of Secretariat in 2021.

Shimoyama Hisashi– Director, ricarica festa (Okinawa, Japan)



Shimoyama Hisashi is a theatre producer based in Okinawa, Japan. He has been running an International Theatre Festival for Young Audiences in Okinawa for 30 years. He was appointed Artistic Director and Producer at Mirai Festival held in conjunction with the 20th ASSITEJ World Congress in Tokyo. Currently he is the Managing Director and Secretary of the Okinawa Performing Arts Association, Vice President of ASSITEJ Japan and Artistic Director of riccaricca festa.

Norikazu Sato– Program Director, SanFes (Sanriku Coastal Region, Japan)



Norikazu Sato has been carrying exchanges with dancers from overseas and Japan to visit various parts of Tohoku (particularly areas affected by the earthquake) to learn folk arts. He produced The Human Festival for SanFes in 2014 and was performed at Ofunato City Rikuzentakata City and Sumita. Iwate Prefecture, and Kesenuma City Miyage Prefecture.

Indonesia



Doni Maulistya– Deputy Chair, Padepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiardja (Jogjakarta Indonesia)



Doni Maulistya is an artist whose works has been presented in exhibits around Asia. He is also active as a cultural professor for creative projects and festivals. He served as the Director of Yogyakarta Cultural Festival from 2021 – 2022 and is currently the Deputy Chair on the Board of Padepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiardja Art Centre.

Ilda Karwayu– Co-Director, Makassar International Writers Festival (Makassar Indonesia)



Ilda Karwayu is the Co-Director of Makassar International Writers Festival and is actively involved in art management particularly in literature – Akarpohon Literary Community, music and theatre in Mataram, Lombok and West Nusa Tenggara.

She is also an Indonesian writer who works in poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

Jeannie Park– Executive Director, Padepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiardja(Jogjakarta Indonesia)



Jeannie is the Executive Director of the non-profit organisation and cultural landmark Pedepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiardja(PSBK) advocating its role as an arts centre. Throughout her tenure, she steers the organisation to create notable achievements through unique arts engagement and professional development platforms, while developing strong organisational practises to support and sustain the vision of PSBK's founder.

Ita Ibnu – Festival Manager, Makassar International Arts Festival



Since 2011 as Festival Manager at the Makassar International Writers Festival managed by Rumata' Artspace. Also since 2020 as Project Coordinator of BASAsulsel Wiki which is managed by Rumata' Artspace and BASAibu Wiki. BASAsulsel is an initiative to engage youth participation in social issues using local languages and digital platforms. With a background in working as a communications officer at a local NGO for 16 years, she is currently also a freelance communications consultant on several Knowledge management projects, especially in Eastern Indonesia.

Indonesia



M. Aan Mansyur– Co-Director, Makassar International Writers Festival (Makassar Indonesia)



M. Aan Mansyur is a writer who also works as a community librarian at Kotakerja, a social and creative space in Makassar, and is co-director at Makassar International Arts Festival.

He is the author of several volumes of poetry and prose including Memasihkan yan Pernah / Doing the Done (2023) and Waktu yang Tepat untuk Melupakan Waktu / The Right Time to Forget Time (2021)

Taiwan

Jih-Wen Yeh – Founder and Producer, Step Out Arts (Tainan Taiwan)



Jih-Wen Yeh is the founder and producer of Step Out Arts.

She is currently working on various international collaboration projects including projects between Taiwan and The UK for The Place Theatre. She has also been co-producing the Taiwan Season at the Edinburgh Festival since 2015.

Philippines



Jules Caburian– Co-Founder, 23 Sampaguita Artists Collective (Baguio Philippines)



Jules was born in the Philippines, emigrating to Australia in 1993. Jules has worked in Canberra for projects such as Indigenous Australians' Government Development Program.

Jules returned to her hometown of Baguio in 2019 to re-connect with her culture and indigenous roots. She co-founded 23 Sampaguita Artist Collective and has produced several festivals for the Cordillera region.

Cambodia

Julien Poulson– Co-Founder, Fish Island Community Arts Centre (Krong Kampot, Cambodia)



Julien is an Australian arts producer working a range of collaborative Asia Australia arts projects and festivals.

He is the co-founder of Fish Island Community Arts Centre, a grassroots arts organisation offering international artist residencies and facilitating arts training, skills share and collaborations.

Malaysia / Australia



Tony Yap– Creative Director, Melaka Arts and Performance Festival (Selangor Malaysia)



Tony Yap is a leading figure in inter-cultural discourse and has contributed significantly to the development of contemporary dance and performance practise, particularly bringing a non-Western perspective to the palette of work being created.

Tony is also the Creative Director of the Melaka Arts and Performance Festival (MAP Festival).