

# PROJECT REPORTS

## SCHOOLS IN COMPUTER AIDED ART, DESIGN & MANUFACTURE

### 1991 SUMMER SCHOOL

The Third National Summer School in Computer Aided Art, Design and Manufacture (CAADM) for artists, craftworkers and designers was held at the Advanced Technology Education Centre, Regency College of TAFE for four weeks during January 1991. The primary aim of the school was to facilitate the acquisition of computer based skills by artists.

This third school in ANAT's training program remains the only such intensive training program in Australia devised specifically for artists.

The subsidised training program of Summer Schools is a high priority in ANAT's yearly program, expanding and modifying each year in response to technological developments and students needs. The schools offer a unique learning environment which has become synonymous with ANAT's Summer Schools. Due to the success of the program, and also the continuing lack of training opportunities for artists, ANAT introduced state-based Winter Schools, the first of which was held in Adelaide in July, 1991.

ANAT maintains contact with all former participants in order to monitor benefits of the Summer School to them and the wider community. Following are comments from participants in the Third National Summer School in CAADM.

"In conclusion, the environment was inspiring and supportive for my needs as an artist and beginner to computer graphics...gave me an important overview of technology being utilized in the artistic realm, broadening my scope to the possibilities available and helping to define the area of my work closer to its rightful context. Currently I am working with the Film and Television Institute with their assistance on a computer/video project." Colleen Cruise

"The ANAT Summer School I attended in January this year was an outstanding, stimulating and well needed course. If the intention was to promote a confidence amongst artists to enable them to work with new technology, this was certainly achieved." Natalie Jeremijenko

Eighteen artists from all over Australia attended the 1991 Summer School. They were: Ann Wulff (Tasmania), John McQueenie (Tasmania), Pat HOFFIE (Queensland), Glenda Nalder (Queensland), Sheridan Kennedy (Queensland), Natalie Jeremijenko (Queensland), Peter Travis (New South Wales), Linda Johnson (New South Wales), Colleen Cruise (Western Australia), Jill Smith (Western Australia), Dale Nason (Victoria), Troy Innocent (Victoria), Robin Best (Victoria), Rebecca Young (Victoria), June

Savage (Victoria), Avra (Victoria), Alan Cruikshank (South Australia), Mark Abbott (South Australia)

Each student had their own computer work station. To complement the core skills-based program, a number of satellite events introduced participants to other new technologies and future-oriented issues through hands-on workshops and demonstrations, visits to industrial and research facilities and seminars.

Tutorial was given by technological experts from ATEC and technologically literate artists who were employed to offer their expertise in the area of computer imaging, and to focus on the creative, as opposed to the technical aspect of the program. They were Sally Pryor and John Tonkin, two of Australia's most well respected computer artists. Over three weeks, John and Sally taught the students animation, painting and manipulation on Amiga computers.

### 1991 WINTER SCHOOL

In July 1991, ANAT held the first of its Winter Schools in Computer Aided Art, Design and Manufacture. The rationale behind the inauguration of the Winter Schools was to supplement the extremely popular Summer Schools held by ANAT, which are unable to answer the growing needs of the art community with regard to training in the field of computer aided art. ANAT decided to initiate a program of state based schools, beginning with a school for South Australian artists. ANAT hopes that other states will follow this lead and organise training programs based on the ANAT model in their own states.

There were eight places available for the two week course, for South Australian artists. The artists who participated were: Michael Hutchings, Greg HOFFELD, Josie StARRS, Bev Puckeridge, Sue Berry, Robert Farnan, Leah Grycewicz, Wayne Macintosh.

One of the students at the Winter School described the experience as follows:

"...the ability to experiment endlessly...the lack of physical clutter and the lack of frustration of working with physical matter. These facilitated long hours of focussed productivity. The positive attitudes of the tutors helped enormously too. Another very exciting window that was opened was the Art-Science linkage. The notion of a more open-ended creativity, of an exploration of the physical world...we could not be but absorbed by the straight and obvious potential of this medium ...One could not help but be taken by the sense of excitement, the energy levels, and the feeling of shared discovery we saw in practitioners in this area...What a fortnight!" Rob Farnon

It was not necessary for the artists to have computer experience. The artists who attended were largely inexperienced in computer usage, or had had a very basic introduction to them for word processing.

Phil George and Lynne Roberts-Goodwin, Sydney based computer artists and lecturers, both exemplary graduates of a previous ANAT Summer School, were employed as