

SCHOOLS AND RESIDENCIES

ANAT co-ordinates a range of masterclasses, workshops and Emerging Technology Labs which offer intensive skills development and networking opportunities for Australian practitioners. Since 1989, ANAT has pioneered skilling programs for artists, offering advanced tuition in new media arts ranging from web authoring, interactive environments, sound, video, performance and curating.

ANAT Emerging Technology Lab – reSkin

www.anat.org.au/reskin

Canberra, ACT

January – February 2007

The *reSkin* wearables research and development laboratory was presented as ANAT's Emerging Technology Lab held from January 14th to the 4th of February 2007 at the Australian National University. The laboratory ended with the *Wear Now* symposium at National Museum of Australia on the 3rd of February. Project partners were Craft Australia, Australian National University School of Art, Centre for New Media Arts (ANU) and National Museum of Australia.

ANAT Emerging Technology Labs have traditionally focused on introducing the skills associated with emerging technologically based forms and practices to a wide sector of Australian media arts practitioners, writers and curators. This lab aimed to extend the reach to include design and craft practitioners including jewellers, fashion designers and object makers.

The lab brought together twenty national and international artists and designers to investigate the dynamic field of wearable technologies over a three-week intensive period. International leaders in the field Joanna Berzowska (Canada) and Elise Co (USA) were engaged to lead the lab. National facilitators were engaged to cover the diverse skill bases associated with the field and inform the development of the lab. The national facilitators were jeweller and object makers Susan Cohn and Cinnamon Lee, sound artist Alistair Riddell and media artist Stephen Barrass.

The response to the lab was overwhelmingly positive from participants, facilitators, and project partners. In the group of artists who attended there were two senior artists and Australia Council Fellows, craft practitioner Catherine Truman and media artist Keith Armstrong. Scottish jeweller, interaction designer and researcher from Napier University, Sarah Kettley travelled to Australia to participate in the lab as did Royal College graduate Tania Fox. Australian fashion designers Rowena, Juliana and Angela Foong of the *High Tea with Mrs Woo* label also attended the lab.

The prototypes developed at the lab were of a very high standard and demonstrated what facilitator Joanna Berzowska called a “third wave” in the field of wearable technology, which she stated was a new development. In this “third wave”, the conceptual resolve and use of applicable materials technologies is married with high-end craft and design skills.