

# **Australian Network for Art & Technology**

## **Report and Acquittal**

### **Fourth National Summer School in computer aided art, design and manufacture (caadm) 1995**

Supported by :

Academy for the Arts, Queensland University of Technology

Arts Queensland

Arts Victoria

South Australian Department for the Arts and Cultural Development

Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board

## **Report**

### **Summer School in Computer Aided Art & Design 1995**

The 1995 Summer School was staged at the Academy for the Arts, Queensland University of Technology, from January 9th to 28 1995. The primary aim of the school was to facilitate the acquisition of computer based skills by artists.

This sixth national Summer School in ANAT's training program still remains the only such intensive training program in Australia devised specifically for artists.

#### **• background and rationale**

Since its inception in 1985, one of ANAT's imperatives has been the facilitation of projects which expose artists to new technologies and afford them access to skilling in this area. A very real problem for artists wishing to utilise new technologies in creative production has been the lack of opportunities for artists to acquire both knowledge of and skills in high technology, placing limitations on the professional development of these artists.

ANAT attempted to address this problem by initiating in 1989 a subsidised training program of Summer Schools which has subsequently become 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 has introduced state-based Winter Schools, the first of which was held in Adelaide in July, 1991.

#### **• participants**

As usual more applications than places available were received. In the selection process we were mindful of including moving image artists, craft artists, and visual artists. We also attempted to get a range of familiarity levels with computers. The other selection factor that was used, all other things being equal, was the ability to pass this information on down the line as ANAT is interested in knowledge in the field being passed on as far as is possible.

The artists selected to attend the course were:

David McDowell(Tas), Christl Berg(TAS), Patricia Piccinini (Vic), Marion Harper(Vic), Ann Robertson(SA) , Michael Grimm(SA), Leah King Smith(Qld), Gordon Bennett( Qld), Marie Biggins ( Qld), Nehme Lines( Qld), Lyndall Milani ( Qld) , Janet Merewether (NSW) and Greg Somerville (NSW).

Many of the participants have described the knowledge, techniques, skills and networks developed through their participation as invaluable and revolutionary. All Summer Schools organised by ANAT have effectively served as catalysts for action.

Three main tutors were used, Edite Videns, John Tonkin, a well known Australian computer animator, and Keith Armstrong, a tutor/technician/student based at the Academy for the Arts.

The tutors were chosen because of their expertise in various software packages and computer platforms. John Tonkin and Edite Videns are also prominent artists in the art and technology scene in Australia. Further John Tonkin has previously taught at ANAT Summer Schools several times and therefore thoroughly understands the dynamics of the school.

• **aims of project:**

- to assist the professional development of Australian artists through the acquisition and development of new technology-based skills
- to facilitate 'technology transfer', enabling participants to impart acquired knowledge to other parties
- to promote ANAT's primary aim - "interaction between the arts, sciences and technology"
- to introduce artists to a range of practical and theoretical issues associated with the use of new technology
- to inform and influence participant's art practice in order to create a body of 'new' artworks
- to exhibit the results of this and other ANAT-initiated programs in exhibitions and conferences nationally and internationally
- to present a successful model for future educational and skilling programs for artists in the area of new technology

• **project**

The artists ranged from those with no experience to those with computer experience for non-art applications. The school is designed to cater for all levels of experience, and to answer the individual participant's needs.

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. ( see below)

- **curriculum**

### **Week 1**

An introductory program focussing on an examination of the concepts underlying the creation of data. 'Hands-on' tutorials on 3D modelling systems and an introduction to Alias(Silicon Graphics) systems with Jon McCormack were features of the first week. Students had the opportunity of exploring a number of different hardware and software packages in order to determine which area to focus on.

### **Week 2**

A period enabling participants to become more conversant with specific systems, and other interactive technologies for output of the computer generated works.

### **Weeks 3**

Consolidation of skills and individual projects developed in the preceding two weeks. Videoing of works-in-progress, printing of 2D works. Presentation of findings and projects to an invited audience and the general public during an Open Day.

The participants had 24 hour access to the facility and in the final week, in particular, the machines were working 24 hours a day.

- **equipment**

There was a variety of equipment for participants to access. This included high end 3D solids modelling and rendering programs, Macintosh computers running authoring and animation program Macro Mind Director and a Silicon Graphics workstation. These programmes were able to be interfaced with video equipment, scanners, video frame grabbers, slide output devices, audio equipment and colour printers.

### **The equipment the students had available consisted of the following:**

2 Macintosh Quadra AVs 36Mb

2 video cameras

2 vcrs

6 Mac Centris 16Mb

1 Mac Quadra 610 8mb

6 Mac ci 8mb

1 colour printer

1 laser writer

File server and additional storage space

1 colour scanner

1 slide scanner  
3 Syquest Drives  
Audio Equipment:  
Dat tape recorder  
Synthesiser  
Cassette Recorders  
microphones

**software included:**

Adobe photoshop  
Strata pro  
Sound edit 16  
Aldus Freehand  
Painter  
Adobe premiere

**- satellite events**

ANAT organised satellite activities for the school, and more this year than any other. Satellite events were publicised in the Courier Mail and through the Institute of Modern Art ( IMA) and were open to the public.

They included artists talks,by :

**Joyce Hinterding**

Joyce demonstrated her work and discussed the use of science based concepts in the production of art work. Joyce is a Sydney based artist.

**Isabelle Delmotte**

Isabelle demonstrated her Silicon graphics based computer animation that she is in the processes of completing that describes the subjective experience of major epileptic fits. Isabelle is a Sydney based artist.

**Adam Wolter**

Adam is a pioneering computer artist who is based in Brisbane. He spoke about his work and the experience of working with computers in the production of artwork. Adam is a Brisbane based artist.

**Paul Brown**

Paul Brown demonstrated and discussed the internet , his electronic journal Fine Art Forum, both as a concept and as a tool for artists working in the field. This talk took place at Griffith university, where students were also given a tour of the facilities.

David O'Halloran

David gave a talk on the aims and objectives of the Australian Network for Art and Technology , in the context of the wider national and international electronic art scene.

- **exhibition**

The exhibition, **artists thinking about science** which had toured with the Great Australian Science Show in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, was restaged in the Queensland Academy for the Arts Gallery, to coincide with the Summer School. This made the work that was in the show available to both the participants of the course and the general public. A modest opening was held at the exhibition to attract interest for both the school and the other satellite activities.

- **open day**

About 50 people attended the Open Day which included demonstrations of the participants work.

- **accommodation**

The non Queensland participants were housed in student housing a mere 500 metres from the computing centre. This consisted of each participant having a bedroom but sharing bathrooms, living and kitchen areas. This living situation in some way disadvantaged the local participants as they lacked the opportunities to socialise with the other artists to the same extent. A number of social events at the houses were organised to counteract this, including a couple of nights on the town.

- **employment**

Many of the students have substantially benefited from the skills learnt in the course. The two Tasmanian participants, Christl Berg and David McDowell are art school lecturers, and have taken the skills back to their teaching environments to pass onto students. Janet Merewhether, a lecturer in animation at the Australian film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) has substantially strengthened her position within the school through skills learnt at the Summer School. Michael Grimm of South Australia has also picked up part time and contract work using his newly acquired digital skills.

- **other outcomes**

The Queensland Academy for the Arts, as the host organisation for the National Summer School, used the school as an opportunity to focus on the digital arts and as the basis to acquire new equipment for the school. Relationships between the Visual Arts, Performance and Music Departments were strengthened through the cross disciplinary nature of the course, and the school provided a model for multimedia practices.

- **wrap up**

ANAT believes the school once again provided a vital opportunity for artists from around the country to familiarise themselves with this technology. Long term connections were made between participants and indeed a number of collaborative projects have begun between some of those who attended the school. The schools at this introduction to middle level skill remain very important, for despite art schools now having computing departments, there remains many artists who have not had the opportunity to engage with this technology.

- **support**

Support for the project was provided by a wide variety of sources (listed above). The training program is reliant on a huge amount of in-kind support, and the success of the schools has been due in large part to the goodwill extended to us by individuals and organisations in the industry. Over the time we have been running the schools we have developed mutually beneficial relationships with a number of industry groups.

- **additional material**

- **financial report**
- **preliminary guidelines**
- **video tape of works produced**
- **Artists Thinking about Science Catalogue**
- **ANAT Annual Report 1994**

AUSTRALIAN NETWORK FOR ART AND TECHNOLOGY

1995 NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	ACTUALS
WEST. AUST. DEPT. FOR ARTS	0
TAS ARTS ADVISORY BOARD	2372
SADACH	3932
QLD GOVT	4228
ARTS VIC	3652
NSW MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS	0
REG'N PAYMENTS: ALL ARTISTS (14 @ 300)	4200
AFTRS Payment for Merewether	910
Accomodation Payments (NSW & TAS)	1740
QUT Sponsorship	7000
Sundry Income ( Printer Consumables)	159
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>28193</b>
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	
1. Travel	3928
2. Wages	8190
3. Facilities	7000
4. Production Items and Consumables	707.15
5. Promotion, Open Day and Satellite Activities	996.9
6. Administration	767.69
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>21589.74</b>
TOTAL INCOME	28193
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	21589.74
Less CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accomodation : QUT	5000
Surplus(Deficit)	1603.26



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1995 NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE

	ACTUALS
<b>1. Travel</b>	
2 ARTISTS - NSW & WA	
2 ARTISTS - VIC	
2 ARTISTS - SA	
2 ARTISTS - QLD	
2 ARTISTS - TAS	3121
Joyce Hinterding (NSW)	
Isabelle Delmotte (NSW)	807
John Tonkin (SA)	
David O'Halloran (SA)	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>3928</b>
<b>2. Wages</b>	
Dee Videns Flat Fee	2400
John Tonkin Flat Fee (\$2400) + per diems(\$50/day)	3450
Keith Armstrong (1/2 cost) - Tech support	1200
David O'Hallora 3 weeks per diem @ \$50/day	700
Fee - Joyce Hinterding	120
Fee - Isabelle Delmotte	120
Fee - Paul Brown	100
Fee - Adam Wolter	100
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>8190</b>
<b>3. Facilities</b>	
Facilities Hire : QUT	7000
Accommodation : QUT	0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7000</b>
<b>4. Production Items</b>	
Consumables: Discs	
Documentation	
Sundries inc Refreshments etc	419.7
Taxis, Couriers	20
Colour Prints	
Video Tape	114.65
Printer Ink	
Video Dubs	152.8
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>707.15</b>

AUSTRALIAN NETWORK FOR ART AND TECHNOLOGY

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EXPENDITURE

	ACTUALS
5. Promotion, Open Day and Satellite Activities	
Courier Mail Advertisement	424.9
Graphic Design & Invitations to events	12
Advertising ( The Australian)	560
SUBTOTAL	996.9
6. Administration	
Postage	187.9
Photocopying Leaflets	51.79
Telephone & Fax	528
SUBTOTAL	767.69