

Young  
Artists  
Initiative  
2013

YAI  
-13

**Exhibition dates**  
31 Jan – 2 Feb 2014



CONTEMPORARY

# Judging panel



## Barry Keldoulis

For over 30 years, Barry Keldoulis has worked in the museum and gallery worlds of New York and Sydney, and been engaged with contemporary art globally. In 2013 Barry was appointed CEO and Group Fairs Director of Art Fairs Australia, launching the first Sydney Contemporary art fair in 2013 and currently working towards the Melbourne Art Fair in August 2014.



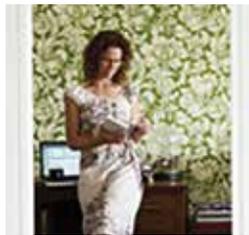
## Lisa Corsi

Lisa is co-founder and Managing Director of ARTCELL, an independent agency established in 2007. Lisa has over 15 years experience in the visual arts that includes working with international intergovernmental organisations and with local, national and international Artist Run Initiatives, Galleries and Museums.



## Sebastian Goldspink

Sebastian is the Director of Alaska Projects – a Sydney based Artist Run Initiative. He is the Producer of Art Month Sydney and the Co- Editor of Raven. He is the Curator of the John Fries Prize for Emerging Artists and the Art Bank Roving Curator for 2013/2014. He also works independently as a Curator, Writer and Lectures at the College of Fine Arts, Sydney.



## Prue Gibson

Prue Gibson is an art writer for national and international art magazines and journals. She is a lecturer and researcher at COFA, UNSW and her PhD is on object-oriented theory and experimental art writing. Her art book, *The Rapture of Death*, was an investigation into deathly imagery in contemporary art.



## Michael Reid

Across three galleries (Sydney, Murrurundi & Berlin), Micheal holds a number of important art exhibitions each year, showcasing the work of significant indigenous and non-indigenous artists. After a decade of arts industry experience with Christie's London and Australia Michael also contributed to the business section of The Australian newspaper as well as writing for the Sydney Morning Herald / The Age 'Good Weekend' newspapers magazine.



## Joan Ross

Joan Ross is a Sydney based artist. Working in mainly sculpture, installation and digital video animation. Her works references Australian early colonial paintings and contemporary life, reconceptualising and problematising our relationship to both. Joan is also a sessional Lecturer in painting and drawing at COFA – University of New South Wales.



## Louise Rush

Louise Rush is the gallery manager at .M contemporary, before moving to Sydney she gained a wealth of experience and knowledge of photography and contemporary art working in London for Richard Green and managing Hamiltons Gallery for eight years.



## Michelle Paterson

Sydney based South-African art collector Michelle Paterson is the founder and director of .M Contemporary. Having spent 16 years living in Asia, Paterson moved to Australia and brought with her an appreciation of international art. Michelle's main goal is to expose more people to art through discussions, events, educational programs and workshops and curatorial and artist led conversations.



## Ainsley Wilcock

College: COFA

Ainsley Wilcock is intrigued by the human tendency to seek and draw out meaning from mimetic qualities of arbitrary and everyday stimulus. Creating strange, composite forms she explores a perceived relationship between pareidolia and the anthropomorphic grotesque. Presence and absence (materiality of absence) collapse in upon each other through considerations of shadow, puppetry and empty piles of clothing. There are empty clothes and there is empty space, yet inhabited clothes and inhabited space; drawing attention to the possibilities of a metaphysical life and the promise of, or capacity for something more.

[www.ainsleywilcock.com](http://www.ainsleywilcock.com)

Composite #12, 2013  
Coloured pencil on  
paper. 112 x 76.5cm



## Gemma Messih

College: COFA

Working across photography, video, sculpture and installation Messih's research and practice is as much an attempt to understand the wider human relationship to natural phenomena, as it is about their own pursuit to connect with forces that are so much bigger than ourselves.

Drawing on personal narratives Messih aims to bring to the fore an intangible, unidentified and universal longing for connection – either for another human, or for the sublime in nature, or perhaps both simultaneously. Continuously risking unrequited connection, their practice encourages chance, personal experience and reflection, whilst using a laypersons' understanding of science. Natural phenomena is engaged with in an active, reciprocal conversation that embraces obsessive, erotic and sexual themes as a way to explore both the human pursuit of connection and the limits of this attempt.

[www.gemmamessih.com](http://www.gemmamessih.com)

All that is left is a  
feeling, 2013  
Volakas marble  
Dimensions variable



## George Nicholas

College: COFA

George Nicholas is a Sydney based sound artist and honours graduate of the College of Fine Arts, Sydney. His practice focuses on the process of compression and it's ability rescale the passing of time and fragment spacial relationships in existing media.

[g.nicholasmail@gmail.com](mailto:g.nicholasmail@gmail.com)

Beethoven's String  
Quartets (Abridged), 2013  
Stringed instruments,  
electronics  
Height 150cm, width  
300cm, depth 20cm



## Johanna Gilbert

College: COFA

Johanna Gilbert is an emerging Sydney based artist, recently completing a BFA (majoring in photo-media) at the College of Fine Arts. Johanna works across photo media, installation and performance. Her practice is primarily an unfinished inventory of displaced objects and images brought together in an improvisational site.

[www.blossomduck.com](http://www.blossomduck.com)

Callistemon  
Interdisciplinary  
installation  
Dimensions variable



## Joy Ivill Long

College: COFA

Joy's art is profoundly confessional, at times amusing but simultaneously emanating an intensely emotional and vulnerable side. Her works raw openness, immediacy, and sexually provocative witty attitude fascinates the viewer. She reveals intimate details of her life in a powerful way. For her, art making is a cathartic process, it exorcises her pain and as a result she is highly prolific. Joy has exhibited throughout Australia and Asia.

[www.joyivill.com](http://www.joyivill.com)

Billy Bumps  
Cotton and coloured  
thread  
50 x 42cm



## Kieran Bryant

College: COFA

Kieran Bryant (b. 1988) is an emerging Sydney based performance installation artist currently in his Honours year of a BFA at the College of Fine Arts. He primarily deals with ritualistic aspects of human behaviour that are present in bodily, family and social structures. His work is often a deeply personal and cathartic experience, illuminating inner turmoils in a quest to find their resolution. Using intensive explorative methods, the artist is transformed into a self-therapist, extrapolating individual conclusions no matter how damaging to the physical body or the psyche. Grappling on the precipice between self-indulgence and collective discovery his work manages to explore universal questions. The resulting tension between the two ensures that many of the compositional outcomes are unsettling and can deeply confront the viewer.

[www.kieranbryant.com](http://www.kieranbryant.com)

first time I still  
2013  
HD video, colour



## Lachlan Herd

College: COFA

Lachlan Herd (b. 1992) is an emerging performance and installation artist currently based in Sydney, Australia. Herd's work predominantly explores the various anxieties and frustrations surrounding the competitive ideals of masculinity and the perceived castration of the homosexual male. His installation pieces work within the fundamental structures of installation art and facilitate a psychological experience from physical relations to space.

Herd has recently undertaken curatorial and artistic endeavours such as curating exhibitions, coordinating community events, exhibiting at Underbelly Arts festival and practice based research in a variety of cultural and environmental settings.

[www.lachlanherd.com](http://www.lachlanherd.com)

'Studies of Hong  
Kong Cityscape'  
Medium: Cement,  
Acrylic, Documented  
Performance  
Dimensions variable



## Meg Levingston

College: COFA

Meg Levingston lives and works in Sydney, Australia. Levingston works across both analogue and digital platforms, combining traditional processes and modern techniques.

Influenced by history, folklore and the Victorian era, she creates photographs that explore the areas where the actual and the imagined overlap.

[www.meglevingston.com](http://www.meglevingston.com)

Untitled #3, 2013  
Digital C print  
80 x 100cm



## Mia Middleton

College: COFA

Mia Middleton is a Sydney based artist whose work focuses on depictions of transience and temporality. She is interested in addressing the ambiguities between past and present, space and place, function and dysfunction. Her photographs, installations and video works often depict traces of humanity in urban and natural landscapes whereby evidence of human engagement is alluded to yet a conventional reference point or narrative is denied. These suggestions of life are solitary and stranded, and investigate the disorientating yet meditative nature of dislocation and traversal.

[www.miamiddleton.com](http://www.miamiddleton.com)

Still from Homecoming,  
2013. Looped HD Video  
Projection, 16:9



## Andrew Simmons

College: NAS

Andrew Simmons is an emerging artist based in Sydney, Australia who practises in the fields of installation, performance, minimalist and conceptual art. His work deals with themes of communication and self-reflection and makes use of discarded materials as a way of evoking the significance of sense and memory towards used objects.

[www.andrewsimmons-arts.com](http://www.andrewsimmons-arts.com)

Demeanor in retrospect  
Hardground etchings,  
paper, cardboard, plaster  
and mixed media  
12 x 111 x 41cm



## Abbey Swinn

College: NAS

Through photographic images contemporary photographer Abbey Swinn captures the most intimate and solitary part of her subject. Perhaps a contradiction, her images of children express both maturity and innocence, questioning the closeness of two very opposite states of being as well as societies perception upon sexuality and gender. Her images are a social commentary, a rhetoric question about the 21st century and Generation Y. Through her bodies of work Swinn is able to analyze her own life, her experiences and her place within the world.

Raised in Wellington, New Zealand Swinn moved to Sydney in 2002 and states that the transition between the two countries was a huge source of inspiration in creating conceptual images. With Sydney as her current home, Swinn continues to seek inspiration in her surroundings, a constant observer of popular culture and social trends.

[www.abbeyswinn.com](http://www.abbeyswinn.com)

In a Barbie world  
Photograph  
84.1 x 59.4cm each



## Alexandra Sideris

College: NAS

Alexandra Sideris, (b. 1969, Adelaide, South Australia) is an emerging, Sydney based artist with her BFA in Sculpture from the National Art School, Darlinghurst, Australia. In her studies she has been greatly inspired by nature, science and synchronicity. More of an experiment than exploration, Alexandra uses materials as a mathematician would equations.

By employing a formula, the outcomes, although consistent, yield limitless variations. Aesthetic curiosity and psychological flotsam influence and direct the outcome, hers is a process of revealing mental tactility.

Alexandra's work shows where her mind goes, she is interested in creating work whereby the viewer gives themselves permission to experience.

[www.facebook.com/siderisalexandrahands](http://www.facebook.com/siderisalexandrahands)

Supply 69  
Corten steel,  
microcrystalline wax,  
pigment.  
25x40x60, 20x440x60cm



## Caitlin Hespe

College: NAS

After dallying with education studies and architecture, Caitlin Hespe entered art school to think more about creativity and life... She now hopes to entertain all of her learning experiences as she continues to create works after graduating.

She enjoys contemplating the 'everyday', unnoticed beauty, and the complexities of language, amongst other things. She does not enjoy third person descriptions of herself.

[www.caitlinhespe.com.au](http://www.caitlinhespe.com.au)

Lounging 3  
Oil on panel  
65 x 45cm



## Hugo Fisher

College: NAS

Hugo Fisher is a recent graduate of the National Art School, both living and practicing in Australia. Gaining his bachelor of fine arts with a major in photography, his photographic practice has arrived at its current state with his graduate series 'Scumbag'. The work draws attention to a subcultural group of young Sydney males, the large scale and warm pallet of the prints is derivative of renaissance portraiture, and this along with the pose of his sitters makes for a successful juxtaposition of technique and subject.

[www.facebook.com/Hugofisherphoto](http://www.facebook.com/Hugofisherphoto)

Scumbag  
Digital pigment print  
140 x 100cm



## Marta Ferracin

College: NAS

Marta Ferracin is an Italian born artist who lives and works in Sydney, Australia. With her ephemeral installations and video works, Ferracin constructs interactive and immersive environments that overwhelm the viewer and interrogate the mutability of human perception. Using mass-produced materials like plastic bags and aluminium tubes to create forms inspired by biological organisms, she explores the dialogue between the organic and the inorganic. Ferracin converts found industrial objects into fragile and sensual forms by incorporating natural elements like light, air, breath, gravity and static electricity within her installations. Directly interacting with her materials, she injects herself into the spaces she constructs and plays with the mechanics of sensory perception, fusing the tactile with the visual and sonic.

[www.martaferracin.com](http://www.martaferracin.com)

Ice Land

Freezer bags, plastic  
drop sheets, crab  
nets, breath and  
static electricity  
Dimensions variable



## Nina George

College: NAS

Nina George's sculptures excavate the poetry of anatomy. The figures are often as large as the artist's reach, breaching a tension in composition with the uncomfortable combination of monumental weight and human expression.

Her constructions consist of recycled timber collected from abandoned urban sites. Wood is used as a material that imitates the cycles and disequilibrium of the human body; the memory of each piece visible on the scarred and weathered surfaces.

The process of construction remains evident in the bolts against the aging timber like the signature of brushstrokes in paint.

The meditative labour of her studio process places her amongst piles of timber wedges to be selected from, examining the physical relationship between her body and the work and a transference of the tactile experience of mass into timber.

[www.ninageorgeart.com](http://www.ninageorgeart.com)

Figure 1  
recycled timber,  
lead and steel  
210 x 134 x 116cm



## Siena White

College: NAS

Siena White is a Sydney based artist recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (2013) from the National Art School, Australia with a major in sculpture. She also completed her Foundation in Art and Design (2010) at Parsons Paris, France. She has been accepted to complete a BFA Honours at the National Art School in 2014.

Her work spans through the three disciplines of sculpture, drawing and painting. She has also organised and run three group shows at Studio W Doubleyou, Woolloomooloo, with an aim to support young emerging artists. Her work has awarded her the Merit Scholarship to Parsons Paris (2010), the Jocelyn Maughn Sketchbook Prize (2012), the Coutts Family Award for Excellency in Drawing (2013), Finalist for the John Olsen Drawing Prize (2013) and a work to be chosen for the National Art School Student Collection (2013).

sienawhite@gmail.com

Relief #1  
Wood, steel, acrylic,  
paint and found objects  
92 x 111 x 17cm



## Charles Dennington

College: SCA

Charles Dennington completed a Bachelor of Design (Photomedia) with Honours in 2005 at the University of Western Sydney and a Master of Fine Arts at Sydney College of the Arts. Dennington's solo exhibitions include *Waste Models* at DB Projects and *Face Like Figures Floored* at MOP Projects in 2011, as well as *Double Time Climb* at Galerie Pompom earlier this year. As a part of his MFA program Charles participated in the master class of Professor Manfred Pernice at UdK in Berlin. For his graduate exhibition *Advancing / receding volume* at Sydney College of the Arts Dennington presented an installation of gestural structures, discrete sculptures and portrait and process based photographs. His recent work uses sculpture and photography to describe vague and fictional human language and value systems or strange activities. Often in this recent work the face is photographed drastically altered by a pattern of shadow so that its surface appears to simultaneously advance and recede. This is an approach seen in other parts of his work where a somewhat unidentifiable material may be changed in a simple but crucial way so that it takes on a redefined existence. Charles Dennington is represented in Sydney by Galerie Pompom.

[www.charlesdennington.com](http://www.charlesdennington.com) | [galeriepompom.com](http://galeriepompom.com)

Glass vessels, 2013.  
Gelatin silver print.  
73 x 63cm. Unique print



## Rose Vickers

College: SCA

Rose Vickers is an artist living and working in Sydney. Her work crosses multiple mediums including photography, drawing, installation and media art. In 2013 she was awarded a Master of Fine Arts from Sydney College of the Arts. Previously she attended the College of Fine Arts, attaining the degree of Master of Arts (Media Arts). She has participated in national and international residencies, including an ILIRI residency in central New South Wales, and recent years has increasingly utilised a site-specific approach. Since 2008 she has exhibited regularly in mostly artist-run and non-commercial spaces around Sydney.

Sunsets and Coconuts,  
2013, silver gelatin  
emulsion photographs  
on resin paper  
AP  
105 x 72cm



## Vilma Bader

College: SCA

Vilma Bader completed a Doctor of Philosophy in 2013 at SCA on an Australian Postgraduate Award scholarship (2010-2013). She has previously graduated with a Master of Visual Arts in 2009, a Bachelor of Visual Arts (First Class Honours) in 2007 both at SCA and a Bachelor of Fine Art at NAS in 2006. She has participated in six solo shows and over fifty group shows. Vilma has been a finalist in a number of prestigious art prizes including the Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship, the Sulman, the Willoughby Sculpture Prize and the Gallipoli Art Prize. She has been the recipient of several grants and awards including the Australia Council Grant (New Work) in 2012, the Post Graduate Support Scheme Grants in 2009-2012, the Sydney University Herbert Johnson Travel Grant (GIA) 2011. Her papers have been selected for the Sydney University inaugural SCA Graduate School Conference - Critical Thinking: Research + Art in 2011 and the two subsequent years (2012, 2013). She was nominated and selected for a Master Class with Prof Thierry de Duve in 2011.

[www.vilmabader.com](http://www.vilmabader.com)

Isms 2011,  
Pigment ink on  
archival paper,  
117 x 97 cm, Edition of 5

Graduates from

**COFA**

**NAS**

**SCA**

that show  
exceptional potential

## **Judging panel**

Barry Keldoulis

Joan Ross

Lisa Corsi

Michael Reid

Prue Gibson

Sebastian Goldspink

Michelle Paterson

Louise Rush

.M Contemporary is a gallery space that aims to create a cross cultural conversation through showing and supporting emerging and established artists from around the world. We aim to foster a strong appreciation in Australian audiences for a new generation of foreign and domestic artists and to expose both novice and established collectors to these works.

By curating interactive exhibitions .M Contemporary aims to serve as a platform that introduces all mediums of art ranging from traditional to digital video art, interactive and immersive installations, showcasing the skill, creativity and concepts of artists within these mediums from around the world. .M Contemporary has a strong focus on supporting these artists ongoing presence through regular exhibitions, complemented by industry expert panel discussions, artist talks, social events and more.

Recognising the need for broader participation and exposure to art, .M Contemporary is also opening up itself to schools, universities and other parties as a platform for education where an appreciation for global and local contemporary art is inspired and nourished.

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