

# ANAT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS FUND

Following on from the success in 1996 of the devolved Conference and Workshops program from the Australia Council ANAT continued to manage this grant program into 1997. This fund was established in recognition that artists are often priced out of key conference and workshop opportunities in the science, technology and new media areas, and small amounts of funding are available to cover registration costs to attend these events.

The Art and Technology Conference and Workshops Fund is a unique grant program allowing Australian artists to participate in the development of art, technology and science culture. Providing financial assistance for artists to attend local or international conferences, workshops or training programs, the Conference and Workshop Fund encourages Australian artists to be enmeshed in the very formation of technology based art communities.

### **Anita Kocsis (VIC)**

Virtual Communities in Sydney

### **Lisa Burnett (QLD)**

Virtual Communities in Sydney

### **Claudia Raddatz (SA)**

Virtual Communities in Sydney

### **Di Ball (QLD)**

Virtual Communities in Sydney

### **Danny Stefanic (VIC)**

Virtual Communities in Sydney

### **Hugh Evans (SA)**

Virtual Communities in Sydney

### **Andrew Garton (VIC)**

The Fifth International Conference in Central Europe on Computer Graphics and Visualisation in West Bohemia

### **Chris Caines (NSW)**

SIGGRAPH in the USA

### **James Verdon (VIC)**

SIGGRAPH in the USA

### **Sam da Silva (NSW)**

ISEA 97 in Chicago, USA

### **Stephen Jones (NSW)**

Consciousness Reframed in Wales

### **Peter Charuk (NSW)**

Consciousness Reframed in Wales

### **Isabelle Delmotte (NSW)**

The Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness conference in the USA prior to Consciousness Reframed in Wales

### **Jon Drummond (NSW)**

The International Computer Music Conference in Greece

### **Jeremey Yuille (QLD)**

The International Computer Music Conference in Greece

### **Lawrence Harvey (VIC)**

Interface '97 incorporating the 1997 Conference of the Australian Computer Music Association in New Zealand

### **Melinda Menning (NSW)**

6th International Symposium of Display Holography in the USA

### **Sabrina Schmid (VIC)**

Certificate in 3D Computer Animation at AFTRS in Sydney

### **Philip Samartzis (VIC)**

Workshops at the Centre for Electronic Music, The Netherlands

## 1997 ANAT NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

In January 1997 ANAT managed the 8th ANAT National Summer School. This year the focus of the school was internet design and web authoring.

Fourteen artists from all over Australia and from artform backgrounds as diverse as writing, photography, painting, installation, sound art and multimedia spent an intense, exciting and exhausting three weeks in the school at the University of Tasmania's Institute for the Arts.

The artists selected to participate in the school this year were:

- Sean Bacon, Hobart, TAS
- Di Barrett, Adelaide, SA
- Lisa Burnett, Brisbane, QLD
- Joyce Hinterding, Sydney, NSW
- John McQueenie, Hobart, TAS
- Cam Merton, Perth, WA
- Gillian Morrison, Melbourne, VIC
- Glen O'Malley, Cairns, QLD
- Damian Castaldi, Sydney, NSW
- Anne Robertson, Adelaide, SA
- Martin Thompson, Adelaide, SA
- Anita Kocsis, Melbourne, VIC
- Rick Vermey, Perth, WA
- Leesa Willan, Sydney, NSW

The tutors for the school were Lloyd Sharp <[www.ozemail.com.au](http://www.ozemail.com.au)>, Josephine Starrs <<http://online.anu.edu.au/ITA/starrs>> and Jason Gee <<http://syxs.apana.org.au>> three of Australia's leading new media artists. As part of the school this year, a number of other people were invited to give half day presentations: Kathy Bowrey, a new media legal specialist, Leon Cmielewski, an interactive artist and Dave Sag from internet designers Virtual Artists also conducted workshops during the School.

A vast array of technical skills were taught at the school from html (hyper text mark-up) to vrml (virtual reality mark-up) languages. A range of html authoring packages such as PageMill, Netscape Gold and Claris Home Page were demonstrated and artists also learnt how to embed animations, sound and virtual environments into web sites. The site includes javascript, shockwave, vrml, java, shockwave audio, QuickTime audio and QuickTime VR.

Joyce Hinterding says she was more interested in building environments and exploring new ways of developing "spaces" on the web than publishing documentation of existing work. Glen O'Malley was keen to explore the possibilities that virtual environments present as new spaces to present and explore his photographic practice.

Damian Castaldi has built an internet 'radio' environment exploring new possibilities for collaboration and presentation for sound works. All of the artists agreed that the key reason for being at the school was access: to other artists, access to technology, access to skills development opportunities and being able to brainstorm ideas with other creative practitioners.

The National Summer School is supported by:

- the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria
- the South Australian Government through Arts SA
- the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland,
- the Minister for Education and the Arts through Arts Tasmania
- the State Government of Western Australia through Art WA
- the Federal Government through the Australia Council, it's arts funding and advisory body.

Special thanks to the University of Tasmania's Institute for the Arts for the fantastic support for the school and in particular to Bill Hart and his staff in the Computer Lab without whose support the school would not have been the success that it was.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

### *RESEARCH INTO TRAINING NEEDS FOR CURATORS*

During 1997, ANAT undertook research into training needs for curators in this emerging area of exhibition practice.

As ANAT members know, ANAT has been holding National Summer Schools for artists since 1989. The School is unique in that it provides the only intensive computer based training program in Australia devised specifically for artists.

Whilst Australian artists have now achieved international acclaim for their work, many artists still have difficulty in having their work shown, except on a sporadic basis, within Australia. One of the reasons cited by many artists is that curators and arts administrators in Australia remain reticent to show the work of these artists, in part due to the difficulties of obtaining the equipment required to present the work (both perceived and real) and in part due to a lack of understanding of the work and of adequate design and display issues presented by interactive and electronic artworks.