

# **THE BIG ANXIETY**

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## **DIVERSITY OF PERCEPTION: A Seminar on Radical Inclusiveness that Everyone Should Attend.**

**22 September 2017 | 2 - 5 PM**

**AD Space, UNSW Art & Design, Paddington Campus**

Project Art Works (UK) open our eyes and senses to a world of difference in a seminar that illuminates the rich creative territory of neurodiversity.

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## ABOUT

We are a neurologically diverse society; we perceive and experience the world differently. How can art help us understand diversity of perception?

Project Art works approach this question, making art with, by and for people who have complex needs. In the process, they challenge the limits of our discourses of inclusion, asking how we can embrace rights, personalisation and the rich narrative territory of difference.

The event is for everyone: neurotypical and neurodiverse artists and makers, families, curators, cultural education/engagement professionals, care agencies, cultural, health and social care policy makers, those with lived experience, the general public and anyone interested in new ways of thinking about diversity and the different ways in which we perceive and inhabit the world.

A survey of projects including innovative, collaborative investigations of built space and their impact on people who are highly sensitive to sensory and environmental stimuli will provide the basis for discussions that explore:

- + The 'unknowability' of another person's experience of the world, especially if they are unable to communicate using language;
- + Collaborative, artworks informed by different states of being in and seeing the world;
- + Opportunities for audience response and Q&As on creative collaboration and inclusive curatorial programming;
- + Working with the support systems surrounding those with complex needs in order to achieve relevant and transformational connection between care and art.

This project is supported by ACE, Arts Council England.  
The seminar is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

## Friday, 22 September AFTERNOON

- 1:30 - 2:00 Arrivals, hospitality
- 2:00 - 2:10 Welcome & Introduction:  
**Jeremy Smith**, Arts Practice Director Community, Emerging & Experimental Arts, Australia Council for the Arts; and  
**Kate Adams**, Project Art Works
- 2:10 - 3:10 Project Art Works presentation, covering:  
+ The gaze - being different in public,  
+ Diversity of perception - embodied experiences of the world and how these are shared (relating to *The Not Knowing Another* exhibition)  
+ Impact of environments - attitudinal and physical  
+ Positive Behaviour Support in creative settings.
- 3:20 - 3:40 Q & A to include invitation to audience members to provide written provocations for discussion in Part 2
- 3:40 - 4:00 **Dr. Fiona Davis** - Barriers to inclusion: presentation followed by discussion (the NDIS funding model and how it translates to on the ground support for personal goals; barriers to inclusion; and the Bindi Art Gallery in Alice Springs)
- 4:00 - 4:20 Project Art Works: How we work with people with complex needs within contemporary art exhibition spaces - methodologies and tales.
- 4:20 - 4:40 Breakout discussions x 4 using one provocation per group. An opportunity to respond and participate through 4 discussion groups each facilitated by one of the speakers. Audiences will be invited to move between discussions if they wish. An example of a provocation may be: "How can greater inclusion and relevancy in curatorial programming be achieved? What needs to happen?"
- 4:40 - 5:00 Groups to share summaries of discussions, final words & short end film.

The agenda may change if we have audience members who may not relate to neuro-typical modes of presentation. In this case there will be an opportunity to share ideas and stories as part of the discussion but with artist facilitation.



## PROJECT ART WORKS

Project Art Works is an artist led organisation based in Hastings, UK. They deliver workshops, build installations, make films, exhibit work, support studio practice, provide advocacy and raise awareness with, about and for people who have complex needs (intellectual disability and/or autism and/or behaviours described as challenging).

They have recently received Arts Council England funding for Explorers, a three-year programme of art and conversation in partnership with cultural organisations across the UK and in Australia. Its overarching artistic vision is a new sound and film work in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Tate Gallery, artists Kate Adams, Tim Corrigan, Ben Rivers and Project Art Works' artists and makers, that tracks an investigation of a forest, the outdoors and wilderness in collaboration with a group of people who are highly sensitive to the sensory stimuli of the world around them.

See work by Project Art Works in The Big Anxiety at ADSpace, UNSW Art&Design  
<https://www.thebiganxiety.org/events/project-artworks/>