

Fusion Strength '05 = 24hr Art, Darwin

Press Release

A fusion. Not fusion food! But the fusion of art, ideas, art practises and art approaches. Fusion Strength is as the title suggests a fusion of strengths.

It is an adventure for the participating artists and equally for the audiences. Amalgamating strengths, rooted within these three notions; collaboration, intervention and performance and its discourse, FS (Fusion Strength) is a heady mix. A Singaporean blend concocted by Juliana Yasin, its initiator and artist, has proved remarkably successful in Singapore (26 May – 13 April 2001) and Indonesia (20 Jan – 20 Feb 2003). FS'05, NOW, makes its round in Australia.

FS humble beginning is an inquiry into the many question marks, commas, what ifs and in between spaces of an artist's life and art practise, namely Juliana Yasin's very own. This search for an approach that seeks an open and mutual parting and exchange of knowledge and ideas became its driving force. Fusion Strength is about collaborating through intervention and performance. At the heart of it is the artist's own interests and practises. FS creates a situation where time and other factors are taken into consideration, yet what ultimately surfaces is an Artists' resolve, creativity and inventiveness to various problems that arises within FS.

FS is structured around the idea that an art practise is organic and rhizoid. It is a living organism that breathes, expands and contracts, and grows.

FS'05 subtext is travelling (tourist/agent). It is not a theme. It is a strategy where each of the participating artists has already considered the subtext with regards to their own practise or possibly in the very act of travelling itself. Execution of the project begins by a Singaporean artist selecting an Australian counterpart forming a single cell. Each cell will then be given the opportunity to work together (pre and on site) but nothing is made nor prepared before arrival at Darwin. At 24Hr Art is where it all sets into motion. Tapping into the community and Darwin, the first cell will work towards a piece that will take form in any shape or form (Installation, performance or otherwise) the cell decides it to be. This work, then, could be altered in any way by another cell, based on a planned schedule. Three cycles of actions then form for FS in Darwin, Cells A to C, with three outcomes. All potentially beguiling.

This structure was also introduced in Indonesia but with a larger number of artists. Managing such an enterprise proved to be difficult, thus, in 2005 the numbers are cut back.

A chaotic experience ensues within the gallery. The fresh white walls of a gallery space then become a conference room, an archive, a workspace, a performance space, a studio, a lab, a gathering spot for these cells to interact, intervene, and perform in. What and where could be more explosive than six artists given the creative freedom, the space and time to collaborate?

Fusion Strength is where you will find such an experience.

FS' 05 = 24hr Art, Darwin will be showing from 16th to 30th September 2005.

For any other information, please contact...

The Artists:

Elka Kerkhofs

Born in Belgium, Elka Kerkhofs has lived in Darwin since 1997 and now works in the performing arts industry as a hybrid artist, sound and lighting designer, writer, director and filmmaker. She has a Masters in Visual Arts (Photography) and a Diploma in Contemporary Music.

In 2000 Elka started “Karelka Productions” with Karen Maxwell, creating short films and selected multimedia theatre shows. The company produced “The Tube” in Darwin’s unique 170m World War II Oil Storage Tunnels in 2001. Elka was the Multicultural Artist in Residence with Darwin Theatre Company from 2002 – 2003 where she produced “Site 3” of “Site and Sound the Home Show” and her one-woman show “What’s That Donkey For?”.

Elka received an emerging new media artist grant in 2000 and created the work “Blood Vs Wine” in collaboration with Tracks Dance Theatre. Last year, she collaborated with Tracks Director David McMicken on a multimedia dance performance entitled “Rust”. All these projects have been very well received by the public and attracted an excellent critical acclaim. Now she is working again with Tracks Dance Theatre on their latest show “Angels of Gravity” for the 2005 Darwin Festival.

Karelka Productions’ short film “Miss Tackle Goes To Europe” has been screened on SBS “Eat Carpet” and the recent short film “Miss Q mishandled” won an award at the 2004 Darwin “Fist Full of Films” competition. Elka’s unique perspective and varied talents contribute to her being considered amongst the finest multimedia/performance practitioners in Australia as evidenced by her attendance to Time_Space_Space 4 in Adelaide in July 2005.

Hayley West

Hayley West, has recently resettled in Darwin. Her practise stands as a testament to a need for open engagement with her communities, not only her dilemma, but many other artists. This is her fount of inspiration.

Hayley is currently engaged at exploring concepts of disengagement from place and self. ‘Am I There Yet?’ was shown at PICA and 24HR Art. The work is a sculptural installation created from the concept of linear relationships between people, space and place. Exploring and extending, her fascination with journeys and the movement through eternal and (un)determined routes. The physical piece became a representation of the production (and performance) of the work – charting the hours spent while recollecting the journey, and drawing the long (250 metres) thin, black line.

Hayley, is the Coordinator for Blind Date. It is an exhibition and a networking project bridging artists and art centres which are based and working within the Northern Territory; namely from Darwin, Maningrida, Katherine, Pine Creek, Alice Springs and Yulara.

Hayley works as the Administrator for Darwin Visual Artists Association(DVAA).

Lucas Ihlein

Lucas Ihlein is an artist based in Sydney. His art activities create social situations through collaborative process. Since 2000, Lucas is an active member of the SquatSpace Collective which engages in the politics of space in Sydney.

In 2004, he was the co-founder of the Network of Un-Collectable Artists, which produced a set of bub-

blegum cards featuring Australia's 50 most Un-Collectable Artists. In 2003, Lucas was awarded the Freedman Foundation Scholarship, thus he spent a month long research visit to London with interests in Expanded Cinema and film archives such as the LUX and St. Martin's College of Art. Lucas has also lived in a gallery for a month in an exhibition titled Bilateral, which took the form of installation.

Lucas graduated with BFA in 1996 from University of Western Sydney. This year, Lucas is commencing his practise led research PHD with Deakin University.

Jason Lim

Jason Lim is a well established and respected artist in Singapore. Trained as a Ceramicist at St Martin's College of Art - England, Jason's visual vocabulary and knowledge encompasses his passions within sculpture, ceramics, performance and installation. In 2003, he graduated from RMIT with a MFA.

Jason has taken many residencies across the globe; Japan, Australia and the Netherlands are amongst some places. During such periods of study, Jason has produced some intricate and beguiling shapes and forms in ceramics. The works are also installed as installations.

An active performer, Jason has participated at many international performance festivals. Best viewed as live performances, he has ventured to the shores of Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Japan, Poland, Greenland, Germany and Australia. In 2004, he was the Co-Artistic Director of Future of Imagination 2, an international art event in Singapore. This year, he organized StopOver, a performance art meeting in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur between artists from Japan, Singapore and Malaysia.

Jason's future projects include, International Performance Art Conference (Chile), Wolves(UK), PVA MediaLab(UK) and Vermot Studio Centre (USA).

Juliana Yasin

Juliana Yasin is a familiar face within the Singapore art scene. An active artist in her practise; Juliana does not only exhibits but performs with various solo / group initiatives and at various performance festivals since 1989, locally and internationally. Having spent numeral years away from Singapore pursuing her studies in Australia and working in Malaysia, Juliana is well versed in installation, performance and two dimensional works.

Her face has appeared countless times, not as an egoistical nor as a narcissistic attempt at marketing herself as the ultimate artist but rather, it is a point of initiation for many of her collaborative projects with other artists from around the globe. It always begins with a Xerox copy of her.

Situation, Museum of Contemporary Art - Sydney, is a group exhibition which Juliana is a participant. The exhibition involves artists collectives from Berlin, Sydney and Singapore. Fusion Strength was initiated by Juliana, it is an on-going travelling project which was first presented at Plastique Kinetic Worms (2001) and later at Benda Art Space (2003). The Project - Fusion Strength addresses working methods and networks by manner of collaboration and intervention by artists who actively investigates and is passionate about the many issues surrounding installation and performance art.

Juliana is an active member of The Artists Village and Plastique Kinetic Worms and she is also the Singapore researcher with Asia Art Archive.

Lina Adam

Lina Adam, a Singaporean artist is an active member of The Artists Village. She has worked with Kent Tyler

as an apprentice screen-printer in New York and later at Singapore Tyler Print Institute for several years before completing her BFA. Her current works take form of screen prints on canvases, hand-made objects and soft sculptures.

Lina is no stranger to Fusion Strength. Her input and experience for Fusion Strength as past participant for both instalments has proved useful and insightful. In 2002, she participated in Asiatopia 2002, an international performance art event in Bangkok and Chiangmai. The Artist Village and Lina presented a group performance entitled, 'Singa Dance'.

Your MOTHER gallery, is Jeremy Hiah and Lina's brainchild. The gallery provides young artists in Singapore with an alternative and affordable art space to showcase their works. Originally set in the tiny kitchen of their residence, the gallery is now thriving.

I would like to thank the main sponsors of FS'05 – 24 Hr Art,

Meyer Foundation, Australia

National Arts Council, Singapore.

I would like also to thank; Steve Eland,

Max Bowden,

24 Hr Art Team

for their patience, kindness, hospitality, and support. Thank you for your faith in such a project.

I personally would like to extend a heartfelt appreciation and warmest gratitude to Caroline Farmer for all her help and giving FS a chance to be shown in Darwin, June Yap for her support and encouragement, Karee Dahl for believing in my work and Zulharli Adnan, for love and my deepest appreciation and last but not least, all the participating artists of FS'05.

Thank you, guys!