

## A COLLECTIVE ARCHIVE

archive - an accumulation of historical records or the physical place they are located.

If it were possible to establish an archive of Albany at this point in time, store it in a capsule and jettison it into outer space, what exactly should we include? Surely reference to Albany's Entertainment Centre, the National ANZAC Centre, the wind-farm, the coast line, the harbour, the agricultural economy, and maybe some music by the Waifs - all commonly known attributes that the "person in the street" may consider important. However, artists do not necessarily consider the obvious or tangible. The work in this exhibition, from 24 artists of MIX Artists Inc. bears this out, their vision hones in on concerns otherwise forgotten or barely considered. Each artist has discovered an area of very particular and specific interest to themselves. These interests range from the very personal and socio-cultural to the historical and ecological.

We met regularly in the year or so leading up to this exhibition, and during an early discussion, it was decided that each artist would be given a square wooden box  $50 \times 50 \times 7$ cm reminiscent of a display box one may see in a museum. Not only would this provide some cohesion to such a diverse body of work but the exhibition as a whole would then become an "Alternative Archive" itself.

As always, the MIX artists have collectively presented a show that demands close inspection. It has been a rare pleasure to work with these artists and observe individual works evolve into this Alternative Archive of MIX Artists Inc.

PAUL MONCRIEFF
ARTIST / CURATOR March 2019



SUSAN ANGWIN
Tides of Time and Place
oil on canvas



LYNLEY CAMPBELL
"I shop therefore..."
fabric, machine embroidery, clothing tags



**KERRIE ARGENT**Remnants of existence found objects



KATE CAMPBELL-POPE Looking Inside (I see flowers) perspex, wax, glass, flocked paper



ANN COPEMAN

Chronicle of a Gondwanan Songbird
watercolour and ink on watercolour
paper, engraving on perspex, wood





ANNETTE DAVIS
"Have a nice day" detail
digital images, adhesive labels, receipts, thread



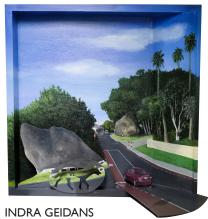
JENNY CRISP An Authentic Copy of a Dysfunctional Mountain Community repouse lead, aluminium, sterling silver, mixed media, graphite



SAMANTHA DENNISON
Flora
oil on wood and composite panel



KEVIN DRAPER Small Corner of the State steel and timber



INDRA GEIDAI Overshadowed oil on board



RENEÉ FARRANT
"Don't look at the smallness of the seed look at how big the tree can be"
barb wire, copper thread, artichoke seeds



JILLIAN GREEN
Lady Chapel
mixed media



NIKKI GREEN Inhabit detail mixed media installation



ROBYN LEES
Petticoat Pioneer detail
mixed media



**ANNE GROTIAN**Dog spikes
found spikes, rusted material



BARBARA MADDEN Colour My Life inkjet print on backlit transparency film, acrylic, timber, LED strip lights



SERENA McLAUCHLAN
Fines detail
City of Albany crushed glass, ash from original box, sand, dimensions variable



JILL O'MEEHAN
Forever Filling My Pockets detail
ceramics, yarn, organic matter and
found objects



RACHEL MORDY

Gendarme detail

perspex and digital media



NAT RAD Hollow oil paint, stems and leaves (Maple), cotton thread, paper, timber



**ELIZABETH RILEY**Permutations
charcoal and conte crayon on Arches
watercolour paper



SHERYL STEPHENS

Balcony detail
digital media transfer on plywood



MARGARET SANDERS
Sand Archive
Melaleuca sp., burned branches, Flora of
Albany brochure, 100 cut out photographs,
kenzan, florist tape, acrylic seal, sand



JO WASSELL My Story detail pencil and ink on paper

## 20 YEARS OF MIX

Twenty years ago, visual arts education in Albany was much stronger that it is now. As well as TAFE courses catering to a range of levels, a tertiary degree course was available. It was in this climate of art investigation and experimentation that ten artists gathered to discuss the formation of a group which would provide opportunities for professional and aspiring contemporary artists. This first meeting on 9 October, 1999 was the beginning of the artists' collective called MIX.

Over the years MIX has established a reputation as a leading contemporary arts group in Western Australia, and this has led to our current involvement in The Alternative Archive project.

From its beginning, MIX aimed to be a professional arts body to promote contemporary art in the Great Southern. Its first goal was to establish a space for exhibiting contemporary art work in Albany and various vacant sites were investigated. Insurmountable hurdles resulted in a slight shift in focus towards organising temporary exhibitions for its members.

MIX's first public showing was in February 2001 when 16 artists exhibited at 222 York Street, then a vacant building. It is noted in the minutes that "there was a general positive feedback from a variety of people. Some people disliked it but you can't please everybody". Over the twenty years, the response to MIX's projects has grown increasingly positive as audiences have come to appreciate the different perspectives presented through contemporary art.

In 2005 MIX became incorporated to enable it to secure funds for an ambitious project titled *Hotspot* which focussed on the biodiversity of this region. Starting with a symposium in 2005, involving several environmental art projects, and resulting in an exhibition which toured the State from 2006 to 2008, *Hotspot* brought attention to the talents of contemporary artists

in the Great Southern as well as the preciousness of the environment. Since then two further exhibitions, *HomeFRONT* (2015) and *Reservoir* (2018) have toured to other venues. Securing opportunities to exhibit beyond our region, particularly in the metropolitan area, continues to be a priority for the group.

One of MIX's roles is to promote the interests of contemporary artists and, to this end, members have contributed to a range of local and State forums and initiatives. Several of these have focussed on obtaining a flexible exhibition space in Albany which will enable contemporary artists to further extend their practice into areas of technology and installation, pursuits which are severely limited by the building fabric of the current venues. We look forward to the results of the Town Hall upgrade!

Productive relationships with the City of Albany, the Vancouver Arts Centre, the Museum of the Great Southern, Art on the Move, the Festival of Perth, and now with the Albany Arts Festival have enabled MIX to present and promote innovative non-commercial exhibitions and projects, on the smell of an oily rag (often paint-stained). Additional funding and sponsorship has been crucial to enable MIX to promote professional art practice by paying an exhibiting fee to artists and engaging exhibition curators.

Entering its twentieth year, MIX Artists Inc's membership is at an all-time high of 29. The suitability of the name 'MIX' is reaffirmed by each exhibition – and at each group meeting! The passion, talents, and diverse perspectives within the group bode well for its future.

Annette Davis
Chair MIX Artists Inc.

The Alternative Archive-MIX Vancouver Arts Centre, Albany 16 March to 11 April, 2019 Open Mon to Fri 9am to 4pm Saturday 10am to 3pm

Curator: Paul Moncrieff Co-ordinator: Annette Davis Graphic Designer: Verve St Design

Photography: Bob Symons and Jacinta Lacao, ACE Camera Club

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The Alternative Archive-MIX is part of the 2019 Albany Arts Festival Season.

This exhibition is part of the State-wide Connect to the Creative Grid project, in which 13 groups of artists are presenting exhibitions in response to a central curatorial brief (The Alternative Archive written by Anna Louise Richardson).

This project is supported by the State Government of WA and Country Arts WA through the Regional Arts Partnership Program, the Australian Government through the Regional Arts Fund and the City of Albany's Vancouver Arts Centre.







Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund



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