

MAKERS' FILM FESTIVAL 2021

An intriguing program of 24 short films.

This new collection of films focuses on how we employ the dexterity of our hands to create functional objects, art and to tell the stories of our lives. It encompasses a broad range of craft, design and making disciplines presented in mini documentaries, story-led artist profiles to ingenious animations and music video. Selected from near and far, the films spotlight the everyday habits and skills of 'makers and smiths'. They reveal what drives enduring professional practice, and illustrate a diversity in film-making creativity and genre as much as the traditional and contemporary craft approaches.

Disciplines and techniques include: Basketry, Ceramic Art + Pottery, Costume Design + Making, Fibre Art, Glassmaking, Jewellery + Metalsmithing, Pearl Carving, Puppet Making, Screen + Block Printing, Sound Design + Making, Stop Motion Animation, Textiles, Weaving, and Zoetropes.

Screened in two parts, either with an interval in between or screened separately. Each part includes 12 films of varying duration.

An Australian panel comprising Carola Akindele-Obe, John Collee, Mary Ellen Cliff and Ron Bradfield Jnr selected the 24 films from over 60 submissions received from an open call.

The Makers' Film Festival 2021 was produced to complement the inaugural Indian Ocean Craft Triennial, IOTA21, supported by Lotterywest.

The Makers' Film Festival was produced on Noongar country in the south-west of Western Australia. Producers Maker&Smith respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, waters and skies where we enjoy good living today in Australia – in particular the Whadjuk and Mineng peoples of the Noongar Nation where we mostly operate. We respect their culture and the continuing contribution they make to the vitality of this region.

For tour dates and venues, visit makerandsmith.com.au

PART ONE (1 hour 12 min)

A Measure of Time

04.22 / glassmaking

'The brief that glass artist Clare Belfrage gave me for this film was to give the audience both an insight into the creative process behind her work but also to communicate the energy and tension that goes into making her pieces. Clare's work contains many layers and she invites us to look deeper into her work through these layers and she hoped that like her work, this film would also have that sense. We talked at length about how she thinks and works. I recorded the conversation and from this I constructed the story I wanted to tell.'

Artist: Clare Belfrage

Director, Cinematographer, Editor, and

Colour Grading: Randy Larcombe

Production and onsite sound

recording: Suzi Ting

Audio Mix: Scott Illingworth

Music Score: Belinda Gehlert

Spirited hands

04.24 / textile

Paula do Prado explores the theme of identity with techniques involving repurposed fabric, yarns and beads. She crochets, saws and paints. Creates bead work and collages in a vivid palette. In 1986, when she was seven, she migrated from Uruguay to Australia with her family. Later in life, she learned that her grandmother was from a family of African slaves. Through her art, she reflects on the identity of migrants on a stolen land. A private story within the big story. The material she uses comes from past scarcity and family habits of keeping everything which could be useful. Her everyday life in Sydney as a woman of colour, as a mum of a little boy, in a mostly white society, gives her ample inspiration for reflection and storytelling through creation. She also explores gender and sexuality, representing male and female features in her soft, colourful sculptures. For her, society tends to categorise gender like race, but nature is much more complex than neat little boxes where we can place people.

Artist: Paula do Prado

Film-maker and Editor: Flore Vallery-Radot

Andile Dyalvane – iThongo

07.15 / ceramics

'iThongo means "dreamscape" in the Xhosa language. It refers to the medium through which messages – uYalezo – are transmitted from the ancestors.' Cape Town based ceramic artist Andile Dyalvane explains the importance of channelling uYalezo as he sets to work in his studio.

Comprising 23 sculptural stools, chairs and benches 'iThongo' is Dyalvane's fourth solo exhibition. We learn how the work honours his ancestors and represents a healing force from which we can all receive something. We follow Dyalvane as he takes the stools to his rural homestead in Ngobozana, Eastern Cape, where his family and extended community had the opportunity to experience the works for two days before it was shown at galleries Southern Guild in Cape Town (December 2020), and Friedman Benda in New York (April 2021).

Artist: Andile Dyalvane

Producer: Kelly Berman

Photographer: Adriaan Louw

Videographer: Marius van Rensburg

Music composed + performed: Mntana.WeXhwele

Supported by: Southern Guild, Friedman Benda and BMW

(My)Space

03.32 / basket weaving

Fiona Gavino weaves herself into her work in public places. She creates a tangible interstice that restructures the conventional and devises free areas of expression.

Artist + Producer: Fiona Gavino

Film-maker: Pixels Fibre Project / Myrto Angelouli

PART ONE (1 hour 12 min)

Connexions

15:00 / jewellery / metalsmithing

A back-to-back stream of short films about the inspirations, material choices, making habits and processes of six jewellery artists. Produced to coincide with the 'Connexions' exhibition opening in Paris during the triennial Parours Bijoux jewellery festival in 2020.

Artists: Emily Beckley, Fatemeh Boroujeni, Melissa Cameron, Blandine Hallé, Eden Lennox + Sultana Shamshi.

Production + Film-maker:

Vam Media / Brendan Hutchens

Filming assistant: Lola Digital

Supported by: the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in Western Australia and the Australia Council for the Arts

The Housewarming

4:13 / animation / handcrafted / digital effects

A stop animation film about a man who moves into a new house, unaware of the curious inhabitants before him. He accidentally wakes the dead by reading from a book that was left behind.

Writer, Director, Production Design, Set Building, Prop Building, Animator, Editor: Ebony Toke
Voice Actor: Eden Toke
Production Design, Set Building, Puppet Builder: Julie Toke

Peregrinations of a Citizen Botanist

12:33 / embroidery/textiles/ millinery/costume/puppet making

This 'making of' film looks at the historical research behind the exhibition 'Peregrinations of a Citizen Botanist' which charts the adventures of a time travelling naturalist as he returns to Australia 227 years after first landing there.

Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardière was a French botanist who journeyed to Western Australia in the 18th century. Susie Vickery, theatrical costume maker and embroidery artist, ponders the idea of Labillardière making an imaginary second visit, during which he gradually becomes one with the native plants around

him. We follow how his new journey is created and illustrated by a puppet who moves through several costume changes and sets. We meet the people who collaborate with Susie to bring the exhibition together: milliner Susi Rigg, set builder Nathan Crotty, Aboriginal nature consultant Adellamay Ryder, and natural dye expert Holly Story.

Lead Artist + Producer: Susie Vickery
Director: Emma Vickery
Cinematography: Laure Bernard
Editor: Oliver Dear

Mechanical Sampling

12:32 / jewellery / metalsmithing

Watch contemporary jeweller Phoebe Porter at work in her studio. The film makes visible the numerous processes involved in producing a series of rings for a solo exhibition shown at Craft ACT in 2019. It reveals the meticulous work undertaken to complete each ring, from initial sketch to the final polishing and the stamp of the object maker.

'A beautifully shot and beautifully edited film that brings out in an intimate way the relationship between the artist, her equipment and her product. I love the close-ups of her fingers, so soft, and the metal, sandpaper, files, etc. It is a film about texture.' Roger Pulvers

Artist: Phoebe Porter
Film-maker + Editor: Andrew Sikorski
This project was supported by: Arts ACT

in knots

2:27 / textiles

'Like many, I turned to craft and making to process the unparalleled events that shaped 2020. For others, this appeared as a romantic strategy to withdraw from our chaotic world, the frightening headlines and social media updates about the state of our planet, communities, health and future. My experience contrasted this, the repetitive nature of making eliciting reflective thoughts. It brought these events to the front of my mind. My emotions and stresses became interwoven throughout my work. Soon I was in knots, both physically and mentally.'

Artist + Film-maker: Luciano
Music: Marli Grosskopf

A Year of Time

6:25 / basket weaving / jewellery

Bridget Kennedy, a contemporary artist and gallery director, explains her project 'A Year of Time', a two-year participatory art project which involved exchanging time for handmade woven vessels.

Artist: Bridget Kennedy
Interviewer: Paraskey Begatis
Film-maker: Luke Torrevillas
Editor: Kimberley Peel

Obsessed: Compelled to Make – Tjunkaya Tapaya

4:07 / weaving / fibre

Tjunkaya Tapaya divides her time as an artist painting for Ernabella Arts in the mornings and weaving in the afternoons for Tjanpi Desert Weavers. Tjunkaya holds senior positions in her community and is a keeper of culture and stories. It is these stories and experiences that she weaves into her work, an important element being to pass on culture and skills to new generations of makers.

'Obsessed: Compelled to Make' is an ADC On Tour exhibition which explores preoccupations that drive creative process, providing insight into the working practices of fourteen Australian artists. Moving beyond finished work, this project tells the hidden stories of making, uncovering artists' inspirations, day-to-day studio experiences, years of expertise and the joys and frustrations of obsession.

Artist: Tjunkaya Tapaya
Producer: Australian Design Centre
Film-maker: Angus Lee Forbes
Translator: Linda Rive
Special thanks to: Tjanpi Desert Weavers Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)

The Dance

2:43 / ceramics

An animation film, based on the cups made by Madhvi Subrahmanian for the installation 'Ode to the Unknown'. The installation pays homage to the anonymous labourer in colonial Singapore.

Artist: Madhvi Subrahmanian
Film-makers: Madhvi Subrahmanian, Lea Vidakovic
Music: Srimallya Maitra

INTERVAL

PART TWO (1 hour 17 min)

Confluence

13:00 / ceramics

I met Warrick Palmateer while surfing a local break together in Yanchep. He had heard about my 'Yanchep' exhibition and couldn't make it to the screening but managed to watch it online after its release. Turns out he was taking some time out this year to create a huge body of clay work inspired by the Yanchep coast line and more specifically the top down perspective I had captured through aerial imagery. We got chatting about ideas and inspiration, he mentioned he may want me to work on a film to accompany his artwork. Time went on and this idea soon became a reality.

Warrick started work on his pieces at Brikmakers, a ginormous, hard to grasp scale of a factory where millions of bricks are made every year. It was the only place with a kiln big enough to fire his huge pots. It took a few months of testing and preparation before Warrick was ready for me to start gathering some footage.'

Artist: Warrick Palmateer

Film-maker + Editor: Matthew Bettinaglio

Vicki Mason – Contemporary jeweller

04:30 / jewellery

The myriad of sounds that a jeweller makes when working with metal, gas, and steel tools are a definite feature of this intimate filmic study of a maker at work. Adding to the mix are the sounds of a craftsperson who also works with textiles. Vicki Mason makes a wattle brooch and the film-maker reveals something of the processes and time taken to craft a little slice of wearable art in this quiet meditative film.

Artist: Vicki Mason

Film-maker: Mark Newbound

Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft\ Prue Venables

03:50 / ceramics

Prue Venables' sculptural ceramics possess clarity, luminosity and a quiet beauty. Filmed at Prue's studio in Victoria, this documentary film offers a glimpse into the work and practice of one of Australia's most highly accomplished potters. Prue Venables is the ninth artist in the Australian Design Centre's ADC On Tour exhibition series 'Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft'.

Artist: Prue Venables

Producer: Australian Design Centre

Film-maker: Angus Lee Forbes

Music: Elena Kats-Chernin

The film was made to accompany the ADC On Tour exhibition 'Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft\ Prue Venables' on tour nationally in Australia from 2019-2022.

There Is No Blessing In This Work

08:09 / stop animation

This stop animation gives focus to the act of looking intently, of staring, gazing and drawing. It explores the hands, the poses of arms of 'Indian' women engaged in work and labour, across many countries around the world criss-crossing the Indian Ocean – The Kala Pani. Based on stories passed down by grandmothers and othermothers, and documented histories, hundreds of drawings were created using the artists' hands as the model, these are lined by poetic text bringing forward the voices that are submerged in the Kala Pani.

Artists, Film-makers + Animators:

Audrey Fernandes-Satar + Arif Satar

Zizipho Poswa – new works from the Magodi series

02:19 / ceramics

Raised by her mother and nurtured by a community of strong Xhosa women, Cape Town-based artist Zizipho Poswa honours these women in clay. Her large-scale ceramic works tell of their hair styles and reflect their life approaches.

Artist: Zizipho Poswa

Producer: Kelly Berman/Southern Guild

Videographer: Marius van Rensburg

Supported by: Southern Guild, Friedman Benda and BMW

Sol Bunker

08.39 / sound designer-maker

A successful yet eccentric sound designer Sol Bunker searches for the elusive 'frequency of life' to help save his dying wife. Whilst Sol progressively falls deeper into obsession, it is up to his son Addie Bunker to take on the role of parent and to help Sol understand reality.

Writer and Director: Nathan Mewett

Producer: Glen Stasiuk

Sound Design: Leo Murray

Score: Thomas 'Soup' Campbell and Ben Morton

Production Design: Erika Jellis

Cinematography: Damian Fasolo

Emily McGuire Death Silks

05:59 / textiles

Emily McGuire is a project based artist who is working on a series called Death Silks and Joy Dolls. Using her abstract paintings from the series, Emily printed silk shrouds to be used to wrap the human body as a way to prepare for burial.

Film-maker: Rae Fallon

Videography: Flore Vallery-Radot

Tarnanthi – Darrell & Garry Sibosado

04:10 / pearl shell carving

The ocean has been pivotal in the lives of the Bard people for many thousands of years as both a source of food and spiritual significance. Evidence of their salt water heritage is found in their traditionally based artworks and pearl shell carving.

Brothers Darrell and Garry Sibosado live and work in Lombadina, in the far north west of Western Australia. This film was made to accompany their representation in Tarnanthi, the festival of Australian First Nations Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia in 2019.

Artists: Darrell Sibosado, Garry Sibosado

Produced by: Closer Productions

Cinematographer: Bryan Mason

Editor: David Scarborough

Music composed + performed: Benjamin Speed

Tarnanthi is presented by the Art Gallery of South Australia in partnership with BHP and with the support of the Government of South Australia.

Winterwares

06:18 / ceramics

Simone Nabholz, founder and designer of Fremantle-based Winterwares ceramics, reflects on how she came to adore pottery as a way to rebuild herself after a breakdown. Much like the Japanese explanation of Kintsugi, Simone discovered that something broken and put back together can be more precious than it was before.

Artist: Simone Nabholz

Film-maker: Rae Fallon

Sound Editor: Josh Hogan

PART TWO (1 hour 17 min)

Transformation 10: Contemporary Works in Found Materials

06:36 / jewellery

Meet the Contemporary Craft's 2017 Raphael Prize winner – jewellery artist Melissa Cameron. Cameron's winning artwork '1.1.2017' catalogues one day of gun violence in the USA. A total of 62 fatal gun incidents happened in 55 places throughout the U.S.A. on 1 January 2017 with 66 guns involved resulting in the deaths of 73 people. The film introduces Cameron and the work alongside her research and making process. Melissa Cameron moved back to her hometown Perth, Australia in 2018, less than a month after receiving this accolade.

Artist: Melissa Cameron

Filmmaker: Pisano Films / Michael Pisano

Producer: Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh

A Brief History of the Earth

12:19 / fibre art

Josephine Jakobi is the epitome of what it means to be a biophilic artist. With a profound sense of place having lived in East Gippsland, Australia, for her entire life, Josephine has a deep connection with her environment taking exceptional interest in ephemeral objects with ecology deeply embedded in her process. Living on the edge of the Colquhoun Forest at her forever home, *Bungalook*, Josephine's focus is art, community and environmental curiosity which is increasingly centred around the Lake Tyres Estuary. Using only natural materials Josephine is a true process artist, her art is not derived from the desire of the object, it's derived from the very process.

Production: Angela Truscott and Daniel Truscott, Fibre Arts Take Two

Music: Kristin Rule

Drone Footage: Mark Dyson of Skylark Visual

Leaving LA

05:17 / animation

Tim Minchin wrote 'Leaving LA' after his animated film was cancelled after four years in production; transforming his feelings into an angry-funny meditation on the city of Los Angeles. At turns melancholic and anthemic, the song and Ng's animation stages a quest for freedom from superficiality and limits on our creative spirits.

"The film has taken thousands of hours to make, and has become a project that not only enhances the song, but utterly transcends it. It is one of the most wonderful pieces of animation I have ever seen." – Tim Minchin

Cast: Tim Minchin, Sarah Belkner, Jak Housden, Benjamin Vanderwal, James Haselwood, Dane Laboyrie, Matthew Ottignon, Ben Gurton

Director: Tee Ken Ng

Director of Photography: Michael McDermott (Perth), Rodrigo Vidal Dawson (Sydney)

Editor: Jade Rice

Gaffer: Dan Spriggs (Perth), Steve Schofield (Sydney)

Wardrobe: Ella Butler

Makeup: Eliza Campagna

Art Department: Paul Caporn, Jacqueline Pelczar, Greg Weaver, Alex Yapp, Toby Smith, Katie Burgess

LA Photography: Sebastian Mrugalski

Colourist: Jaemie Manners

Producer: Aidan O'Bryan

A WBMC production

Submit your film for the next makers' film festival:
www.makerandsmith.com.au/makers-film-festival

Closes 01 December 2022.

maker&smith

Makers' Film Festival is produced + presented by Maker&Smith.

Post production: Jasmine Rose Productions.

Brand design: Isabel Krüger

Graphic Design: Christopher Young

IOTA21

SUPPORTED BY

lotterywest

The Makers' Film Festival is part of IOTA21:
Indian Ocean Craft Triennial supported by Lotterywest.