

North Melbourne Town Hall
521 Queensberry Street

New Art New Ideas New Worlds

*Melbourne's centre for
contemporary performance*

ARTS HOUSE

February – June 2020

artshouse.com.au

Sipat Lawin and Friends

Xiao Ke x Zi Han

Robert Curgenvin and Kat McDowall

Shohei Fujimoto

Marcus Whale

Ivey Wawn

And introducing...

*BLEED - a Biennial Live Event
in the Everyday Digital*

	ARTWORK/ ARTIST	WHEN	CATEGORY	ACCESS	TICKETS
ASIA TOPA	What Is Chinese? Xiao Ke x Zi Han	Visit the house Thu 20 – Sun 23 Feb, Various times Exhibition Thu 20 – Sun 23 Feb, 2-6pm Wed 26 – Sat 29 Feb, 2-7.30pm Performance Sat 29 Feb, 4.30–6pm	Installation and performance	 	Visit Free/\$ Exhibition Free Performance \$
	Are You Ready To Take The Law Into Your Own Hands Sipat Lawin and Friends	Wed 26 – Sat 29 Feb, 7.30pm	Theatre	  Fri 28	\$
SPECTRAL	Wallpaper III & IV Del Lumanta	Thu 2 – Thu 9 Apr, weekdays: 12-6pm weekend: 11am-4pm	Installation		Free
	power of one #distortion [2020] power of one #point [2019] power of one #surface / test pattern 2 [2019] Shohei Fujimoto	Thu 2 – Thu 9 Apr, weekdays: 12-6pm weekend: 11am-4pm	Installation	 	Free
	Spectral: Live House of Vnholy, Robert Curgenvén and Kat McDowall, Howie Lee with Amrita Hepi	Thu 9 Apr, 8pm	Gig	 	\$
NEXT WAVE	In Perpetuity Ivey Wawn	Wed 20 – Sat 23 May, 7.30pm	Dance	 	\$
	Possession Marcus Whale	Wed 27 – Sat 30 May, 7.30pm	Opera / Live art		\$
BLEED	Biennial Live Event In The Everyday Digital Program announced March	Mon 22 Jun – Sun 5 Jul, various	Various		Free/\$
ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES	Makeshift Workshop: How Things Sound Matters Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey	Applications close Thu 30 Jan (workshop 25-27 Mar)	Artist Professional Development		Free
	Makeshift Workshop: DEVISE - inclusive practice with ensembles Rawcus	Applications close Thu 6 Feb (workshop 20-22 Apr)	Artist Professional Development		Free

Sally Capp

Lord Mayor of Melbourne

Cr Rohan Leppert

Chair, Arts, Culture and Heritage

Arts House — Season 1

The City of Melbourne is proud to support the Arts House program, which encourages bold and experimental performances. The first season for 2020 opens with the international collaborations of Asia TOPA, exploring stories of identity and connections in the Asian region.

Arts House plays an important role in the creation of new artistic work in our city. Arts and events are celebrated aspects of our city's liveability. New and regular audience members will find much to provoke and entertain them in the new season and we wish all involved in performing and producing at Arts House every success.

Emily Sexton

Artistic Director

We've hit 2020. There are no hover-boards and even less space food. What we have instead is fire, smoke and displacement. We're connected and aware, but the distance felt as we try to reach out and support each other – remains.

This season at Arts House reflects how artists strive for closer connections, every day. Connections between culture, identity, technology, art, politics and philosophy.

We are proud to present the new works of artists that connect China, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan and across Australia as part of Season 1. In their meeting, they create and offer an energy that I believe is sustaining for a creative city like Melbourne. And their energy is infectious, so if you need an injection – come feel it at Arts House.



image: Xiao Ke x Zi Han

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) people of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

For the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

Today we are proud to say that Melbourne is a significant gathering place for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

New Art New Ideas New Worlds

Based at North Melbourne Town Hall and on the land of the Kulin Nations, Arts House is where artists and audiences gather to find new frontiers in contemporary performance.

Arts House presents a year-round program of new art, including Dance Massive, BLEED: A Biennial Live Event in the Everyday Digital and Refuge (2016-20). A key program of the City of Melbourne, we work in partnership to realise the visions of independent artists who represent a diverse Australia. We support them to develop new works through our CultureLAB residencies, and nurture creativity through professional development and timely conversations.



image: Howie Lee

Asia TOPA — February

Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts



image: Xiao Ke x Zi Han

What is Chinese?

by Xiao Ke x Zi Han

Thu 20 - Sat 29 Feb

What is Chinese? A country, a culture, a community or an identity?

Almost a quarter of humanity can trace ethnic roots to Chinese culture, but how does that manifest in our everyday lives? This international collaboration ruminates on the connections and distinctions between people the world over. Part documentary, part performance, part installation, over the course of 10 days Arts House will be transformed into a living response to the question, with artists from both China and Australia living on-site and creating new work.

Are You Ready To Take The Law Into Your Own Hands

by Sipat Lawin and Friends

Wed 26 - Sat 29 Feb

The Philippines's biggest popstar has been kidnapped, and it's up to a ragtag squad of fans to bring her back. They'll brave rooftop chases and knife fights in the back of speeding jeepneys to liberate their idol from a conspiracy that threatens to tear their country apart.

A high-octane Filipino action film crossed with a roof-raising musical set in a nation on the brink, *Are You Ready To Take The Law Into Your Own Hands* has zero political relevance to current events. None. At all.



image: Bertha Alejandrino Santos

Spectral — April

Dive into the spaces between sound and light



image: Shohei Fujimoto

Shohei Fujimoto

Thu 2 – Thu 9 Apr

From cathedrals of light to the most fleeting of flickers, Shohei Fujimoto's luminescent installations dramatise the opposition of chaos and order with startling results. Abstract in nature and minimalist in form they reveal to the viewer the elaborate and invisible systems that underlie our reality, making visible the powerful forces that shape our every moment.

For Spectral he presents three of the most recent installations in his widely acclaimed *power of one* series, including the world premiere of *power of one #distortion*.



image: Del Lumanta

Wallpaper III & IV by Del Lumanta

Thu 2 – Thu 9 Apr

Our cities once sang to us. In elevators, lobbies and restaurants the compositions sneeringly dubbed Muzak sought to provide a soundtrack to our lives. The challenge to composers was to make music that wouldn't attract attention, but today music fanatics around the world study and collect these curious artefacts of aural camouflage. Del Lumanta's *Wallpaper* series explores the untapped potential of background music.

Take an elevator ride and listen to the songs a building sings.



Spectral: Live

Thu 9 Apr

This gig was the sold-out hit of last year's Arts House calendar: broaden your mental bandwidth for brand new transmission.

Bridging the gulf between the aural, visual and physical, Robert Curgenvin and Kat McDowall's new sound and light work *AGENESIS* explores our embodied response to sound. This live performance explores sound's relationship to architectural contexts, weather and the physical transmission of sound through air.

Experimental art collective House of Vnholy are known for their dark performance events that sculpt light, video and sound to transcendent effect. For *Spectral: Live* they present *SEER*, a visually stunning and haunting meditation on the rituals of death and dying. The gig closes with a new collaboration between Beijing-based electronic musician Howie Lee and dancer-choreographer Amrita Hepi.

image: video capture from SEER footage by Arlo Dean Cook

Next Wave — May

A new generation of Australian artists

In Perpetuity by Ivey Wawn

Wed 20 – Sat 23 May

We are the living dead. For most of our lives our meaning is stripped down to the profitability of our bodies. How can we strive to be anything more, when the value of our existence is reduced to its labour potential?

Choreographer Ivey Wawn asks us to find magic in the spaces between us. Alternately mournful, sensual and violent, *In Perpetuity* uses dance, music, scent and language to question our relationships to capital, to ourselves and to each other.

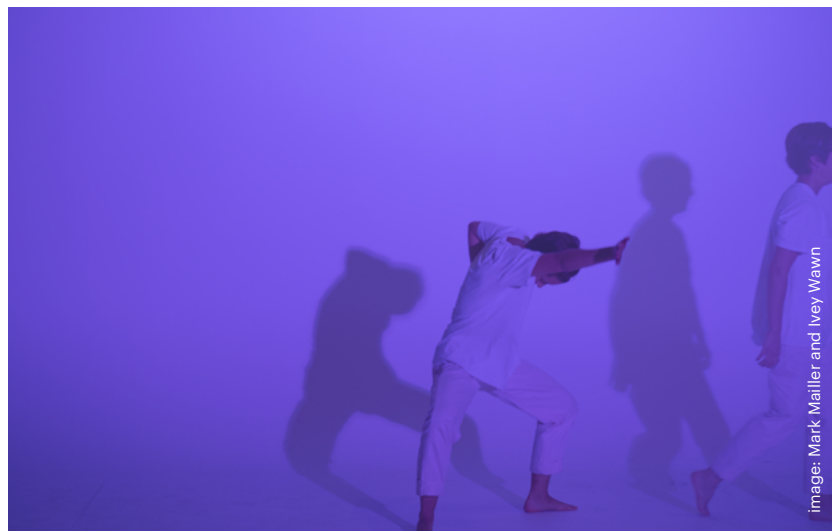


image: Mark Mailer and Ivey Wawn



image: Rena Zheng

Possession by Marcus Whale

Wed 27 – Sat 30 May

A feedback opera powered by desire, *Possession* celebrates the high drama and craft of opera via a solo performer inhabited by forces beyond human control. Aural feedback manifests physically and disembodied sounds hum, howl and screech.

Bringing together the diverse talents of multi-disciplinary artists Marcus Whale, Justin Shoulder and Matthew Adey for Beizj Studio, *Possession* conjures a theatrical vision of erotic desire with the power to change both body and mind. Give in to its urge.



BLEED is a new six-year project exploring the interplay between the live and the digital. From URL to IRL and back again, this is art that meets you where you already are: online, hyper-connected and endlessly networked.

Presented by Arts House and Campbelltown Arts Centre (Sydney), BLEED tracks the border crossings between bodies and devices, the real and the virtual, and our private and public selves. As the digital increasingly seeps into our communities, identities and culture, these works make visible the shifts in power that result.

BLEED Vol 1. takes place from 22 June to 5 July at Arts House, Campbelltown Arts Centre, online, in the flesh and in your pocket. Between the beating heart and technology's bleeding edge, this is art as the pulse of tomorrow.

Full program announced March 2020.
Sign up for updates at bleedonline.net
#BLEED2020

Tickets and Venue

Arts House is located at North Melbourne Town Hall at 521 Queensberry Street.

Tickets can be purchased at the Arts House box office, at artshouse.com.au or by phone on (03) 9322 3720. There is a maximum \$2.50 transaction fee when booking online or by phone.

Hop online for full details and for all info related to concession tickets, refunds and exchanges.

Locals Discount

If you're a resident of North Melbourne, West Melbourne, Kensington or the CBD you can buy tickets to Arts House-presented events at concession prices. Use the promo code LOCAL when you book and show us proof of residence when you pick up your tickets.

Come On In

Get involved with Arts House throughout the year. Sign up to the e-news, follow us on Instagram and Facebook, and keep an eye on the website to buy tickets and stay up to date.

W artshouse.com.au

f [artshousemelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/artshousemelbourne)

@ [artshouse](https://www.instagram.com/artshouse)

Accessible Performances

We are committed to ensuring that our program is as accessible as possible for everyone to enjoy. We have Auslan interpreted and audio described events and we support the Companion Card program.



Arts House venues are wheelchair accessible, there are accessible toilets on every floor of Arts House and you can access all levels via a lift. If you're attending a show at Arts House or have an appointment to meet us, you can enter via our accessible entrance on Errol Street. Because of the unusual presentation of some shows certain performances may be restricted.

Please check online for details or call us on (03) 9322 3720 to discuss your access requirements.

Buy tickets at artshouse.com.au

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