



## MEDIA RELEASE 29 April 2008

### What to do with what you've (not) got: Impairment & Augmentation

The Australian Network for Art & Technology (ANAT) is pleased to announce the **May discussion** on the **Synapse elist** which, throughout 2008, is investigating the leading-edge of art and science research collaboration.

The use of augmenting technologies for different types of bodies results in very different things. Issues related to functional impairment and the use of prostheses to extend ability are not the same as those raised by the use of prostheses to achieve a type of 'super-functionality' on the one hand, or to question what bodies are and could be, on the other.

Throughout the month of May the Synapse elist will discuss **impairment and augmentation** and, specifically, **artistic engagement** with this field. The discussion will look at different types of augmentation practices and tease out the impacts of each on how we think about, inhabit and use our bodies. Also under investigation will be the way in which artistic concerns intersect with experiences of impairment and/or augmentation – from the synaesthetic nature of communication aids, to the questions raised by an artist's use of network-driven prostheses.

---

#### DISCUSSION GUESTS

**LIZBETH GOODMAN** is Director of the SMARTlab Digital Media Institute and Magic Gamelab at the University of East London. She established (and is now Director of) the Trust Project for children in hospital, which uses gaming and haptics to enhance the physical well-being and learning of those with limited physical ability. <http://www.smartlab.uk.com/1/about/director.htm>

**JU GOSLING**, aka ju90, is a London-based artist, writer and activist who works primarily with digital lens-based media, but also with performance, text and sound. In 2006-07, she undertook a residency at the UK's National Institute of Medical Research, where she explored how science affects the way we perceive ideas of disability and normality, leading her to develop a scientific model of disability. <http://www.ju90.co.uk>

**BRAD NUNN**, an artist, has been exhibiting since the late 1980s. He holds a PhD in Visual Arts and teaches sculpture and fine art programs at undergraduate and postgraduate level. In 1993 Brad had a serious brain haemorrhage, leaving him with physical and neurological deficits. Since then, his artistic practice has explored and engaged with the prevailing ideas of the prosthesis in contemporary culture. [http://www.synapse.net.au/people/brad\\_nunn](http://www.synapse.net.au/people/brad_nunn)

**STELARC** is an Australian performance artist who has presented his work extensively in Japan, Europe, and the USA. His projects have included the *Third Hand*, a *Stomach Sculpture* and *Exoskeleton*, a six-legged walking robot. His present project involves surgically constructing an extra ear on his arm that will be internet enabled. He is Chair in Performance Art at Brunel University and a Senior Research Fellow at the MARCS Labs at the University of Western Sydney. <http://www.stelarc.va.com.au>

To subscribe to the elist visit: [www.synapse.net.au](http://www.synapse.net.au) and select 'Discussion List'

---



Government of South Australia  
Arts SA



ANAT is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts <[www.ozco.gov.au](http://www.ozco.gov.au)> its arts funding and advisory body, by the South Australian Government through Arts SA <[www.arts.sa.gov.au](http://www.arts.sa.gov.au)> and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.