



## **SNAP! CRACKLE! POP! ARTISTS ELECTRIFY SCIENCE**

*Collaborations between the arts and sciences have the potential to create new knowledge, ideas and processes beneficial to both fields. Artists and scientists approach creativity, exploration and research in different ways and from different perspectives, leading to new experiences and interpretations of the world around us.*

For the past decade, the Australian Network for Art & Technology (ANAT) has provided opportunities for artists and scientists to work together. Ms Vicki Sowry has recently been appointed as manager of ANAT's *art research science* program with responsibility for its continued expansion and growth. This includes the delivery of the Synapse initiative in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts, which comprises residencies, an online database and a moderated email discussion list.

### **Synapse residencies support intensive partnerships between media artists and science institutions in Australia and beyond. ANAT is excited to announce the successful residency partnerships for 2007:**

#### ***Kirsty Boyle (NSW) + the Artificial Intelligence Lab (Switzerland)***

Kirsty will draw upon her extensive knowledge of Karakuri Ningyo (Japanese mechanical doll making) to develop *girltron*, a girl robot with a mechanical performance-based AI system. *Girltron* highlights the importance of fusing science with broader cultural and social concerns and recognises the role tradition plays in contemporary technology. Kirsty's chief collaborator for the project will be AI specialist, Dr Lijin Aryananda.

#### ***Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey (VIC) + the Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Australia)***

Madeleine and Tim will work with Dr Shane Grey, head of the Gene Therapy and Autoimmunity Group, to investigate ways of sonifying information from new genetic analysis techniques that reveal the dynamics of cellular processes. The collaboration has the potential to advance the understanding of complex cellular patterns and networks, as well as providing unique opportunities for the artistic rendition of processes at the heart of human existence.

#### ***Tina Gonsalves (QLD) + Affective Computing Group, MIT (USA), Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging (UK), and the Brighton & Sussex Medical School (UK)***

Tina's project, *Chameleon*, draws upon earlier work developed in partnership with Emeritus Professor Chris Frith, Wellcome Principal Research Fellow. *Chameleon* synthesizes neuroscientific and affective computing research to explore and provoke emotional processes by producing emotionally responsive audiovisual narratives. The work highlights awareness of our inner selves, as well as our innate tendency to synchronise and connect with others.

#### ***Greg Hooper (QLD) + the Queensland Brain Institute (Australia)***

Greg will be working with Professor Jason Mattingley, the QBI's Foundation Chair of Cognitive Neuroscience, to explore the interaction between environment and brain dynamics. By using specific audio and visual environmental inputs. Greg will investigate whether the resulting brain dynamics can be used to generate works that in turn give rise to those same brain dynamics in a different listener/viewer. If successful, the project will develop a deeper understanding of the processes that allow art to have meaning.

Ms Sowry comments "the rapid emergence of collaboration between the arts and sciences offers great potential for realising ground-breaking and exciting developments for both fields". She goes on to say, "the success of the program derives from a solid collaboration between the partners, drawing upon the professional strengths of each. This is not a traditional artist in residence program; it is a partnership resulting in tangible benefits for both the host organisation's research agenda and the artist's future body of work."

For further information, please contact Amanda Matulick, Marketing Manager, by phone 08 8231 0839 or email [communicate@anat.org.au](mailto:communicate@anat.org.au)

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