



# dr merri randell

## contact

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## visual artist / creative researcher

I create worlds full of beautiful, hybrid, abject monstrosities that seduce, beguile and disturb. I am fascinated by myths that demonise difference and work in distorted realities, combining digitally manipulated, hyper-real photographs of under-represented native forests and swamps, with the audio of human consumption and uncanny, suggestive motion design to create immersive, compulsive, kairological Sisyphean cycles to celebrate diversity. These artworks are a playful but provocative exploration of dominant non-indigenous cinematic myths which cast the Australian landscape as villain and crimescene such as the iconic film 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' (Weir, 1979).

### Exhibitions, Residencies, Conferences, Service, Grants:

- Finalist in nine prestigious Art Prizes
- Selected by curators for over 20 group exhibitions (incl. touring exhibitions, public art programs and publicity in regional and metro areas)
- Three solo exhibitions (2023 Solo Nipaluna exhibition)
- Recipient of four competitive Artist Residencies (international and local)
- Presented at five national and two international conferences
- Recipient of six competitive grants
- Served on Logan City Council (LCC) RADF committee for five years as visual artist and screen practitioner experts which included community engagement activities

## social commentator / arcadie academy

### How do we interpret the world that is reflected back to us through Cinema and other screen stories?

Arcadie Academy's commentary exists at the intersection of Art, Literature, Screen and Culture to promote the 'Tune-in' screen scripted genre (Environmental humanities/Speculative fiction etc.) This includes contributing to discussions around representation or coding of marginalised people and Places. This commentary draws on my doctorate research into the abject 'Monstrous' Australian Cinematic Landscape, my careers as a screen practitioner, storyteller and educator - and my unique paradigm as a NeuroDivergent, NonBinary Lesbian of colour, born and raised in rural Australia. By promoting a screen genre or stories which focus on symbiosis, discovery and conscious connection instead of conflict, conquest and crime - could our society start to imagine a NON-dystopian future and potentially '...write ourselves into our future...' ('Everywhen' Saunders, 2022)?

Arcadie Academy (Arcadie) is a diverse organisation whose philosophy is inspired by the French 'Association Arcadie' (1954-1982) and their vision to connect oppressed marginalised communities with their history, culture and community so individuals can be better informed, more discerning and experience equality, freedom of expression and "dignity" as fully integrated citizens who live within and co-create an authentic, eco-conscious, ethical community.

### Work History Summary:

- 2021 - now Social Commentator, Visual Artist, Creative researcher | Arcadie Academy | Nipaluna
- 2015 - 2020 Lecturer, Pracademic, Creative researcher | Central Queensland University | Meeanjin
- 2013 - 2015 Lecturer, Pracademic | Billy Blue College of Design | Meeanjin
- 2010 - 2013 Lecturer, Pracademic | SAE Qantm College | Meeanjin
- 2006 - 2006 Lecturer, Pracademic, Head tutor, Tutor, Art Director and Facilitator | QUT | Meeanjin
- 2003 - 2015 Creative director | Chunkyfish | Meeanjin
- 2002 - 2002 Freelance script consultant | Lost Boys Games (Guerrilla Games) | Amsterdam
- 1998 - 2000 Script consultant, Coordinator (Script Factory, MPG) | Open Channel | Naarm
- 1994 - 1999 Freelance writer, producer, director, researcher, production assistant, AVID editor, ENG and news instructor, photographer, designer | London and Naarm
- 1992 - 1994 Associate producer, production assistant | MTV Europe News | London

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## education

- 2022 Introduction to Radio Broadcasting | Edge Radio | Nipaluna
- 2018 The Heroine's Journey Writing Workshop (Jessica Redenbach) | AFTRS
- 2018 Directing and Acting Masterclass (Nadia Tass, David Swann) | Summer Film School
- 2018 Acting Techniques (Catarina Hebbard) | NIDA
- 2015 Curator/Exhibition Development Course (Simone Oriti) | Flying Arts Alliance | QLD
- 2007 - 2014 Doctor of Visual Arts | Queensland College of Art (QCA) | Griffith University
- 2010 - 2012 Graduate Certificate in Higher Education | Griffith University
- 2005 Interactive Writing Design | AFTRS
- 1995 - 1996 Master of Arts, Screenwriting, Screen Research | University of the Arts (LCP) | London
- 1988 - 1991 Bachelor of Visual Arts | UniSA/University of Northern Territory (Charles Darwin)

## exhibitions etc

- Kairos | 2023
- The Yearning | 2023
- My World: Voice and Visibility | 2023
- The Fen, Decomp & Bushcare | 2023
- Her Beauty and Her Terror | 2021 & 2023
- The Krabi Project | 2020
- PAA XIII | 2019
- Plant + Human | 2019
- He kākano āhau (I am a seed) | 2018
- FAA Qld Art Award | 2015, 2016 & 2017
- (UN) natural urges | 2016
- ANTIMATION | 2014 2015 & 2016
- crosseXions | 2016
- Uncanny Nature | 2016
- Art meets Science | 2015 & 2016
- Logan BushCare | 2015
- Sunshine Coast Art Prize New Media | 2015
- Border Art Prize | 2015
- Paramor Prize: Art + Innovation | 2015
- CCP Salon | 2014 & 2015
- UQ School of Biological Sciences | 2014
- Heysen Prize | 2014
- Clayton Utz Art Award | 2014
- Noosa Art Prize | 2014
- Virion Festival public art | 2014
- Brisbane Experimental Art Festival | 2014
- The Fen public art | 2014
- The Fen | 2014
- The Dinner Party | 2013
- Philadelphia Connection | 2013
- Fishtown | 2012
- Teerk Roo Ra | 2011

## visual (cinematic) art / creative research summary

- Solo exhibition & public program: The Barn, Rosny Farm, HBA
- Collaborative exhibition & public program: Moonah Arts Centre, HBA
- QAC Group exhibition: QVMAG, LST
- Public Art exhibition: The Loop, HBA
- Curated touring group exhibition & public program: Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, QLD | Redcliffe Art Gallery, QLD
- Group exhibition & public program (RADF Grant): Logan Art Gallery, QLD
- Curated group exhibition & Symposium presentation: Webb Gallery, BNE
- Curated group exhibition: ACP Project Space Gallery, SYD
- Curated group exhibition & program (RADF Grant): Logan Art Gallery, QLD
- Touring finalist exhibition: Flying Arts, BNE & regional, QLD
- Group exhibition: Brenda May Gallery, SYD
- Curated touring group exhibition: The Block, BNE | KickArts, Cairns | Waverley Gallery, SYD
- Curated touring group exhibition & public program (ArtsQ grant): Metro-Arts, BNE | Alaska, SYD | The Cross Art Projects, SYD
- Curated group exhibition & public program: Logan Art Gallery, QLD
- Curated group exhibition: Ecosciences Precinct/QAAS, BNE
- Solo exhibition, residency & public program (RADF Grant): LAA Gallery, QLD
- Finalist exhibition: Art & Ecology Centre, Maroochy, QLD
- Group exhibition & public program: Gold Coast City Gallery, QLD
- Finalist exhibition: Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, NSW
- Group exhibition: Centre for Contemporary Photography, MELB
- Competitive art residency (AIR grant): Bunya Mountains National Park, QLD
- Finalist exhibition: Hahndorf Academy, SA
- Finalist exhibition: Clayton Utz, BNE (noteworthy mention)
- Finalist exhibition: Noosa Regional Gallery, Tewantin, QLD
- Distributed group public art exhibition: Big Screen Bradford, UK Parer Place, KGUV Screens Network, QLD | Big Screen Perth, WA | The Concourse, NSW | Federation Square, VIC
- Curated group exhibition/festival: Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, BNE
- Solo public art projection exhibition: Urban Screens/The Block, BNE
- Solo exhibition: PoP Gallery, BNE
- Group exhibition: PoP Gallery, BNE
- Curated group exhibition & USA Residency: PoP Gallery, BNE
- Group exhibition (USA Residency): QCA Project Gallery, BNE
- Curated group exhibition (Teerk Roo Ra Residency): PoP Gallery, BNE

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2006 – current **expanded work history | local and national**

- Arcadie Academy | HBA**  
2021- now  
Establishing the 'Tune-in' storytelling model through research, social commentary, community engagement and education in ethical screen content creation for emerging and established screen practitioners.
- Central Queensland University | BNE**  
2015 - 2021  
Digital Media Brisbane campus coordinator, creative researcher, lecturer, curriculum designer and unit coordinator - multiple tutors across seven campuses with large diverse online cohorts. Undergraduate units included screenwriting, screen production and post-production, motion design, animation, photography and graphic design. Course innovations drawing on industry to promote learning experiences for students. Served on University committees, liaised with internal and external partners and consulted with industry stakeholders including SBS/NITV and WIFT for the funding, design and construction of Digital Media teaching spaces including TV Production Studios, Edit Suites, Control rooms, Sound Booths, Storerooms and specialised classrooms for Brisbane, Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton communities with an estimated budget of over two million dollars. Consulted with industry networks for application in curriculum and peer-reviewer for TEXT journal ([www.textjournal.com.au](http://www.textjournal.com.au))
- Billy Blue College of Design | BNE**  
2013 - 2015  
unit coordinator, lecturer and tutor: undergraduate units (including photography, production and post-production), unit content creation, curriculum development at a local and national level, course innovations drawing on industry networks to promote learning experiences for students
- Logan BushCare Residency | QLD**  
2015  
solo art residency and exhibition funded by RADF, Logan City Council (LCC)
- SAE Qantm | BNE**  
2010 - 2012  
unit coordinator, lecturer and tutor: undergraduate units (including photography, graphic design, production and post-production), unit content creation, curriculum development and design, course innovations drawing on industry networks to promote learning experiences for students. Supervision and coordination of capstone digital projects, moderation meetings, independent research supervision and coordinating internships
- Healthy Babies project QUT/Queensland Health | BNE**  
2009  
production and post-production of five short movies in three different languages (Swahili, Kirundi and Arabic): education of new mothers who were refugees
- Publicis Mojo | BNE**  
2007 - 2009  
project manager/art director/designer: developed concepts and designed campaigns for online, print and TV; websites, high-end photoshop compositing and retouching, animation, storyboards, production, post-production, ads, brochures, newsletters, annual reports, banners, style guides and promotional materials
- QLD Government, Premier, Communities etc | BNE**  
2006 - 2007  
freelance project manager/art director/designer: developed concepts and designed campaigns for online, print and TV - storyboarding, banners, ads, brochures, newsletters, annual reports, promotional materials, high-end adobe photoshop retouching
- QUT Creative Industries | BNE**  
2006  
lecturer and tutor (incl. head tutor): undergraduate units and coursework creative advertising MA unit (art direction and photography). Unit content creation and learning activities. Whilst head tutor on undergraduate unit - coordinated seven tutors, moderation meetings and online content for large diverse cohort of students
- QUT Intimate Transactions BNE | 2006**  
freelance: art director, designer for book of academic essays and collateral for exhibition and research project *Intimate Transactions*
- QUT Centre for Social Change BNE | 2006**  
*HOWL* multimedia facilitator/researcher: research project using digital storytelling combined with art therapy group work

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2006 – 1992 **expanded work history | local, national and international**

- Redsuit, Adcorp, De Pasquale, GPY&R, McCann Erickson | BNE**  
2003 - 2006  
freelance: art director/designer corporate ID, ads, flyers, brochures, newsletters, catalogues, POS, web pages, TV and rich media storyboards, posters and billboards
- eatdrink Magazine | BNE**  
2004 - 2005  
freelance: designer, feature article researcher and copywriter for food industry magazine
- Lost Boys Games | Amsterdam**  
2002  
freelance writer/researcher: treatment and script for E3 promo for *Killzone* (company now Guerrilla Games)
- Members Production Group  
Open Channel | MELB**  
2000  
coordinator: production, post-production and networking group for emerging short filmmakers - chaired meetings, coordinated script approvals for bursary
- Script Factory  
Open Channel | MELB**  
1998 – 2000  
script consultant/coordinator: fortnightly screenwriting workshop and industry networking group for emerging writers
- AXA Australia | MELB**  
1998 - 2001  
studio manager/art director/designer: managed busy in-house design and digital printing studio consisting of seven designers and proof reader
- developed concepts and campaigns
  - recruitment, schedules, budgets
  - implemented and refined processes for efficient and effective operation
  - liaised with clients
  - QA on all products
  - designed/edited annual reports, brochures, web pages, newsletters, ads, invitations, exhibition stands, presentations, stationery, marketing collateral, promotional products, posters and logos
- Leo Burnett, Proudfoot Consulting,  
NatWest Markets | London/Milan**  
1994 - 1997  
freelance designer (to support MA study): stationary, ads, presentations, brochures, newsletters and annual reports
- BBC2 | London**  
1997  
researcher, *Rat Women*: 10 minute documentary on five women and their fancy rats
- Channel One | London**  
1994  
trainer: start-up TV news channel, recruiting and training print journalists to become TV journalists
- Channel 4 | London**  
1994  
researcher/photographer, *Hear and Now*: 50 minute documentary on inner-city deaf children and their culture
- TNT Cartoon Network,  
LWT, Planet 24 | London**  
1994  
freelance stringer (production)  
and AVID editor (post-production)
- MTV Europe News | London**  
1992 - 1994  
20 minute daily news, four 4 minute daily bulletins, 40 minute weekend show and various special projects associate producer (1993)
- wrote and researched daily news with team
  - researched and conducted interviews in-studio and on-site
  - directed news program and voice-overs in-studio
  - sourced footage, research, conducted interviews and edited packages for news, documentaries and special projects
  - liaised with record companies and A and R
- production assistant (1992)
- sourced footage, collated tapes and script timings
  - liaised with studio, dubbing facilities, graphics and record companies
  - managed workflow for interns