



the miecat institute inc.

Mission Statement

The MIECAT Institute is a not-for-profit higher education provider that offers accredited postgraduate courses in, and conducts research through, experiential and creative arts.

Our approach seeks congruence between what is taught and how it is taught. The dynamic process of inquiry invites students to be curious, challenged and immersed in a community of co-learners.

The Institute creates opportunities to reconstruct understandings of experience, values and meanings, to enrich professional practice and to contribute creatively to society.

Vision

The MIECAT Institute is committed to training practitioners working in a variety of contexts including health, community development, education and arts therapy, to understand and represent multi-arts and experiential ways of being in their professional and personal lives.

Values

Together we value:

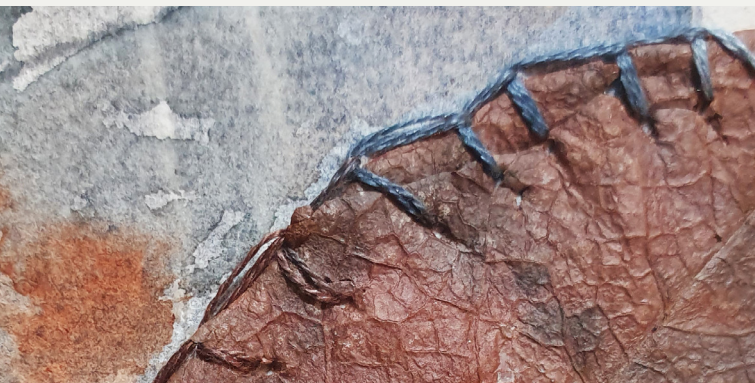
- Multi-modal collaborative inquiry and action
- Educational and relational processes that are transformative of self in community
- An experiential arts-based approach to teaching and learning.

Higher Education and Regulation

The accreditation process is conducted by the government regulatory authority every five years. The MIECAT programs have been successfully re-accredited in 1999, 2004 and 2009 by the government regulator at the time, VRQA (the Victorian Regulations and Qualifications Authority). In 2015 the new federal government regulator TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency) which is the independent national body responsible for regulating all tertiary education in Australia renewed MIECAT's registration and accreditation for a further 7 years.

Students enrolled in the MIECAT courses are eligible to apply for Fee Help. The accredited courses offered are:

- Masters in Therapeutic Arts Practice with a specialisation in EITHER Creative Arts Therapy OR Arts based Research (The Graduate Diploma in Therapeutic Arts Practice is nested within the Masters program)
- Professional Doctorate in Therapeutic Arts Practice.



How we learn at MIECAT

"Tell me, and I will forget.

Show me, and I may remember.

Involve me, and I will understand."

– Confucius around 450 BC

Of course all learning involves experiencing. One experiences sitting in a lecture theatre trying to listen to an "expert" expound their views on a particular topic, and also by actively engaging one's mind/ body in exploring images, thoughts and physical gestures that hold emotional patterns and meanings. It is the latter kind of learning that is the most often utilised at MIECAT.

This approach assumes that to learn effectively we must engage all our senses, and thinking processes — we learn multi-modally. In order to give form to our experiencing we also represent experiences multi-modally – that is using all the art forms, music making, voice, dance and movement, visual image making (both 2 & 3 dimensional).

An important emphasis in the MIECAT approach to learning is that we need others to make sense of the world and our place in it. Much of the coursework experience involves pair work, small group interactions and larger group discussions. Students and staff routinely give responses to each other about the work being done; sometimes these responses are verbal, other times they may take the form of an image, a dance, or sometimes a musical response.

>>

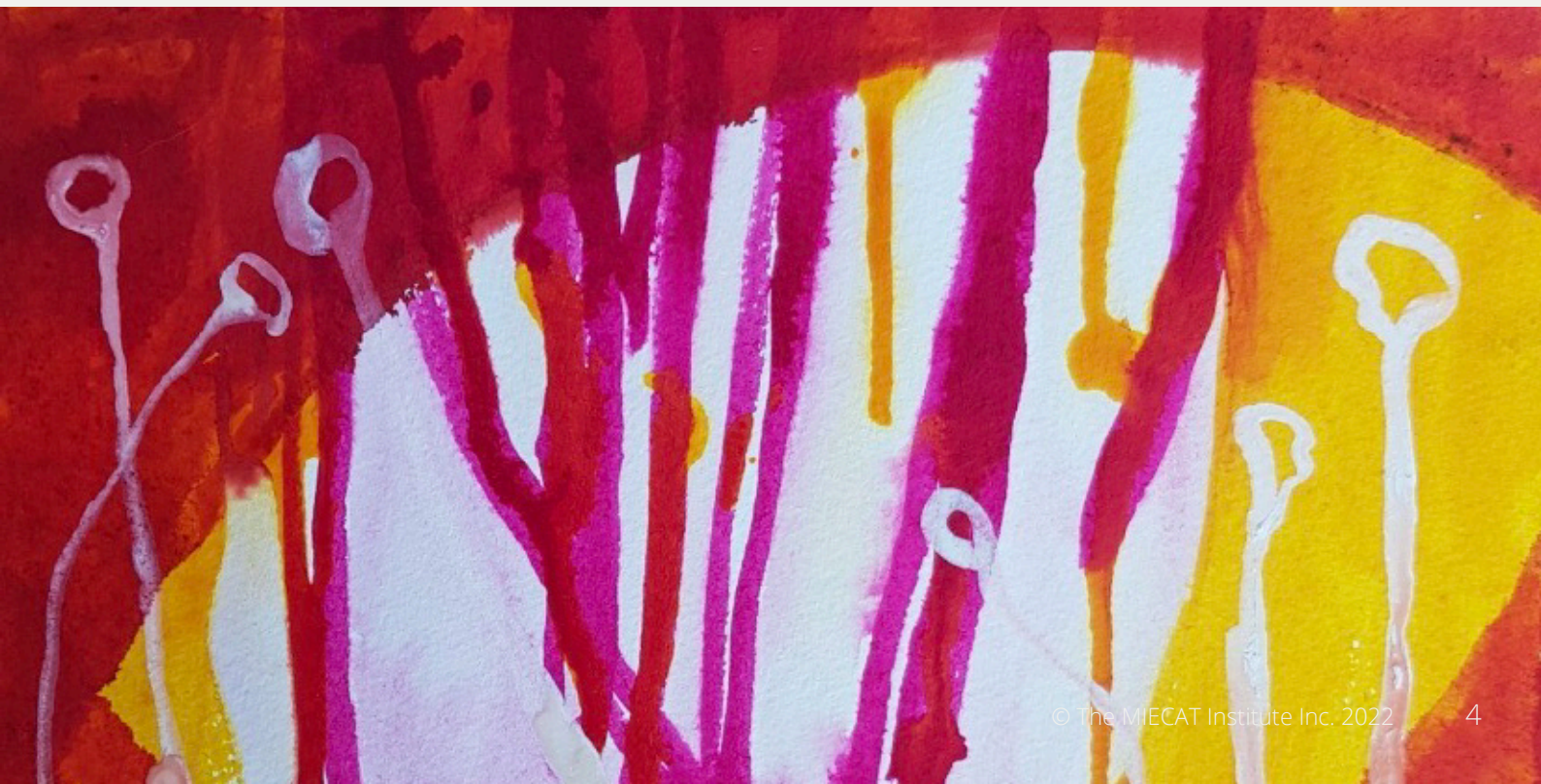
<<

The process of learning at MIECAT, also involves understanding the conceptual material that has been influential in developing this way of working. This is done through discussions in class, in small groups and through journal writing and assignments where students are asked to engage with the readings provided.

Taking care of yourself

The MIECAT approach to learning involves students in exploring their personal meaning. As a creative arts training program, this process of exploration cannot always be carried through to completion. It is the student's responsibility to find appropriate ways of attending to personal material that is difficult, too private or inappropriate for disclosure in the group. This can be done on their own, using the MIECAT procedures or in collaboration with another companion if required.

At MIECAT, we expect that students will take responsibility for their own experiences with the material of the course, and the necessary out of class reflection. We also assume they come to this program with a level of resilience that enables them to deal with difficult situations in a clear, compassionate and non-blaming fashion.



the
miecat
institute
inc.

15–17 Victoria St Fitzroy VIC 3065
Email admin@miecat.edu.au
Higher Education Provider No. 5355
Registration No. A0037382L
ABN 31 931 925 986

Artwork:
Page 1/2_ Anna Ewen
Page 3_ Elaine Camlin
Page 4_ Maddy Goodwolf
Page 5_ Carey Shaw

miecat.edu.au

[/ courses](#) / [enrolment](#) / [projects](#) / [research](#)