

NOVEL SHIFTS

Arts-based Research Festival 2025

Tuesday 18th – Saturday 22nd November

With our thesaurus in hand, we searched for connections to STORY—an access point from the name of our 2025 venue (Second Story Studios)— and DEPARTURES, from last year's title.

NOVEL SHIFTS landed as an apt title for an event that celebrates the AQF10 (doctoral) level skill of 'producing new insights to peers and the community' and our definition of research, as 'contributing to existing knowledge in new and creative ways to generate new concepts, methodologies or understanding'.

Similar to last year, our arts-based research festival is a combination of MIECAT staff and doctoral student presentations.

The staff events on Wednesday are open to all – don't be shy about coming along to Second Story, 222 Johnston Street, Collingwood (Woom Room), or joining the Zoom line.

Due to the becoming nature of our doctoral projects, the student/candidate presentations are invite-only. These presentations are part of our Seminar Series subjects and are on-site (222 Johnston Street, Collingwood).

We hope that the arts and research spaces shown on the next page will inspire you all to make the most of what Melbourne has to offer.

Here's to arts-based research for planetary flourishing and a wonderful time together!



Dr Amanda E Woodford,
Professional Doctorate and Seminar Series Subject Coordinator.

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Tuesday 18th November, 2025

Self-guided activities and bump-in day for doctoral students/candidates.
Don't forget your projects, research journals and arts materials!

RECOMMENDED SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

Don't miss out—the final days of:

65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art celebrates the brilliance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art while confronting the dark heart of Australia's colonial history and proclaims the importance of Indigenous knowledge and agency. (Read more > <https://potter-museum.unimelb.edu.au>)

Gallery hop the two NGV sites: <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/whats-on/>

Check out the collection at The State Library of Victoria whilst you are in the neighbourhood, or head up to the La Trobe reading room to write or reflect: <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/visit/our-magnificent-spaces/la-trobe-reading-room>

Check out a couple of local art supply stores (supervisor favourites):
<https://stlukeart.com>
<https://mes.net.au>

Are you looking for new resources or inspiration for publication formatting?
<https://www.perimeterbooks.com>

BUMP-IN FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS/CANDIDATES

Doctoral supervisors will be on-site to support the installation of works or discuss presentational needs with student/candidates—either ENGINE ROOM or ZOOM ROOM between 10 am-12 midday and 1:30-5 pm.

A NOTE FOR DOCTORAL STUDENT/CANDIDATES

You might want to use our MS Teams spaces to connect and organise social events—lunches, coffees, dinners or the like.

Wednesday 19th November, 2025

MIECAT academic presentations and
bump-in day for doctoral students/candidates.

MIECAT ACADEMICS PRESENT

(Open invitation)

10 am–11:30 am AEDT Melbourne VIC, Australia (GMT+11)

Professor Lachlan MacDowall

‘Making Artist’s Books’

Presentation

Onsite @ Second Story, 222 Johnston Street, Collingwood, WOOM ROOM.

Online @ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89701897418?pwd=r81Aa2MjvN9nw9Ke6q1GhUob8pnMll.1>

Meeting ID: 897 0189 7418

Passcode: 947602

2:45 pm–3:45 pm AEDT Melbourne VIC, Australia (GMT+11)

Dr Kim Swan

Reflections on Loving Presence within a Therapeutic Arts Practice

Experiential Talk

Online @ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83003893562?pwd=50NxAXchZIKFFqAYsp4bAgCCicule4.1>

Meeting ID: 830 0389 3562

Passcode: 899007

BUMP-IN FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS/CANDIDATES

Doctoral supervisors will be on-site to support the installation of works in the ENGINE ROOM, 10 am-12 midday and 1:30-5 pm. To discuss or plan performance/projector work in the WOOM ROOM, please schedule your visit to fit between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm, or 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm.

Thursday 20th November, 2025

Professional Doctorate student/candidate

SEMINAR SERIES 1, 2 & 3 MULTIMODAL PRESENTATIONS

(Invite only)

This event will be chaired by Dr Amanda Woodford

Our external respondent is Dr Jenny Orford Hill

10 am start AEDT Melbourne VIC, Australia (GMT+11)

10:30-11:00 am Tiff O'Brien, Year 3

Practitioner wellbeing: Self-soothing inquiry forms while working with the vulnerable self and others.

11:10-11:40 am Katie Callery, Year 1

An arts-based exploration of experiencing loneliness on the human periphery and of finding solitude in the more-than-human world.

11:50-12:20 pm Jessie Brooks-Dowsett, Year 3

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12.20 pm – 1.50 pm LUNCH

2:00-2:30 pm Ava Cormie, Year 1

Embodied Arts As A Way-finding through Complex-PTSD:
A Creative Therapeutic Process.

2:35-3:05 pm Lorena, Year 1

Reclaiming Self for Ourselves: An Arts-Based Inquiry into Reawakening After Domestic Violence, Post-Separation Abuse and Systems Failure.

3:20-3:50 pm Lindsey Shepherd, Year 3

Deepening Autistic relationships to self through collaborations with the more-than-human.

3:50-4:20 pm Presenters fireside chat with Dr Jenny Orford Hill.

4:30 pm Finish.

Friday 21st November, 2025

Professional Doctorate student/candidate

SEMINAR SERIES 1, 2 & 3 MULTIMODAL PRESENTATIONS

(Invite only)

This event will be chaired by Dr Amanda Woodford

Our external respondent is Dr Jenny Orford Hill

10 am start AEDT Melbourne VIC, Australia (GMT+11)

10:30-11:00 am Mandy Scott, Year 1

Tattoos as Stories: An Arts-Based Enquiry into Identity and Re-Authoring.

11:10-11:40 am Jac Grace, Year 2

Encountering eros in the context of Modernity. Artistic Experiments

Exploring the Entanglement of Safety and Desire and Surviving Modernity.

11:50-12:20 pm Michele Fairbairn, Year 3

Oubliette/Lieu de mémoire...a place of forgetting/a place of (re)membering:

A creative inquiry into the tussle with relational rupture.

LUNCH 12.20pm – 1.50 pm

2:00-2:30 pm Heather Bryant Birkett, Year 3

Wayfinding within the entanglements of caregiver grief towards a new
bricolage.

2:35-3:05 pm Brodie Caporn, Year 3

Communing with the Dearly Departed through Song ~ Engaging in the art of
songwriting to navigate an experience of abrupt loss and grief, and exploring
the potential for relational metamorphosis and continuing bonds (Klass, 1996)
through songwriting and other creative practices.

3:20-3:50 pm Linda Spencer, Year 1

Human-Canine Interaction: An Arts-Based, Sensory, and Embodied
Autoethnographic Exploration of Relationship Dynamics.

3:50-4:20 pm Presenters fireside chat with Dr Jenny Orford Hill.

4:30 pm Finish.

Saturday 22nd November, 2025

Professional Doctorate student/candidate

SEMINAR SERIES 1, 2 & 3 MULTIMODAL PRESENTATIONS

(Invite only)

This event will be chaired by Dr Amanda Woodford

Our external respondent is Dr Jenny Orford Hill

10 am start AEDT Melbourne VIC, Australia (GMT+11)

10:30-11:00 am Indigo Melrose, Year 3

Lived Experience of Transitions in Mothering.

11:10-11:40 am Rebecca Verzeletti, Year 1

Beyond Significance: Re-engaging Quantitative Mental Health Research through Arts-Based Inquiry.

11:50-12:20 pm Shev, Year 1

Rendering place for personal and planetary wellbeing:
A Slow therapeutic arts practice.

LUNCH 12.20pm – 1.50 pm

2:00-2:30 pm Presenters fireside chat with Dr Jenny Orford Hill.

2:30-3:15 pm Group reflections and connections.

3:30 pm Finish.

3:30-5:00 pm Bump-out.