

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AUSTRALIAN EXPERIMENTAL ART FOUNDATION

Media Release – Australia Council 4yr funding

Catastrophic outcome for the visual arts in South Australia

Australian Experimental Art Foundation (AEAF) congratulates those organisations that were successful in an extremely difficult and competitive environment.

AEAF sends a strong message of condolence to the 65 previously funded organisations who will be stripped of continued core operational funding.

This includes Australian Experimental Art Foundation and the Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia (CACSA).

This is a catastrophic outcome for the visual arts in South Australia.

AEAF has been supported as a key organisation through Federal Government funding since 1974 and this decision overturns 42 years of partnership that has delivered extraordinary outcomes for South Australian artists.

This decision is bewildering in light of AEAF recently securing Visual Arts and Craft Strategy (VACS) four year funding and Arts South Australia, Arts Organisations Program, three year funding. In a very competitive and volatile environment AEAF secured increases in both funding programs.

Over the course of 2015, AEAF initiated dialogue with Arts South Australia, the Australia Council, and CACSA to advocate the need for more substantial change and to explore a new merged entity for the presentation and publication of research-driven experimental and contemporary visual arts.

Without strong support by the Australia Council, AEAF's initiative failed when the proposed amalgamation of the two contemporary arts organisations in South Australia (AEAF & CACSA) did not materialise.

Without core funding it is unlikely AEAF or CACSA will survive solely on state funding so the cumulative affect of these cuts will impact on access to art, on artists' livelihoods and on art infrastructure in South Australia.

This action by the Australia Council is short-sighted, punitive and damaging to regional art-form ecology.

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