ASIA AND THE MINDFUL CENTURY

THE INAUGURAL BRISASIA SYMPOSIUM
Saturday 17 February 2018
Cremorne Theatre, QPAC
“We wanted to help develop a community forum that brought diverse sectors of both our Asian and non-Asian creative community together to share in a spontaneous and interactive way insights into creative practice across cultures and disciplines. Our panels will feature well-known as well as emerging artists, comedians, academics, cultural influencers, tourism experts and youth ambassadors reflecting on what inspires their creative and artistic work, informs their cultural identity, the challenges they face and the vision they have for creating a more inclusive, creative and dynamic community—to see Brisbane truly evolve into the new world city many hope it can be. I don’t believe this will happen accidentally - we have to establish the conditions that enable our creative and cultural sector to flourish.”

Dr Anthony Garcia
Artistic Director
BrisAsia Symposium

Founder / Artistic Director
Sounds Across Oceans
ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

BrisAsia Festival was created in 2013 to celebrate and enhance Brisbane’s unique identity by deepening and broadening our understanding and appreciation of Brisbane’s diverse Asian cultures and communities through arts and cultural programs.

BrisAsia Festival provides a platform for our culturally and linguistically diverse communities to showcase their vibrancy and engage with Brisbane’s residents and visitors in an exciting celebration that encompasses visual art, performance, film, food and movement.

BrisAsia Festival responds directly to the Creative Brisbane Creative Economy 2013-22 Strategy by creating stronger connections and collaborations with Asia and activating Brisbane’s creative workforce.

BACKGROUND OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The inaugural BrisAsia Symposium ‘Asia and the Mindful Century’ brings together art practitioners, creative thinkers and cultural influencers from across the community to share, demonstrate, discuss and debate in a spontaneous and interactive way. The Symposium explores ideas and themes that relate to holism, mindfulness practice, creativity, art, culture and identity.

Illuminate the mind, uplift the soul, and be challenged. Contribute to the transformation of our City as we bring culture and communities together in a celebration of our evolving identity. The day-long event will include a panel of improvising artists and discussions ranging from food culture to dance, film, music, philosophy and cultural diplomacy. The Symposium also provides opportunities for engagement with a cross-section of creative industry partners.
[Table]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PANEL</th>
<th>THEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0900-0945</td>
<td>An Improvised Life: Cross-cultural jam panel</td>
<td>Led by Dr Anthony Garcia, the jam panel will feature a live improvised collaboration with Nepalese tabla master Dheeraj Shrestha and Japanese koto master Takako Nishibori. The presentation will integrate a discussion on the nature and philosophy of improvisation and its relationship with mindfulness practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0950-1030</td>
<td>Moving Through Space and Time: The wellsprings of healing and reflections on dance</td>
<td>More than just a dance panel, Professor Gene Moyle (QUT) will facilitate a discussion with Sandi Woo (eMergence), Andrea Lam (Dance Masala) and En Rui Foo (QPAC) that explores intersecting themes of culture, identity, mindfulness and arts practice as understood by these diverse artists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1030-1040</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
<td>10 minutes break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1040-1115</td>
<td>Cultivating Perspective: an intimate encounter with three inspiring Asian artists</td>
<td>Appreciate and visualise the lives of three emerging visual artists, Sarah Iran Nejad, Xiaohui Yang, Yoko Lance and chair Professor Regina Ganter (Griffith University) as they share their perspectives on culture, art and life, drawing you deeper into the intertwined realms of creativity and healing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1120-1200</td>
<td>Cultural Horizons: Fresh voices on culture, identity and the future</td>
<td>Brisbane’s dynamic youth culture is creatively and philosophically diverse, passionate and driven by forward thinking. Join the conversation between chair Lincoln Savage (Director of Vast Yonder), editor of Pencilled in Magazine Yen-Rong Wong, singer/songwriter Benjin Maza and Caty Li from Brisbane Marketing’s Youth Ambassador Program as they discuss a range of issues from culture, genre and identity to creativity and self-expression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200-1300</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>Why not go to the BrisAsia DUMPLING DAY at Wandering Cooks, South Brisbane a five minute walk down fish lane?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300-1340</td>
<td>Crosscurrents: Philosophical and cultural provocations from three local comedians</td>
<td>Chaired by Chong Ali, three comedians from different walks of life – Ashwin Segkar, Red Simbulen and Emily McConochie will share their personal creative philosophies and provocative reflections on culture and identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1345-1420</td>
<td>Under the Skin: Deepening cultural tourism experiences for all of us</td>
<td>How can we engage with Brisbane’s emerging tourism sector to ensure our evolution into a new world city is culturally diverse and creatively authentic? Join tourism guru Mark Olsen (Earthcheck) as he engages with indigenous artist Robert Henderson (Hendon Galleries) and Joel Edmondson from QMusic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1425-1435</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
<td>10 minutes break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1440-1520</td>
<td>The Power of Film: Agency and cultural transformation in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Renowned film makers Herman Van Eyken (Griffith University), Jane Park and Douglas Watkin talk with panel chair Jaclyn McLendon (APSA/Brisbane Marketing) on the role the film industry can play in inspiring change within society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1525-1600</td>
<td>Fearless Fusion: Creativity, wellbeing and entrepreneurship reloaded</td>
<td>Led by storyteller and tech entrepreneur Sarah Mak (Folktales) this panel will explore and embrace the benefits of blurring industry boundaries with cultural values and perspectives. Sarah will be joined by Investment Fund Manager at QUT Creative Enterprise Australia Shelli Trung, video game producer for Defiant Development Kim Allom and Dr Sisira Edirippulige from the Center for Online Healthcare. Join us in understanding and unpacking the journeys that shaped the identities of local leaders within health and wellness, entrepreneurship as well as creative industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>Symposium Close</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Schedule current as at 6 February 2018 and subject to change
ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**Anthony Garcia**

Dr. Anthony Garcia is an acclaimed guitarist, composer and educator based in Brisbane, Australia. Born in the United States and raised and educated in South East Asia, Australia and Mexico Garcia has recorded, toured, performed extensively throughout the world collaborating with creatives across a diverse range of artistic disciplines. Dr. Garcia’s exploratory philosophy of music-making and teaching has generated a highly personal creative approach that embraces both ancient and contemporary forms, world and ethnic musics and improvisational practice.

Dr. Garcia’s PhD research into improvisation, conducted University of Tasmania between 2012-2015, has informed ongoing research into intercultural and collaborative learning, teaching artistry, interdisciplinary practice and mindfulness meditation and music. His passion for unifying the interlocking fields of musical performance, composition and education has informed ongoing pedagogical experimentation in schools, universities and the broader community and led to the establishment in 2016, in partnership with his wife Jennifer Garcia, of Sounds Across Oceans, a new music organisation dedicated to exploring ‘the multidimensional capacity of music and the arts to create and share new ideas, uplift, heal, shift energies and ignite new perspectives.’

To date SAO workshops have been conducted in Germany, Thailand, Brisbane and regional Queensland and in 2018 Sounds Across Oceans will present a summer school Creative Fusion 2018 in partnership with BEMAC and will be curating programs for the 2018 BrisAsia Festival.

**Andrea Lam**

Andrea Maria Lam (Drea) is the founder of Dance Masala. An entrepreneur, passionate dance educator, and community advocate – Drea is also the choreographer & manager of the Dance Masala Performance Company (DM Pro Co). Born to dance, Drea has been inspiring students with her passion for dance fusion and performance for the past nine years. Born in Hong Kong, her cultural heritage includes Hong Kong Chinese, Portuguese, Indian and Filipino. She is immensely proud of her migrant heritage and is grateful for the opportunity to share her knowledge in this beautiful country.

**Ashwin Segkar**

Raised in India, the UK, Australia, NZ and Malaysia, Ashwin’s comedy focuses on cultural themes, blending a dry, surreal style with physical movement and observations. He is a regular on ABC radio, a RAW Queensland finalist and his online cartoon show, Boymongoose has been viewed by over 10,000,000 viewers worldwide and featured on Channel V across Asia. He performs regularly around Queensland and Australia and launched his own solo show in 2017, blending comedy with rhythms from around the world.
Chong Ali

Chong Ali is a Vietnamese Australian rapper from the south side of Brisbane Australia. Playing stages such as ‘Woodford Folk Festival’, ‘Valley Fiesta’ and the iconic ‘Stylin’ Up Festival’ Chong has earnt the reputation as a fierce live emcee performing with the rap groups ‘EMR’ and ‘Pistola Ave.’ He made his long awaited debut as a solo artist in 2017 with the internationally acclaimed single ‘My Cool’ which he immediately followed up with the hustlers anthem ‘Universal’.

Gained the attention of loyal rap fans Chong is steadily releasing a stream of singles that are not only celebrated by Hip Hop junkies but by music lovers in general.

Benjin Maza

Benjin Maza is a Brisbane based singer/songwriter, dancer and actor. A graduate from the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts, he has been apart of many ACPA shows, such as ‘Stolen’ directed by Leah Purcell, ‘Black Rock’ directed by Sue Rider and ‘Fused’ a collaboration with students of Griffith University.

In 2012 he toured with Queensland Theatre Company’s production ‘Stradbroke Dreamtime’ directed by Sue Rider, covering regional Queensland. Benjin has also been apart of numerous creative developments, in 2013 he worked on a musical titled ‘The New Black’ directed by Stephen Helper in Adelaide and has been apart of ‘The Oasis’ in Melbourne & Brisbane. Benjin also accompanies Brisbane based artist - Ling Jay, performing original compositions and covers.

Benjin is currently apart of an Indigenous Fusion dance group called ‘eXcelsior’, performing at various events such as; the NRL’s All Stars, Sydney Opera House’s ‘Homeground’, Woodford Folk Festival and Boomerang Festival in association with Byron Bay Blues Fest.

En Rui Foo

Born and raised in Singapore, En Rui graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance Performance) from Queensland University of Technology in 2015. En Rui currently works in the Curatorial team at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and has a keen interest in audience engagement. With a passion for the promotion of dance creation, En Rui was also previously involved in the production and delivery of Supercell Dance Festival 2017 - Brisbane’s inaugural dance festival.

You can trust En Rui to be cuddling her cat, watching a Chinese martial arts movie, at the gym, or even on an adventure up the mountains during her free time!

Caty Li

My name is Caty Li and I’m from mainland China, now working at IGLU Student Accommodation as Customer Service Coordinator managing property and organising events for students, both domestic and international. I was a 2016 Brisbane International Student Ambassador at Study Brisbane representing China. I have been involved in multiple cultural events as an MC, such as the Refuge of Rhythm World Music concert at the BrisAsia Festival and also the Lake Stage (WorldMusic) Program at the MOSAIC festival. I am passionate about culture and people and would like to assist more international students like me to blend into the Australian culture while maintaining our own cultural identity.
Dheeraj Shrestha - Tabla Percussionist

Internationally acclaimed Nepalese born Dheeraj Shrestha is recognised as the foremost tabla player in Australia. An irrepressible creativity, tremendous clarity and exciting rhythmic improvisation are his stylistic hallmarks and this has established him, worldwide, as one of the finest exponents of tabla in classical and world music.

Dheeraj Shrestha’s hometown, Kathmandu, Nepal stands on the ancient route leading from the Himalayan Mountains down into the valley of Kathmandu. His real relationship with music began when he was five years old listening to classical music by his father. Later he started formal training on tabla with his guru Pt. Hom Nath Upadhyaya. His father use to take him to play traditional temple music near his home. He use to be only the child among all the master musicians who be performing at the courtyard temple music.

He frequently visits Nepal to understand more about the spirituality in music and knowledge of Nepalese traditional music and preserving it for future generations. Dheeraj Shrestha is the first Nepalese professional musician invited to migrate Australia in 1994. He has also been on a Australian Arts council peer assessment committee. Later started teaching world music at the Queensland Conservatorium of music, UQ, QUT. Now, Dheeraj Shrestha has been working closely at the SAO with Dr. Anthony Garcia to explore and promote a more holistic vision of music, & the arts and its role in society.

Douglas Watkin

Based in Brisbane, Douglas was born in Cairns, Far North Queensland. His broadcasting and filmmaking career began in television doing small news reports and producing various corporate videos, and has progressed to feature films, broadcast series and multimedia works for a range of clients and audiences. Douglas has been actively working in the film and television industry for over 20 years, including producing and directing multiple series for ABC and NITV.

He established the film and video production unit Double Wire Productions in 2000, and since then has travelled nationally and internationally shooting and producing stories on wide ranging events, people and places, sharing stories of Indigenous Australia.

His most recent work, the feature documentary ELLA, premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival 2016, and screened nationally at CinefestOZ WA, Canberra International Film Festival, Brisbane Asian Pacific Film Festival, and theatres Australia-wide. Douglas is a board member of AIDC

Dr Sisira Edirippulige

Dr Sisira Edirippulige is the Coordinator of e-Healthcare programs at the Centre for Online Health (COH), the University of Queensland (UQ), Australia. Dr Edirippulige has PhD from the University of Auckland, New Zealand and the National Academy of Sciences in Russia. His main responsibilities at the University of Queensland include teaching and coordinating of undergraduate and graduate courses in e-Healthcare offered at the COH. His research interests include the development, promotion and integration of e-health education and telemedicine applications into the healthcare sector. Before joining the UQ Sisira taught at Kobe Gakuin University in Japan and at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He has extensive experience in development studies working in a number of countries including Russia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Japan and New Zealand.
Jaclyn McLendon

Jaclyn is an event and stakeholder relations specialist having worked in this field over the past 15 years in Australia and the UK. Jaclyn joined APSA in 2013 as the Production Manager and has been involved in all aspects of APSA over the past four years. As APSA Lead Jaclyn oversees the APSA competition, ceremony and industry program acting advocating on behalf of Asia Pacific filmmakers in the international film landscape. Based in Brisbane Australia, and now in its second decade, the Asia Pacific Screen Awards are recognised as the region’s highest accolade in film.

Emily McConochie

Emily McConochie is a savvy business lady who would shatter the glass ceiling if she wasn’t so distracted by her reflection in it. Her sparkling wit seems at first like a cheeky flirtation before it burns you with a lumpy, coal-studded cynicism. She is a whimsical Wakka Wakka woman, born and bred on Butchulla country (Hervey Bay) before being absorbed into the urban hipsterdom of Brisbane city life. Proud of her First Nation, German boat-person, Chinese and Irish gold-digger heritage - she’ll happily air Australia’s dirty laundry and hang our white-washed history out to dry. Her rich cultural heritage has taught her how to stand her ground with technical precision, wise circumspection and strike gold in Queensland’s finest comedy rooms. Not technically an establishmentarian, her Scottish forefather once burned down a NSW bank to keep warm during a cold winter. When she’s not trying to make ignorant drunks laugh in bars, she’s a community development worker, decolonial scholar and champion of social justice issues via social media click-bait.

Herman Van Ekyen

Herman van Eyken has a background in script writing, producing and directing. He has directed more than 190 films - shortlisted within international competition of leading film festivals such as Cannes, New York, Montreal and Vienna. Many of his films have received top awards in their respective category. His feature film has been released in more than 10 countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Italy and Taiwan. Herman’s research interests lay in the area of film policies, cross cultural collaboration and film training needs for professionals. He’s Project Chair and curator for a research pilot project (DVD - 600 min. of interviews with foremost filmmakers from Europe and the Asia-Pacific region) called _Lessons in film (Cilect – The International Association of Film and TV Schools)_ and has served on the jury of several international competitions.

Herman Van Ekyen

Herman van Eyken has a background in script writing, producing and directing. He has directed more than 190 films - shortlisted within international competition of leading film festivals such as Cannes, New York, Montreal and Vienna. Many of his films have received top awards in their respective category. His feature film has been released in more than 10 countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Italy and Taiwan. Herman’s research interests lay in the area of film policies, cross cultural collaboration and film training needs for professionals. He’s Project Chair and curator for a research pilot project (DVD - 600 min. of interviews with foremost filmmakers from Europe and the Asia-Pacific region) called _Lessons in film (Cilect – The International Association of Film and TV Schools)_ and has served on the jury of several international competitions.

Jaclyn McLendon

Jaclyn is an event and stakeholder relations specialist having worked in this field over the past 15 years in Australia and the UK. Jaclyn joined APSA in 2013 as the Production Manager and has been involved in all aspects of APSA over the past four years. As APSA Lead Jaclyn oversees the APSA competition, ceremony and industry program acting advocating on behalf of Asia Pacific filmmakers in the international film landscape. Based in Brisbane Australia, and now in its second decade, the Asia Pacific Screen Awards are recognised as the region’s highest accolade in film.
Lincoln Savage
Lincoln Savage is a Brisbane based Producer and Project Manager, with a strong interest in supporting emerging artists and engaging with new technology. Lincoln graduated with a Bachelor of Technology Innovation with Honours from QUT in 2014. Lincoln has worked on many arts, technology and music based projects focused on emerging arts, innovation and new technologies. Lincoln is co-owner and producer of Jungle Love Music Festival and the Brisbane Street Art Festival. Lincoln won the prestigious Brisbane innovation award for the development of an online crowd-sourced platform for documenting and exploring public art.

Kim Allom
Kim Allom works as a video game producer for Defiant Development based in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. She is also a co-founder of Blushbox Collective who promote, host events and rapidly prototype video game content that aim to meaningfully explore love, sex and relationships. A passionate advocate for both industry diversity and sex positivity, Kim’s efforts have seen her claim a Queensland Young Achiever award, the first Screen Queensland $20,000 Mentorship Grant and an Industry Champion title at the Australian Game Developer Awards.

Joel Edmondson
Joel is a Brisbane-bred musician engaged in a life-long exploration of the role music can play in meaningful social, economic, political and spiritual change. After completing his undergraduate studies at Griffith University, Joel was awarded the Scotland Scholarship by the British Council. He completed his Masters in Music in the Community at the University of Edinburgh. During this time he won numerous awards for his design of innovative musical instruments for children with developmental disorders. In recent years, Joel has further developed his skills as a creative change facilitator, implementing strategic reform across the not-for-profit and local government sectors. Joel was also a founding director of the Red Hill DIY venue Hangar, and its artist-run label, LoFly Records. He joined QMusic as the Executive Officer in January 2015.

Jane Park
Dr. Jane Park, Senior Lecturer, has published widely on the social uses of media technologies, the cultural impact of minority representations, and transnational flows of popular film, music, and television, with a particular focus on representations of East Asia and Asian America. Her most recent book is Yellow Future: Oriental Style in Hollywood Cinema (University of Minnesota Press, 2010), which looks at the ways in which East Asian bodies and cultures get articulated through and as technology on the big screen.

Kim Allom
Kim Allom works as a video game producer for Defiant Development based in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. She is also a co-founder of Blushbox Collective who promote, host events and rapidly prototype video game content that aim to meaningfully explore love, sex and relationships. A passionate advocate for both industry diversity and sex positivity, Kim’s efforts have seen her claim a Queensland Young Achiever award, the first Screen Queensland $20,000 Mentorship Grant and an Industry Champion title at the Australian Game Developer Awards.
**Mark Olsen (EarthCheck)**
Mark has dedicated his working life to promoting and developing tourism as a force for good in communities across the world. As a partner at EarthCheck, a not-for-profit environmental consulting and certification program operating in over 70 countries, Mark provides solutions to some of the world’s leading corporations and destinations on sustainable business practices, investment, and the future workforce.

---

**Professor Regina Ganter**
Regina Ganter is a historian specialising in interactions between indigenous, Asian and European peoples in Australia. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and an elected member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. As author of The Pearl Shellers of Torres Strait (1994) and Mixed Relations: Asian-Aboriginal Contact in North Australia (2006) she gained the inaugural AHA Prize in Australian History in 1992, and the NSW Premier’s History Book Award and the Ernest Scott Prize in Australian History in 2007. She Regina migrated to Australia in 1979 and has taught Australian history and heritage studies in the School of Humanities at Griffith University since 1992. She published widely in the field of cross cultural encounters and contributed to a number of broadcasts, museum exhibitions and curriculum materials. Her forthcoming book is *Driven by Faith? Continental Missionary Agendas in Australia.*

---

**Professor Gene Moyle**
ARAD MAPS MCESP GAICD SFHEA

**Career Summary**
Professor Gene Moyle has worked across a dynamic mix of fields including the performing arts, elite sport and the corporate sectors. A graduate from the Australian Ballet School, QUT Dance and after having danced with the Australian Ballet Dancers Company and Queensland Ballet, Gene pursued further studies in psychology completing University degrees including a Masters and Doctorate in Sport and Exercise Psychology.

Gene has focused upon the application of performance psychology and performance enhancement, particularly within the performing arts and elite sport domains. Her involvement in dance has included being a Lecturer in Performance Psychology at QUT Creative Industries from 2001 to-date, a Career Development Advisor for the SCOPE for Artists Programs, a regular contributor to DANCE Australia magazine, the Head of Student Health & Welfare at the Australian Ballet School, in addition to consulting, servicing and providing workshops to various dance schools, associations, and individual dance students and professionals.

She is currently a Board Member of the Queensland Ballet, a member of the Queensland Board of the Psychology Board of Australia (AHPRA), President of Ausdance National, a Performance Health Advisory Panel member for the Queensland Academy of Sport, and an Industry Mentor and Panel Assessor for Arts Queensland. She joined QUT Creative Industries faculty in the role as Head of Discipline – Dance in November 2012, as was appointed the inaugural Head of School – School of Creative Practice in January 2017.
**Red Simbulan**

Philippine-born, Red Simbulan immigrated to Australia to continue his lifelong dream of being a standup comedian. Having performed internationally in Singapore and the Philippines, Red shares his perspective on being an “outsider” and living life in Australia. When he’s not performing Red also produces Brat Cave Comedy, a fortnightly open mic comedy show at The Brat Cave in.

**Robert Henderson**

Robert Henderson, Wiradjuri, is the principal artist and owner of The Henderson Gallery and Birrang Coffee. Robert produces original narrative works drawn from Wiradjuri Culture, history and spirituality. Robert also produces commentary works, portraiture; as well as Commission works by request.

**Sandi Woo**

Sandi Woo is a Brisbane-based independent producer, dance artist, community development facilitator and teaching artist. For over 20 years, Sandi has worked in the arts industry both as a freelancer and with established organisations in WA, NSW and now Queensland. She has developed and delivered a number of community projects in Broome, including Gallery Moves for Broome’s 2012 Shinju Matsuri and Because of You… as part of AusdanceWA’s 2013 Future Landings. In 2013 she was awarded the WA Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Regional and/or Community Dance for her project YouTubeMeDance.

Sandi believes in the power of the creative process to reflect, learn, and observe ourselves in daily life. Her work aims at providing opportunities for community to engage with movement and dance to develop their creative voice. Most recently Sandi has worked with Philip Channels and Gavin Webber on an inclusive project supported by The Arts Centre Gold Coast, called No Difference; as a teaching artist on the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Royal Ballet and Micah Projects community project We All Dance and works as Producer for Annette Carmichael’s community dance project The Beauty Index taking place in Denmark (WA). Most recently, Sandi is immersed in a studio-led research residency, eMErgence, at MetroArts that aims to deepen an understanding of how dance and improvisation can foster mindfulness and provide insights about our creative practice and ourselves.
Sara Irannejad

Sara Irannejad is a multi-disciplinary artist working across painting, pyrography, installation and video. She is a member of Iranian diaspora and lives in Brisbane since 2012. Her practice concerns with references to human movement, nostalgia and environment. She draws from her personal experiences of living in transition and weave them into issues of belonging and sociopolitical and cultural conflicts. She is currently completing a Doctor of Visual Arts at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University.

Irannejad’s works have been showcased internationally in countries such as Iran, Germany, Indonesia, USA and Australia. In addition to art exhibitions, she has involved in several collaborative projects working along with musicians, opera singers and performers. She is the recipient of numerous awards and grants including the Exceptional Artist grant from Boston School of Museum of Fine Art (2012), the Start Your Studio Scholarship awarded by Windsor and Newton (2015), winner of the second prize in Feast, Pray, Love exhibition, Collins St. Church in Melbourne (2015) and the sponsorship award by GUPSA, Griffith university (2016). Her recent solo exhibitions include A Thousand Interconnections at Pop Gallery Brisbane (2015) and Ambiguous Patterns at Logan Art Gallery (2017). Her works have also been featured in numerous group exhibitions and art festivals across Australia including Texture curated by Sue Swinburne at Queensland State Library (2015), Stanthorpe Art Festival at Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery (2016), Rio Tinto Martin Hanson Memorial award at Gladstone Regional Art Gallery (2016), Swell Sculpture Festival at Currumbin Beach (2016), Resonance curated by Natasha Lewis Honeyman at Newstead House Museum, Women Art festival curated by Sydney’s City of Ryde (2016), Souvenirs From Elsewhere curated by Pat Hoffie at Woolloongabba Art Gallery and Erehwon curated by Donal Fitzpatrick at Pop Gallery (2017). In 2016 Sara’s artwork Multiverse was acquired by Gold Coast Botanic Gardens and a number of her works are held in private and public collections including the Juggler’s Art Space and Logan Art Gallery. Recently Irannejad joined the project Through the Mirror conducted by Anthony Garcia to produce spontaneous visual works that are inspired by crosscultural music and dance movements.

Shelli Trung

Shelli Trung is the Expert in Residence and Investment Fund Manager at QUT Creative Enterprise Australia where she is on the advisory board of creative tech portfolio companies Cardly, Bluthumb and GiggedIn. Shelli also sits on the assessment panel for Arts Queensland’s Arts Business Innovation Fund (ABIF) and Advance Queensland’s Regional Business Angel Investors Support Program.

Having spent much of her career between London, Boston and New York, Shelli put her Neuroscience degree to good use by deploying lean startup thinking and leading business improvement projects within corporates - before innovation became cool.

She is listed as one of the top 100 angel investors to follow on Twitter and with a personal startup investments spanning three continents, Shelli brings a truly global perspective to the local Australian innovation community. Her investments include TRIBE Coliving - a network of 10 spaces in New York, Seeder - an online platform that finances solar retro-fits to the trillion dollar commercial real estate market in China and Spare Workspace – a marketplace where you can book your meeting room or workspace on demand.
Takako Nishibori

Takako was born in Otsu, Shiga Japan. She started playing the koto at the age of six. Takako studied the Koto with Grand Master Shizu Fujino (a student of Michio Miyagi) from Ikuta Ryu Miyagi school. She commenced her studies of the Shamisen, at the age of 16. In 2000, Takako received her teaching license from the Miyagi school of Tokyo. She was placed in the top ten for all of Japan.

Takako’s first visit to Australia was in 2001 as an exchange teacher. During this time, she performed for various venues in NSW and ACT and began to explore new ways of playing the Koto. After returning to Japan, Takako moved to Newcastle in order to commence a Masters of Educational Studies. After her completing study, she moved to Brisbane in 2005. As a language teacher background, Takako has developed practical language teaching method through music teaching that still some schools employ.

Takako is a regular performer as both a solo koto performer, and in various ensembles and as a session musician. She performs classical Japanese pieces, as well as exploring new boundaries with the Koto in contemporary music, as she creates a new style fusing Koto with other instruments.

Recent performances have included numerous tours of North Qld, Japanese music concert at Powerhouse with Bashow Kanagawa from Japan, Brisbane City Hall concert series, headlined “Utamono” singing focus concert, Koto international festival and concert with world known Shakuhachi Grand master Kaoru Kakizakai. Takako was featured in an episode of “Good Chikyu-bin” (YTV, Japanese television, 2016).

Takako is also an enthusiastic educator who runs regular private lessons, sessional school workshops in various locations including UQ and QACI. She is also an instrumental teacher at special school. Takako curates an annual concert at St John’s Cathedral.

She is the founder of Koto Brisbane.

Sarah Mak

Sarah believes that great stories are a catalyst for behaviour change. As the Co-Founder and Executive Producer of TheStoryBoxes, she as produced meaningful content for national and global brands, building stories that enable organisations to communicate their identities in meaningful, impactful and effective ways. Through her leadership, TheStoryBoxes has established a strong and successful rapport with many of Australia’s leading commerce, technology, education, health and not-for-profit organisations.

Sarah is also the co-founder/CEO of FolkTale, a storytelling app currently in development that gives users the guidance and storytelling tools needed to create their own stories and content through their mobile devices. Formally trained in Psychology and International Public Health, Sarah’s background intersects innovation, entrepreneurship, media, health and development.

Yen-Rong Wong

Yen-Rong is a Brisbane-based writer, and the founding editor of Pencilled In, a magazine dedicated to showcasing the work of Asian Australian artists. Her work has been published in many publications, including The Guardian, Overland, Kill Your Darlings, The Quo, and Tincture Journal. She is currently working on a memoir/essay collection about navigating sex and relationships under a Western gaze as a young (Malaysian-) Chinese woman.
Yoko Lance

Yoko Lance is a photographer, Doctor of Visual Arts candidate at Queensland College of Art (QCA) Griffith University and writer for Nichigo Press, Australia’s largest circulating Japanese newspaper.

During her more than ten years in the media industry, Yoko has had countless articles published in newspapers and magazines. She has interviewed both celebrities and locals, demonstrating a true flair for composing articles as a whole, doing both the writing as well as the photography.

Yoko’s skill in documentary photography was quickly recognised when her first work Captain Eddy (2011) was chosen to be exhibited at the Queensland Centre for Photography (QCP). Combining photography and a voice interview, this video tells the story of Eddy, a former sailor trying to enjoy life as normal despite being told he only had two months to live. Her project For Grief (2013) features three funeral directors and focuses on the denial of death in our society. The social documentary incorporating sociological research with photography and video interviews won Honours for Excellence in Research at QCA Griffith University.

Yoko is currently researching mother-daughter relationships in the face of the mother’s impending death by documenting her own mother who has been diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer. This highly personal project is a fusion of social documentary photography, video interviews and autoethnographic research.

Central to Yoko’s work is a unique element of intimacy. In every project she tries to portray just how precious life is and how beautiful people are by observing her subject and analysing the society in which they live. She aims to get her audience to feel some level of affection for the person she profiles by providing a glimpse into their life.

Yoko has done a Bachelor of Communication with a double major in Communication & Media Study and News & Magazine Photography at Griffith University on the Gold Coast and completed her internship with local newspaper, the Gold Coast Bulletin. She has also done a Bachelor of Digital Media with Honours in ePhotojournalism at Queensland College of Art (QCA) at Griffith University. Awarded an Australian Postgraduate Awards scholarship, she is now extending her research in social documentary photography and autoethnography at Griffith University as a Doctoral candidate while also working freelance for select clients.
### BRISASIA FESTIVAL 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

#### Summer Party
A celebration of Asian pop-culture with a huge line-up of talented performers and entertainment including music, fashion, k-pop, cosplay and anime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Saturday 17 February 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>South Bank Piazza, South Brisbane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Lunar New Year Rooftop Party
This party features lion and dragon dancers, lantern workshop and parade, cooking demonstrations, augmented reality makeovers, K-pop dance workshops and performances, fireworks and Asia Pacific Film Screening.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Saturday 24 February 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Sunnybank Plaza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Inala Lunchbox Food Festival
A food discovery experience showcasing ingredients and menus from Inala. Opening with a fashion show of traditional costumes from Vietnam, followed by food trails, craft workshops, tea service, performance, table tennis tournament and film.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Sunday 18 February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Inala Plaza and Inala Civic Arcade, Inala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BrisAsia Sound
Two events that feature young Asian-Australian artists who are shaping Brisbane’s local music and dance scenes.

#### Music Box

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Friday 23 February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Queensland Performing Arts Centre, South Brisbane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Replay
Brings Idols style K-pop, J-pop and C-pop dance performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Saturday 24 February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>The Pod, Fortitude Valley Mall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

15
BRISASIA FESTIVAL

10 February - 4 March 2018

Presented by

BRISBANE CITY

Dedicated to a better Brisbane

In partnership with

QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

SOUNDS ACROSS OCEANS