

## 3SQUARE 2011

3SQUARE is an annual mentorship project, working across pedagogical, curatorial and collaborative models, aiming to create new skills, networks & opportunities for emerging artists. The project builds effective working relationships for young artists within a specific professional context.

Initiated by Conical in 2010, 3SQUARE involves 3 mentors from 3 Melbourne universities/art schools and 6+ young & emerging artists. Conical selects the art schools & the mentors. Each mentor then selects current students or recent graduates that have a prior educational relationship with the mentor. The project incorporates 3 separate components, each with extended mentoring timeframes, culminating in 3 installations presented in sequence (each of 10 days installation, 4 days exhibiting). The extended installation period gives equal emphasis to process & outcome, providing gallery time to encourage experimentation within a mentored environment. Project duration will be 8 weeks. Mediums range across video/new-media, photography, text & post-performance practices.

Mentors are chosen for their reputation as esteemed educators, in addition to being artists with established international practices that span new media, sculptural and collaborative disciplines. All 3 have ongoing concerns with contemporary notions of spatial practice & all have experience with Conical's history in this area. These shared interests will be developed in a variety of ways to suggest a broad narrative to the project. The mentor's decision to limit the number of mentees creates a balance between collaborative potential and focus on the development of an individual's practice.

Mentors selected for 3SQUARE, 2011 are: **Louise Hubbard** from Victorian College of the Arts (Melbourne University), Photography Department, **Dominic Redfern** from RMIT, Media Arts, CBD campus, & **Terri Bird** from Monash University, Faculty of Art & Design, Caulfield.

Louise Hubbard's approach favours a critique on traditional site-specific installation, emphasising the modular nature of contemporary practice. "I would like the opportunity to mentor **Eliza Dyball** and **Adelle Mills**, young artists whose practices I consider conceptually bold... Eliza completed Honours in 2010 and Adelle is to commence Honours in 2011... They demonstrate an acute interest in spatial geometries that express the human body as a vulnerable carriage. Both practices are post-medium and each sets stringent parameters when developing their ideas... My role as mentor would be to encourage these two young artists to take a new risk and reassert their works in a different exhibition context. The newly formed dual entity would extend our understanding that projections and assemblages are modular components and a vital part of the artist's lexicon, and should necessarily be not fixed in time and space in order to continue a robust conversation in new contexts. In having an established relationship of trust with both young artists, I feel confident to mentor as a curator and educationalist".

Dominic Redfern states: "Conical has a history of curating exhibitions based on an engagement with spatial practices or with Conical specifically as a site. I will work with Masters candidate **Antoinette Citizen** and final year undergraduate **Richard Camilleri** to create a set of works that engage with that history. Our approaches and interests are quite different but collectively we will use media technologies as agents to locate, insert or uncover a variety of narratives of space that sit as porous strata across and upon the Conical site. My approach as mentor will be largely as convener and collaborator. I will also endeavour to act as a mirror to enable them to ask questions of the space and the possible ways with which we might collectively engage to create a cohesive and meaningful engagement with Conical."

Terri Bird will work with 3 mentees: **Brooke Fenner, Theresa Keogh & Beth Arnold**, bringing together graduates from Monash & the V.C.A. Brooke and Therese will be entering the honours program in Dept of Fine Arts, Monash this year. Terri states: "All 3 work with site and context through an engagement with their specific conditions. These conditions are understood in the broadest sense to include not just the physical configuration of contexts but the social, psychological and material conditions. Each artist employs various conceptually derived processes to activate the conditions of specific contexts differently. Through material and spatial interventions they change the perception, relationship or understanding of a site. As a mentor I will engage with the artists to develop a set of parameters for them to work within, with the aim of facilitating an engagement between their practices. Rather than envisaging this project as akin to a group exhibition, this project will provide an opportunity to extend their practices through an association with each other's processes & approaches to making. I will be actively involved in working to ensure they take full advantage of what this experience may offer".

Melbourne universities/art schools are a vital audience and support base for Conical's activities. The collaborative potential of 3SQUARE extends beyond the participating artists to include effective relations between Conical and the respective art schools. Working in the interface between institutional education and professional practice, 3SQUARE provides much needed opportunities for young artists to work outside the typical ARI exhibiting experience. Artists & mentors will be paid a participation fee.

Adrien Allen, 2011