

The Critical Animals Creative Research Symposium is looking for a new Co-Director for 2012 and 2013. The successful applicant will work alongside the ongoing Co-Directors, Julia Shaw and Yolande Norris.

DEADLINE: Friday 6 January 2012

To apply, send your cover letter and CV to: criticalanimals@gmail.com

About the Critical Animals Creative Research Symposium

Critical Animals is a 3-day creative research symposium held annually during the first week of October as a part of This Is Not Art festival in Newcastle, Australia. It's a forum for students, researchers, writers, artists, thinkers and curious individuals who are critically engaged with creative and experimental art practices. It provides participants with an opportunity to present papers and ongoing research, as well as to challenge creative practices and work collaboratively with others in the field. All participants are assisted with preparation and curation, and provided with opportunities for programming across the other This Not Art festivals.

Critical Animals is important as a space for surprising and original material to emerge in interesting contexts. Critical Animals encourages innovative approaches in both form and content, and is a non-traditional symposium in the sense that it encompasses not only paper-presentations and discussion sessions, but also performances, installations and or interactive experiments. Critical Animals encourages an approach that recognises the symbiotic relationship between practice and research.

TiNA is a national festival with an annual audience of over 4000.

For more information:

www.criticalanimals.org

www.thisisnotart.org

Position Description

Position Title: Co-Director

Period: 1 – 2 years (2 years desirable)

Commencement: Approx End of January 2012

Working hours: Approx 1 day per week in lead up; increasingly more hours as the festival nears; full time for the week of the festival. 450 hours per year.

Key relationships: This position works closely with other Co-Directors, with the This Is Not Art Co-Ordinator and with the directors of the other festivals that comprise This Is Not Art. During the festival Critical Animals Directors also work with a small team of volunteers who assist with technical and logistical requirements.

Fee: All Critical Animals roles are volunteer positions, pending funding options.

Location: Critical Animals is a national festival and is predicated on national involvement. **You do not need to be based in Newcastle to direct the festival.** The successful candidate will, however, be required to attend monthly TiNA Org meetings on weekends in alternating cities, attend occasional Critical Animals meetings, and be in Newcastle for approximately one week at the time of the festival.

Who we're looking for

For the role of Co-Director, we're looking for someone passionate about the intersection of arts and research and who is interested in developing critical approaches for being a creative practitioner today. You might have your own practice, you might work or study at a tertiary institution or be an organiser or curator, or a combination of all of the above.

We are looking for someone who's interests and networks will complement and enrich those of the current co-directors Julia Shaw and Yolande Norris. A candidate with an interest in any number of the following areas; radio, sound & acoustics, theoretical and philosophic approaches to creative practice, ecology, phenomenology, dance and performance, psychology, linguistics or writing and poetics, would compliment the existing director's interest in visual arts and aesthetics. That said we are open and highly receptive to all applications and encourage anyone with a passion for fostering constructive dialogue around creative practices to apply.

Wherever your main interest lies you should have existing artistic networks, and an understanding of the issues facing artists in traditional, contemporary and emergent forms. You'll have the ability to research and oversee the creation of a diverse and comprehensive festival program, by working collaboratively over distance, predominantly managing large volumes of email correspondence.

This is an opportunity to help shape an exciting and emerging festival, to broaden your artistic networks on a national level, and to gain experience and professional development in festival management.

Responsibilities of the Co-Director

Program

- Select artists through review of applications.
- Create the festival program through the conception, workshopping and organisation of panels, presentations, paper sessions, readings, performances, exhibitions, installations, workshops and special events.
- Work with artists to refine ideas and workshop presentations in order to deliver cohesive sessions and realise overall vision for events.
- Facilitate sessions and appoint facilitators for events.
- Produce content for This Is Not Art and Critical Animals programs.
- Manage events through artist liaison prior to and during the festival, mindful of overall festival logistics.

Fundraising and Sponsorship

- Actively seek sponsorship opportunities for the festival, including facilitating partnerships between appropriate bodies and grant applications.
- Maintain and develop relationships with funding bodies and partners.
- Acquit funding and sponsorship for the festival.
- Manage budget effectively to cover costs associated in putting on Critical Animals.

Strategically

- Plan for the long-term viability and vitality of Critical Animals.
- Network with artists, partnering organisations and universities to build and sustain solid relationships for the delivery and sustainability of the festival.

Publicity and Communications

- Act as a media spokesperson and public face of the festival.
- Publicise the festival, festival initiatives and call for proposals.
- Liaise with the This Is Not Art Media Coordinator to publicise the festival and its artists.
- Generate interest and opportunities for promotion of Critical Animals
- Maintain criticalanimals.org and Critical Animals Facebook, Twitter and Flickr accounts.
- Phone and email communications with artists during the application and selection process, festival lead-up, the festival itself and festival post-production. Due to nature of festival with artists and directors often located in

different cities, ability to organise effectively with e-mail and phone contact is essential.

Logistics

- Liaise with This Is Not Art Coordinator and other festival Directors to ensure that Critical Animals is integrated with other aspects of the This Is Not Art program.
- Arrange venues; create and work to running sheets for venues to ensure that events run on time.
- Liaise with artists and This Is Not Art Production Manager to organise the tech requirements for events and ensure that these are delivered during the festival.
- Work with Program Coordinators and volunteers to ensure that the program is supported by appropriate human resources.
- Ensure the festival and its operations are delivered on time and within budget.

For further information, email criticalanimals@gmail.com or call Julia Shaw on 0407 133 818.