

Seven WA Visual Artists Ready for Ignition

Artsource, the peak body for visual artists in Western Australia, has awarded 'Ignite' funding to seven artists. The Artsource Ignite initiative, supported by BHP Billiton, provides funding vital in helping professional artists to take the next step in their career, or develop in their practice through mentorships, major projects and skills development. The successful artists are:

Katie West is an emerging artist who is keen to explore her own sense of Aboriginality and how it runs parallel to a historical narrative informed by Trans-generational trauma experienced by Aboriginal people in Australia.

Benjamin Kovacsy will enter into a mentorship with Mark Parfitt to challenge the conceptual and physical nature of his practice as well as build his skills in producing works on a larger scale.

Eva Fernandez will develop an artist book based on a collection of narratives, anecdotes and new artworks that connect her and her artwork to her family history during the Spanish Civil War.

Thomas Heidt will enter into a mentorship to assist him in developing a new body of work and to engage a curator to mentor his development in order for him to exhibit in the eastern states.

Stuart Elliott seeks to develop new skills in audio-visual artwork to complement his practice and transform his work into constructed images, objects and environments that will function in animated and performative dynamics.

Christopher Young's photographic artwork, *Small Town*, will be published, as a photographer the opportunity to publish in print is highly regarded.

Olga Cironis will pursue the rare opportunity to be mentored by a well-known international curator to develop the artist's networks and establish herself as an international artist.

The funding opportunity is unique in that artists are encouraged to think big and propose any form of project or process that furthers their career. "We are very pleased that, through the generous support of BHP Billiton, Artsource is providing funding to these seven artists," says Artsource CEO Gavin Buckley. "For an artist to receive such support is a vital development opportunity with the potential to make a lasting positive effect."

"Ignite is a great investment in these seven talented artists and we look forward to seeing their practice grow and flourish," says Buckley.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Artsource is the peak membership body for visual artists in Western Australia

We have over 900 members and provide them with professional services, opportunities and represent their interests. In addition to promoting our members and their work, Artsource champions the value of the visual arts to a growing audience across Western Australia, our nation and internationally.

For all enquiries, interviews, and artist profiles and images contact:

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