

WHAT A YEAR!

What a fantastic and busy year we've had here at ALGA as we celebrated our 40th Anniversary - as we take a few weeks off we just wanted to share with you a few bits of news and our plans and suggestions for Midsumma 2019.



What a fine looking bunch - at the closing drinks of the Queer Legacies, New Solidarities conference in November, delegates and ALGA members lit up the candles and toasted the 40th Anniversary of ALGA.



ALGA AGM

At our special 40th Anniversary AGM we gathered at Hares and Hyenas to celebrate and do business.

Hosted by Mama Alto, we also announced our plan in 2019 to enter into a period of consultation regarding a potential new name for the organisation. This process will consider input from our members, supporters and wider community and has been informed by discussions about the broad diversity of all our LGBTIQ+ communities.

Come along to our stall at Midsumma Carnival to learn more about how you can have your say.

You can find the Annual Report on our website. www.alga.org.au



ALGA stall at Midsumma Carnival 2019

Drop in to see us at Carnival on Sunday 20th January any time from 11am-5pm.

New copies of Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne publication available for sale on the day!

Find out more: <https://midsumma.org.au/what-s-on/carnival>

If you are interested in volunteering on our stall, please let us know. mail@alga.org.au

Here's our recommendations for events and exhibitions and other activities celebrating queer histories at Midsumma 2019

GLAM pride Victoria at Midsumma Pride March - Sunday February 3, 11am

Join fellow GLAMorous LGBTIQ+ folks and allies in queering the catalogue and curating the revolution at Pride March in Melbourne. We're organising a contingent of folks from the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector to march alongside members of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives and other heritage professionals, volunteers, students, and LGBTIQ+ history researchers and enthusiasts. Sign up via [this form](#) - or [Facebook](#) if you're interested in joining us or want to find out more about it.

The Famous ALGA History Walk

Explore queer history through the streets of Melbourne! Presented by: Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives To celebrate over four decades of collecting, preserving and celebrating Australian LGBTQIA+ histories, the Archives is inviting you to come and join us in a special St Kilda edition of ALGA'S famous queer history walk. Join us as we make our way around St Kilda to explore stories from our very queer past. Parties! Scandals! Nightclubs! Love affairs! Outrageous fashion! Come along for a tour of St Kilda as we get queer history out of the archives and take it to the streets.

Starting at Luna Park

Sunday 27 January 2019, 11:00am – 12:30pm

Find out more and book: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/alga19>

Dapper

The Dapper Queer - A finessed fashion sensibility that considers costuming, codes and the allure of the queer gaze. This exhibition features artists who have played with, constructed and considered the threads we wear and how style can both define and expose us. This exhibition connects to our queer histories, gender fluidity and acknowledges the defiantly dapper.

January 17 - March 3 2019, Thur-Sun 10am-5pm

Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre

Opening Thursday 31 January 6pm

Curated by Angela Bailey (President of ALGA)

Artists: Ray Cook, Lin Tobias, Peter Waples-Crowe, The Butch Project - Meg Allen, UB Topia and Anj Hans.

Find out more: <https://midsumma.org.au/program/dapper19>



Photo: *The Queen is Dead* by Ray Cook

Personal Touch

Presented by: Midsumma Festival and Incinerator Gallery

Throughout history, self-portraiture has provided a means for artists to examine their place in society. In the time of the camera phone, self-representation by artists provokes needed discussion on the problematic binaries associated with gender and identity. Personal Touch expresses the sensitivity with which artists are addressing the evolving nature of selfhood, at a time when the political status quo fails to do so.

Featuring Archie Barry (who recently wrote an excellent piece on trans erasure and visibility in 'history, archives and art') Bailee-Rose Farnham, Nunzio Madden, Bon Mott, Rowan Oliver, Bobuq Sayed and Tyza Stewart, with text by Nevo Zisin.

Dates: 22 Jan – 17 Feb Opening: Fri 25 Jan 6 – 8pm Open Tue – Sun 11am – 4pm

Artist Performance and Talk: Sat 2 Feb 2pm

Incinerator Gallery, Moonee Ponds

Find out more: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/pertoul9>

Drag Story Time at the Incinerator Gallery

Presented by: Incinerator Gallery, Moonee Valley Libraries and Women's Circus

Join our fabulous drag artist to hear stories, sing songs, eat fairy floss, giggle, and celebrate loving who you are. There are two sessions; 11am is age appropriate for families, and 1pm is a little bit risqué (for adults only). After the program find somewhere comfy in the garden with a rainbow library book to share with your family and friends.

Free but places are limited.

Sat 9 Feb

Families: 11 – 11.45am

Grown-ups: 1 – 2pm

Find out more: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/dragst19>

AIDS Memorial Garden Walking Tour

Stories of hope, heartache and horticulture from the site of the old Fairfield Hospital

Presented by: Thorne Harbour Health (formerly known as VAC) Thorne Harbour Health and Polytechnic invite you to join them in marking the 30 years of the AIDS Memorial Garden with a special walking tour and morning tea to mark the 30 years since it was opened on the grounds of the former Fairfield Hospital.



Enjoy the lush grounds of what is now part of Melbourne Polytechnic College Fairfield and listen to stories from the Fairfield Hospital at the height of the AIDS crisis in Australia. Located in the grounds of Fairfield Hospital, which at the time was responsible for the care of the majority of HIV/AIDS patients in Victoria, it was officially opened in April 1988. The Garden, originally established by Victorian AIDS Council volunteers, remains to this day a treasured resource and place of quiet reflection.

Melbourne Polytechnic, Melbourne, Sunday 10 February 2019, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Find out more: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/aids19>

Polari

Presented by: Trocadero Artspace (Footscray), Curated by Matto Lucas

'Polari' brings together a selection of local, interstate and international queer artists whose practices explore methods of communication within a range of various media and visual practices.

Polari – meaning 'to talk' – is a form of secret, theatrical slang language used primarily by homosexual men at a time when homosexuality was criminalised, to conceal homosexuality from hostile outsiders.

Incorporating illustration, animation, video, installation, performance, photography and experimental media, the 'Polari' group exhibition attempts to playfully explore the ways in which queer contemporary visual artists interpret and divulge their conceptual frameworks and meanings. In what ways are our works seen as "gay art" or are we "queer practitioners" and how do we disclose our messages to patrons via our art practices?

Find out more: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/polari19>

Date Night at Heide

Heide puts the art in heart for a date night in its romantic Heart Garden. Whether you are coupled, or looking to meet the arty queer of your dreams, enjoy a cocktail and cultured conversation.

Tickets include a special performance by The Huxleys and exclusive access to the exhibition House of Ideas, set in Heide I, the original home of John and Sunday Reed and incubator of artistic passions. Focusing on the turbulent decades around World War II, House of Ideas presents many of the best known works from the Heide Collection by artists supported by the Reeds, including Sam Atyeo, Danila Vassilieff, Sidney Nolan, John Perceval, Arthur Boyd, Albert Tucker and Joy Hester.

The Heart Garden is a particularly apt setting for Date Night, as it celebrates the intense love affair and creative partnership of Sidney Nolan and Sunday Reed.

Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne

Sunday 10 February 2019, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Find out more and register: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/heide19>

Nocturnal featuring Nakhane

Presented by: Midsumma Festival and Melbourne Museum

Nocturnal February, featuring South African musician and queer rights advocate, Nakhane, is more than just a party, but a transformation of the museum into an adult playground.

With a line-up of live music and DJs, plus bars, casual dining, and roving entertainment, guests can explore the exhibitions after-hours (with drinks in hand), gaze upon collection treasures and speed-meet Museum experts who will be scattered across the gallery spaces.

Melbourne Museum, Melbourne

Friday 1 February 2019, 7:00pm – 11:00pm

Find out now and register: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/noctfn19>

Leigh in London

This profoundly striking exhibition hones in on the work of Australian photographer, Robyn Beeche, during her time in London. The prolific artist documented seemingly opposing worlds: the post-punk, new romantic fashion and music scenes of 1980s London and Hindu ceremonies held in the Indian pilgrimage town of Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh. Throughout this time she was renowned for collaborating with counter-culture personalities including Zandra Rhodes, Vivienne Westwood, Divine and, of course, Sunshine's art-fashion icon, Leigh Bowery.

The Bowery Theatre

Princess St, St Albans

Find out more: <https://midsumma.org.au/program/leigh19>

Sunshine Boy: The Life of Leigh Bowery

Presented by: The Bowery Theatre

Dance, text, fashion, art, sex and music. This was Leigh Bowery – the art-fashion icon of the underground clubs of 1980s London hailing from Melbourne's working class west. You'll be lured into the depths of his infamous nightclub, Taboo for a pulsating 90 minutes, backed by the unmistakable soundtrack of the generation.



This is an in-your-face eyeshot into a life lived wildly... a long way from Sunshine.

Leigh Bowery was born in Sunshine, west of Melbourne in March 1961, but best known as a London based performance artist, club promoter and designer – an eccentric figure in the underground clubs of London and New York, as well as in art and fashion circles. He performed with the Michael Clark Dance Company, set up Taboo nightclub: “the place to be seen and be seen doing it”, and was also a significant model and muse for the English painter, Lucian Freud. He died from an AIDS-related illness on Hogmanay 1994.

Sunshine Boy concept & Performer: Andy Howitt

Find out more and book: <https://midsumma.org.au/program/sunboy19>

Let's Eat Cake - Love Wins: Marriage Equality Captured

Presented by: Maylei Hunt at City Library Gallery (Melbourne Library Service)

"It's personal. I have always marched and have felt it important to document our journey, our fight for equality. I am thrilled and am proud that this has happened in my (our) life-time"

The importance for the legalities of the recognition of equal rights for marriage is that the LGBTQIA+ communities see this as a step forward for communities and families for the equal respect, acceptance and acknowledgment of loving relationships between people. A human right to be acknowledged equally.

Australians have for more than fourteen years been taking to the streets to protest for the Equal Rights for Gay Marriage in Australia. Hunt's photographic series documents the Sydney and Melbourne LGBTQIA+ communities, as well as our straight allies, marching together for the need and acknowledgement of gay marriages as equal to straight marriages. This exhibition will celebrate our first year of equal marriage rights for all Australians. The opening will also be the book launch of LET'S EAT CAKE and copies will be available on the night. Maylei Hunt is a local social documentary photographer based in Melbourne.

Artist Talk: Sat 2 Feb at 2pm, at the Melbourne City Library exhibition space.

Find out more: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/leteat19>

Dancing Qweens: Let's Get Critical at the Bar

Presented by: Dancehouse

Three panel discussions with leaders from the queer performance communities to discuss and dissect queer culture and its intersections with the social, the political and the performative. These conversations, a regular feature in Dancehouse's public programs, are presented here in a first-time partnership with Midsumma, Victoria's premier LGBTQI+ festival. Structured in three parts, this series will reflect on the specificities and forces at play in Australian queer culture(s).

Bar Topic – Queer Histories

Considering the globalisation and commodification of queer culture, what are the local specificities? Which forms of queerness resist these forces and which choose to embrace them and why? With a focus on the queer histories of Melbourne and Sydney, this conversation unpacks the entanglement of various art forms and queerness since the '60s. Wednesday Jan 23, 6-7pm, free, the Coopers Malthouse (Southbank)

Find out more and book: <https://midsumma.org.au/program/dqbar19>

