

# **On/Offline**

## **Artists-in-Residence**

"Looking at the past to build the future"  
XVIII BIENAL DE CERVEIRA

**NEREA CASTRO (SP)**  
**TOM BORGAS (AUS)**

From 10th to 30th August, 2015

### **THE CONCEPT**

It's not unusual that Nerea Castro (Spain) and Tom Borgas (Australia) have been having a conversation now for months. Lots of people do it. We live in an age where we can connect with as many people as we can manage for as long as we want, indefinitely even. These connections transcend time and space, so perhaps the thing that is most interesting is that this conversation actually started at a particular time and in a particular place— 6:30pm on the 13th of June 2014 at the Crate Brewery in Hackney Wick, London, United Kingdom.

Since that date, their correspondence has continued online as comparative study of life on opposite sides of the globe. The development of their respective art practices has been a significant cause for exchange. Critiques of work, process and concepts have proven a significantly generative impetus for both parties. Despite its obvious limitations, a virtual dialogue is a logical option for two people separated by 16,000km. But what if these limitations were transcended? What if online was brought offline? What would that collaboration look like?

Looking forward, mobile and wearable digital technology and the Internet of Things is set to pave the way for a world where being online is a default state of being. Offline will not be an option. As this future draws nearer this residency promotes collaboration, engagement and exchange in real time and in physical space. It seeks to revisit past processes and modes of interaction in combination with more contemporary expressions of connection. It aspires toward building a meaningful future— a coextensive synthesis of on and offline, of virtual and physical, of digital and analogue.

## ACTIVITIES

Beginning with a two-week studio intensive, this residency will explore the conceptual and formal richness that exists at the intersection of Castro and Borgas' art practices. Through practical interactions across a range of media (printmaking, sculpture, drawing, video and sound) a body of new work will be generated and curated as an exhibition open to be viewed by the public.

Development of work will continue within the exhibition space during the third week in the form of an accumulatively performative, networked installation. As an extension of the initial offline collaboration between the two artists, visitors will be invited to manipulate, arrange and contribute to the work. The potential for online contributions will also be investigated.

<i>10-23 August</i>	<i>24-30 August</i>	<i>to be determined by Bienal</i>
studio work	installation	exhibition
ACTIVITIES OPEN TO PUBLIC		

## REQUIREMENTS

Resources that would be required as part of this residency:

- access to Bienal workshops
- an exhibition space
- daily food for the duration of the residency
- accommodation for Tom Borgas for the duration of the residency

## OUTCOME

The installation of the artwork will take place during the third week of the residence (according to the availability of the exhibition space) and it will extend for as long as the Bienal sees fit.

The majority of the artwork created as part of the residency will be donated to become part of the collection of the Museum of the Art Biennial of Cerveira.

## **ARTISTS STATEMENTS/BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Nerea Castro**

1982 Born in Vigo, Spain

Lives and works in London, United Kingdom

Working across a variety of media that include photography, video, drawing and sculpture, Nerea Castro employs a subtly minimalist aesthetic that encourages the viewer to consider their own identity as well as the existence of other points of view– an anthology of moments where we become aware of ourselves, our environment and the diversity of the relationships that constitute our experience of the world.

Developed in response to these contexts, the formal articulation of her ideas draw on the affective power of colour, shape and texture as a point of connection to more subjective imaginative realities. Although encountered as experiences of the abstract, Castro's work seeks to draw us through a threshold to a space where personal and collective viewpoints seem to somehow coalesce.

<http://nereacastro.net>

### **Tom Borgas**

1978 Born in Clare, Australia

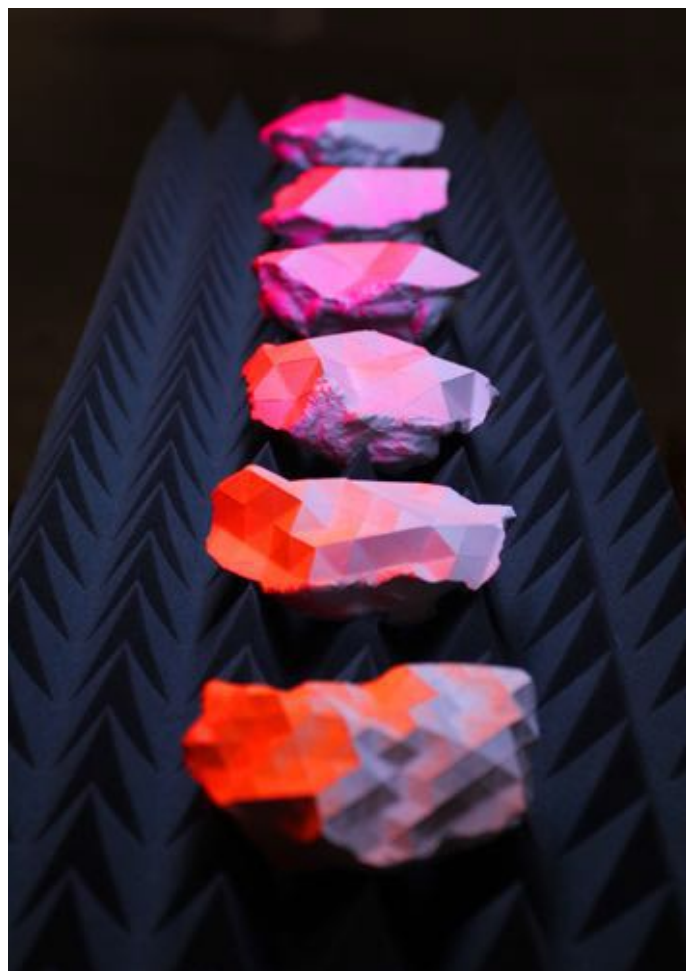
Lives and works in Adelaide, Australia

At a time where the physical world is increasingly being compressed, transmitted and experienced digitally, Tom Borgas' expanded sculptural practice draws attention to this shift through its reverse– the analogue fabrication of physical artefacts that exploit the aesthetic and structural motifs of the virtual world.

Drawing on digital media theory, the development of the sculptural elements of his studio work employ traditional approaches to making– moulding and casting, hand building, painting and drawing. Borgas' work is also shaped through the documentation and online distribution of images using mobile devices. The oscillation between digital modes of representation, analogue processes and networked distribution provide a generative impetus that parallels the range of increasingly integrated interactions that have come to define our relationship with digital media.

<http://www.madebytomborgas.com>

**TOM BORGAS**



Postdigital Artefacts (detail)  
2013  
plaster, spray paint foam  
dimensions variable



100 cubes (Klein blue), 2014  
Acrylic paint & cardboard. Dimensions variable (250, 200 & 150mm cubes)



Riparian Artefacts

2014

Concrete, shelving, double-walled polypropylene, adhesive vinyl, sticks, dental plaster, synthetic grass



Postdigital Rubble (gold)

concrete and gold leaf

variable (approx 50 x 50 x 25 cm)





Postdigital Artefacts, 2013

Wood, plaster, concrete, cardboard, acrylic, spray paint, foam, glass, plastic vials, florescent light.  
dimensions variable (approximately 350 x 180 x 150 cm)



Postdigital construction, 2015

styrene, steel, rare earth magnets  
interactive work, dimensions variable

**NEREA CASTRO**



A friend of a friend, 2015  
red thread on paper  
dimensions variable



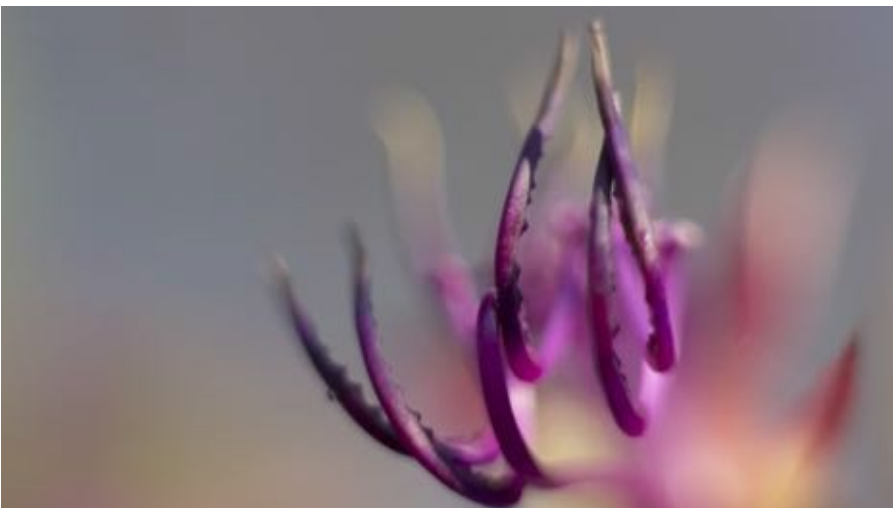
Shadows. Everybody has one  
2015  
pencil and oil on paper



Inkscapes, 2014  
indian ink on paper  
dimensions variable



Orballo I, 2014  
digital photography



Orballo IV, 2014  
digital photography





Echoes, 2012  
live cinema performance



emötio, 2010  
theatrical-immersive live cinema performance