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2012 Synapse Art/Science Residencies announced

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The **Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT)** is pleased to announce the successful recipients of the 2012 **Synapse Residency** program – a core element of the Synapse initiative of the Australia Council of the Arts and ANAT, which has enabled collaboration between artists and scientists since 2004.

The Synapse initiative supports creative partnerships between scientists and artists through the residency program, a database of international art/science collaborations, an archived discussion list and the **Australian Research Council (ARC)** Linkage program, which supports longer-term partnerships between artists and scientists in academic research settings.

ANAT, in continuing its commitment to artistic innovation, is thrilled to announce that the following Australian artists have been awarded Synapse residencies for 2012:

Keith Armstrong (QLD) + Australian Wildlife Conservancy (VIC, SA, NSW)

Australia has the highest mammal extinction rate in the world – not something to be proud of. To halt this decline, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) acquires high ecological-value land, establishes sanctuaries and actively manages the land through feral animal control, weed eradication, fire management and the translocation of threatened species. This approach – practical land management informed by strong science – has at its heart an interdisciplinary focus that sits happily with one of Australia's most established and successful artists, Keith Armstrong. Through a career spanning two decades, as well as his work as Senior Research Fellow at the Queensland University of Technology, Armstrong has focused on art-science and ecology-based collaborations with scientists, musicians, dancers, critical theorists and performers. With the AWC's South-West Region Chief Scientist, Matt Hayward, he will explore ways of shifting cultural thinking to generate broad-based actions to reverse the decline of Australian habitat health and diversity.

Peta Clancy (VIC)|Helen Pynor (NSW) + Heart and Lung Transplant Unit, St Vincent's Hospital (NSW)

The ambiguities arising out of organ transplantation have provided fascinating fodder for artists Clancy and Pynor throughout their careers. In their most recent research and exhibition project exploring transplantation, *The Body is a Big Place*, they explored the tenuous boundary between life and death and the complex tensions between consciousness, subjectivity, mind and body. The current project enables the artists to extend this research through a focus on the emerging

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transplant protocol, 'Donation after Cardiac Death – DCD'. The differences between DCD and the more conventional 'Brain Stem Death' protocol raises fresh questions that clinicians, with their demanding day-to-day surgical practices, have little time to address. The artists will explore an array of complex issues arising in clinical settings as a result of developments in transplantation technologies – beginning with the fundamental tension between the maintenance of donor dignity and the optimisation of organ condition.



Nola Farman (NSW) + Centre for Organic Electronics, University of Newcastle (NSW)

Imagine a planet able to harness the abundant light energy received every second of every day, a city where every building, every vehicle and every surface has an electricity-generating coating that makes low cost energy available to all. This is the vision being pursued by Paul Dastoor and his research team at the University of Newcastle's Centre for Organic Electronics. Nola Farmer is an award-winning artist who has pursued a diverse sculptural and installation practice since the early 1980s. Her most recent installation works are realised, paradoxically, through the impacts of erosion, weathering, vegetation, insect infestation, human interference and other effects more usually construed as destructive. Together, the artist and researchers have proposed a project that takes a fresh approach to the integration of solar cells into highly-constrained environments, providing a mechanism for rethinking how solar energy is integrated into the very fabric of our society.

The [Synapse initiative](#) of the Australia Council and the Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT) has been enabling collaboration between artists and scientists since 2004.

The Synapse initiative includes The Synapse residency program, a database of international art/science collaborations, and an archived discussion list, which are managed by ANAT; and the Synapse Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant program.

Image Credits:

Lips 1, from the series She carries it all like a map on her skin, 2005-2006

Peta Clancy, Type-C photographic print, face mounted on Perspex, 80 x 52.5 cm, Edition 5 + 1AP
 Courtesy the artist and Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney.

Headache, from the series red sea blue water, 2008

Helen Pynor, Type-C photographic print on Duratran, face mounted on glass, 173 x 39 cm, Edition 5 + 1AP

Courtesy the artist and Dianne Tanzer Gallery + Projects, Melbourne, and Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney.

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