

mac
MAIRANGI
ARTS CENTRE
ART FOR THE COMMUNITY

making friends

mobile exhibition and activity cart
around Mairangi Bay,
October 2017 - March 2018



partial financial support from



Auckland Council



A small workshop for free creation, open to all who wish to use it.



Having interests, curiosities, and good feelings are the main energy of urban regeneration.

A mobile workshop roams our community "making friends", "showing and telling" about the activities for creativity at and around Mairangi Arts Centre, offering activities, and exploring how art can be part of everyday life.

This document is a catalogue of the photos that covered the cart, along with some "reflections".

The city offers an incredible variety of learning labs

Three Projects (funded, in part, by Creative Communities Scheme)

Summer Art Not-School (SANS 2016)

<http://small-workshop.info/sans2016/>

Summer Open Workshop (SOW 2017)

<http://small-workshop.info/sow2017/>

What Could an Art Centre Be? What Could Be an Art Centre (What? 2017)

<http://small-workshop.info/what2017/>



During 2016-17 Mairangi Arts Centre (MAC) carried out three experiment/projects (funded, in part, by Creative Communities Scheme) where we explored questions central to MaAC's future, such as:

- How could MAC open up its gallery and studio functions?
- How can we positively blur lines between art and life through making and being together?
- How can MAC work with communities to transform everyday materials (where materials also includes places, times, stories, and people)?
- What potential does art-making and creative activity have for modifying community life?

penned
by xin
cheng

Projects:

- Summer Art Not-School (SANS 2016)
<http://small-workshop.info/sans2016/>
- Summer Open Workshop (SOW 2017)
<http://small-workshop.info/sow2017/>
- What Could an Art Centre Be?
What Could Be an Art Centre (What? 2017)
<http://small-workshop.info/what2017/>

We are looking forward to continuing this activity through Making Friends (Part 1 and 2) (<http://small-workshop.info/makingfriends/>) (funded in part by Hibiscus and Bays Local Board (Part 1) and Creative Communities Scheme (Part 2)) and Delicious Landscape (<http://small-workshop.info/delicious/>) (funded in part by Hibiscus and Bays Local Board).

No. of QUESTION	Name	contact details on things marked with * at end .
photo number	description	
1	Meditation session in junk terrain	The wonderful Adam Ben-Dror* initiated some amazing inter-generational group meditation sessions in a stimulus terrain of junk during SOW 2017.
2	Clay works using clay from the collapsing cliffs of Mairangi Bay	The "clay invitation" stall that roamed our neighbourhood offering balls of clay from the collapsing cliffs of Mairangi Bay and the claystation at MAC, both during What? 2017 resulted in more than 250 clay works. They were fired and glazed at MAC and distributed during Making Friends 2017.
3	Detail of mural (Bill Cifer)	A visiting family appropriated a huge sheet of sturdy paper from the MAC resource room and spent the morning playing with colour, weird images, and strange texts. After hanging it up when they left it became a provocation for other visitors to add and alter in a three-week long open-access mural during What? 2017
4	Musical instrument playkit	We made a variety of handmade musical instruments* out of various waste materials from local businesses and homes during SOW 2017. They were on display and available for play during the workshop, including a large-scale improv event at MAC run by Anna and Robyn* (organised by Clare McCormack*).
5	Detail of watercolour by Courtney and friends	Courtney-Love Dalhouzie* set up a watercolour studio in a corner of MAC during What? 2017, initially to do her own work (as she had no space at home) but she soon found many friends interested in learning from, and painting with her. Many friends were made!
6	Notice by Cath O'Brien	Cath O'Brien* used spaces in the MAC gallery during SANS 2016 to create connections between the work of students in the holiday programmes and casual visitors to the centre. It was fantastic to see the work spread out through the space and into the gardens!
<p>"Weird Bird"* Festive and Frugal Community Feast, Hair Styling, and Improv Session</p> <p>This was a crazy and fun community food event which brought together local creative practitioners (in particular yakitori master Shota Matsumura* (of Weird Bird - See [10] and Kyoto/Mairangi hair king Katsu Yotsumoto*) and attempted to open up private space to passers-by.</p>		



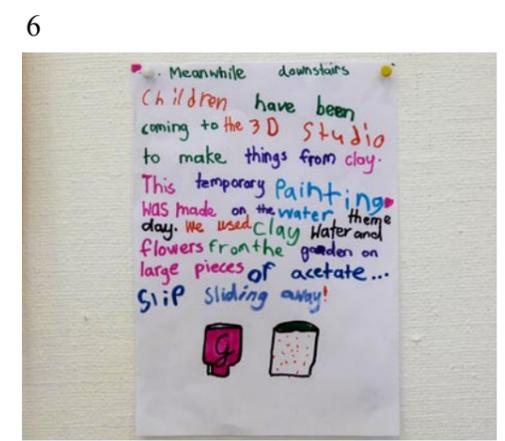
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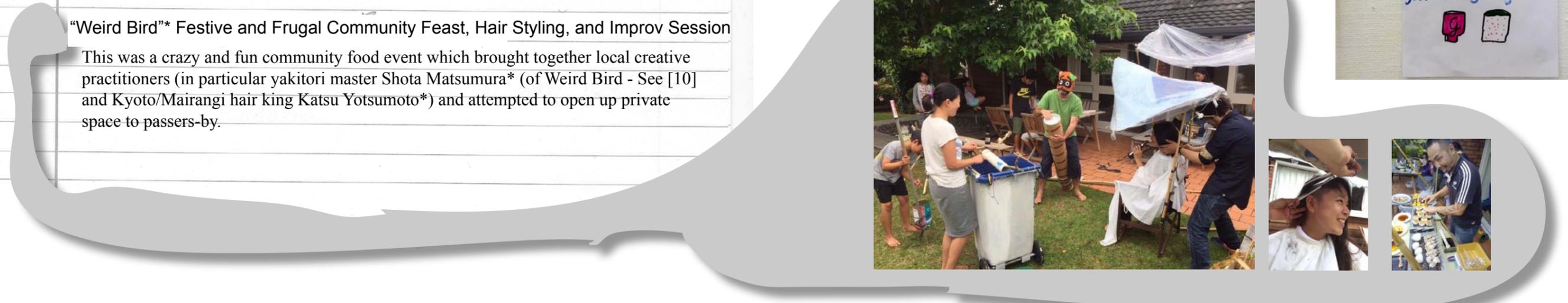
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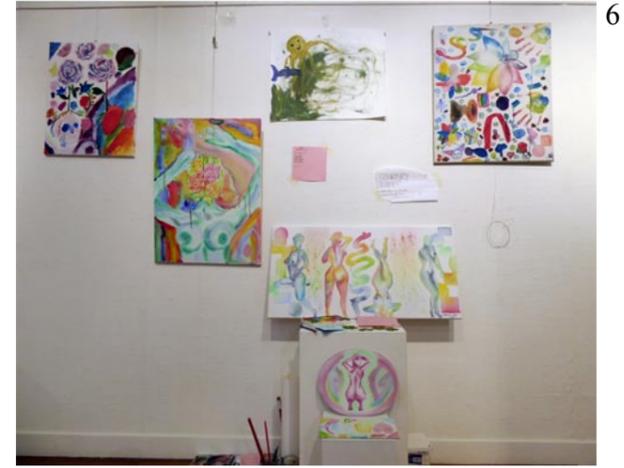
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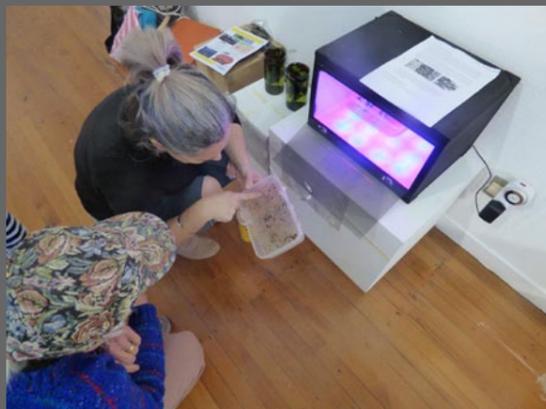
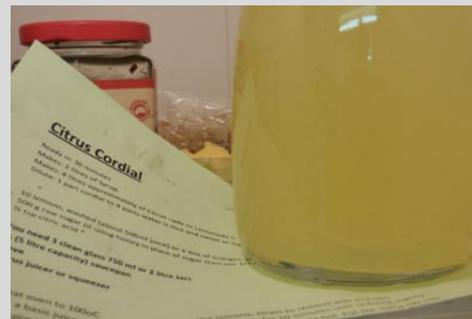
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8 Depression as a high-powered lens for art

A pamphlet produced as part of a series for SANS 2016. It presents an early translation of Chapter 3 from Kyohei Sakaguchi's* best-selling book "How to Make an Independent Nation" as a jump-off point for talking about depression and creativity - Two topics of intense interest for Mairangi Bay and Auckland Super City.

Vege soup and roasting station

During What? 2017 we had an always bubbling vege soup made of donated and 'seconds' veges from "around here". Various veges for roasting were also available. This proved very warming, a prompt for enjoying times with people hanging around, and an invitation for others to start to use our under-used kitchen for their own baking endeavors (e.g. Kaoru Kodama* and Rumen Rachev*).

10 Weird Bird halloween stall with Shota Matsumura

Yakitori-ya "Weird Bird"* is a festive and free mobile art yakitori stall in & around Mairangi Bay, Auckland for crazy community hospitality. Delicious treats are master-minded by Yakitori-master Shota Matsumura*. This halloween event for SOW 2017 was the first experiment in open-ended community food.

11 Sauerkraut made in Make Your Own Culture - Friendly Foraging & Sauerkraut Workshop

Instigated by Philippa Nielsen* we invited one and all to "Make Your Own Culture" - an opportunity to partake in the art of making sauerkraut at SOW 2017. This improvised foraging walk/workshop/conversation was an experiment at fermenting a revolution as a community of people dedicated to creative living.

12 Mapping of Free Space for Activities by Kaoru Kodama

It was so great to come across Kaoru Kodama's* detailed mapping of the gallery space terrain at MAC during What? 2017.

13 Homemade microgreens spronter and self-watering planters made from wine bottles

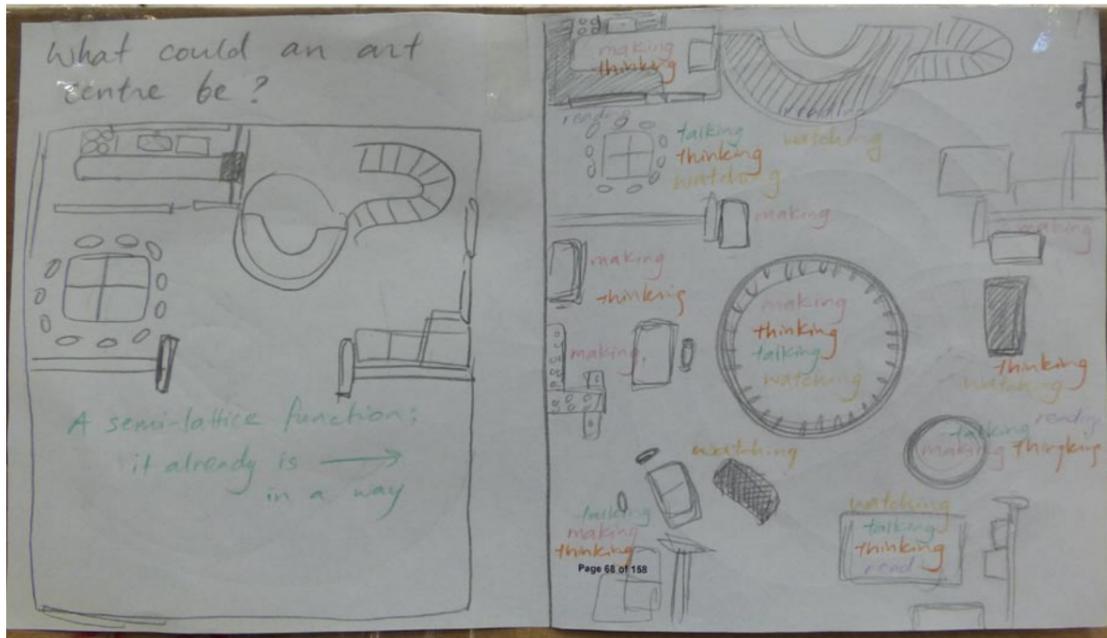
Amy Johnson-Buckley* shared some hitherto unknown devices for gardening in small spaces, devised by her brother-in-law (I think). The presence of these practical and whimsical elements added a very welcome layer to the MAC space during What? 2017.

Mixed local citrus cordial

Tracey Sunderland* injected delicious knowledge into What? 2017 with her cordial expertise. A whole lot of excess local citrus lined our juicing station and was preserved into a mixed citrus cordial by one and all! (See also juicing station and juice riot at Mairangi bay School)

For the Birds

During SOW 2017 Brydee Rood* offered For The Birds - Public Bird Baths, a workshop project using found objects and collected materials from the local neighbourhood to create a DIY Bird Bath installation in the MAC grounds. The installation aimed to provide a cool watering space for the feathered community on public ground over the summer.



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No. of QUESTION

Name

16 Shared meal with Courtney

The MAC space during What? 2017 provided plenty of opportunity to cook and eat with "people we happened to meet" - frugal, fun, and warm! Here, we are enjoying MAC-cooked vege soup, wild cordial from the juicing stall, and some bread from "down the road" with Courtney-Love Dalhouzie* and brother. See also [5]

17 Gathering grapefruit

When donations of local citrus ran low due to enthusiastic juicing and cordial making during SOW 2017 we roamed the streets searching for fallen fruit, which was not too hard to come across at all.

18 Wind instrument shared by Robyn

During the weird sounds and DIY instruments meeting* at SOW 2017 Robyn* taught us this great wind instrumen that you make with a cut-off balloon and any kind of tube. It was an entry into endless experiments and off-key flaccid constructions. Definitely recommended!

19 Paper construction by Kaoru Kodama

It was so great to come across Kaoru Kodama's* paper constructions at MAC, made of "stuff she found" during What? 2017.

20 rainbow big legged spider by Poppy

Super bright and detailed construction during SANS 2016. It was great to see that she felt OK to write the details of the work written directly onto the clean white plinth. We are fans of gallery appropriation.

21 Making ??something cool??

Using cloth scavenged from MAC, masks that "someone brought in", and industrial lampshades retrieved from the dumpster at MOTAT these ladies make rad dolls during SANS 2016.

22 Cath O'brien experimenting with fluid linear compositions using cut-up tyre strips

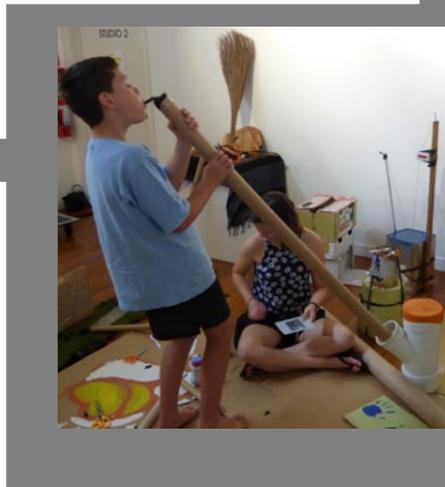
It was inspiring to watch Cath O'Brien* experiment with a long strip of cut-up tyre (an artifact from Xin Cheng* and Chris Berthelsen's "on enjoying our gardens and other wild places" for headland Sculpture on the Gulf 2015) over multiple iterations during SOW 2017.

Mapping the art centre as a semi-lattice by Kaoru Kodama

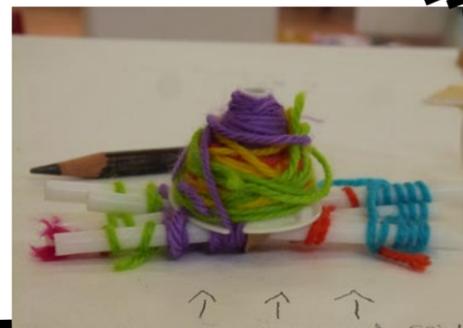
It was so great to come across Kaoru Kodama's* conception of the art centre as a semi-lattice during What? 2017.



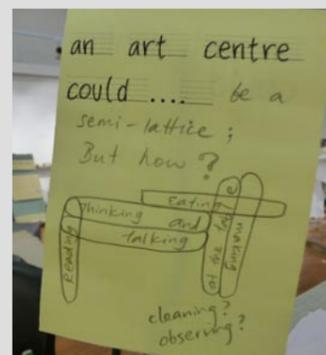
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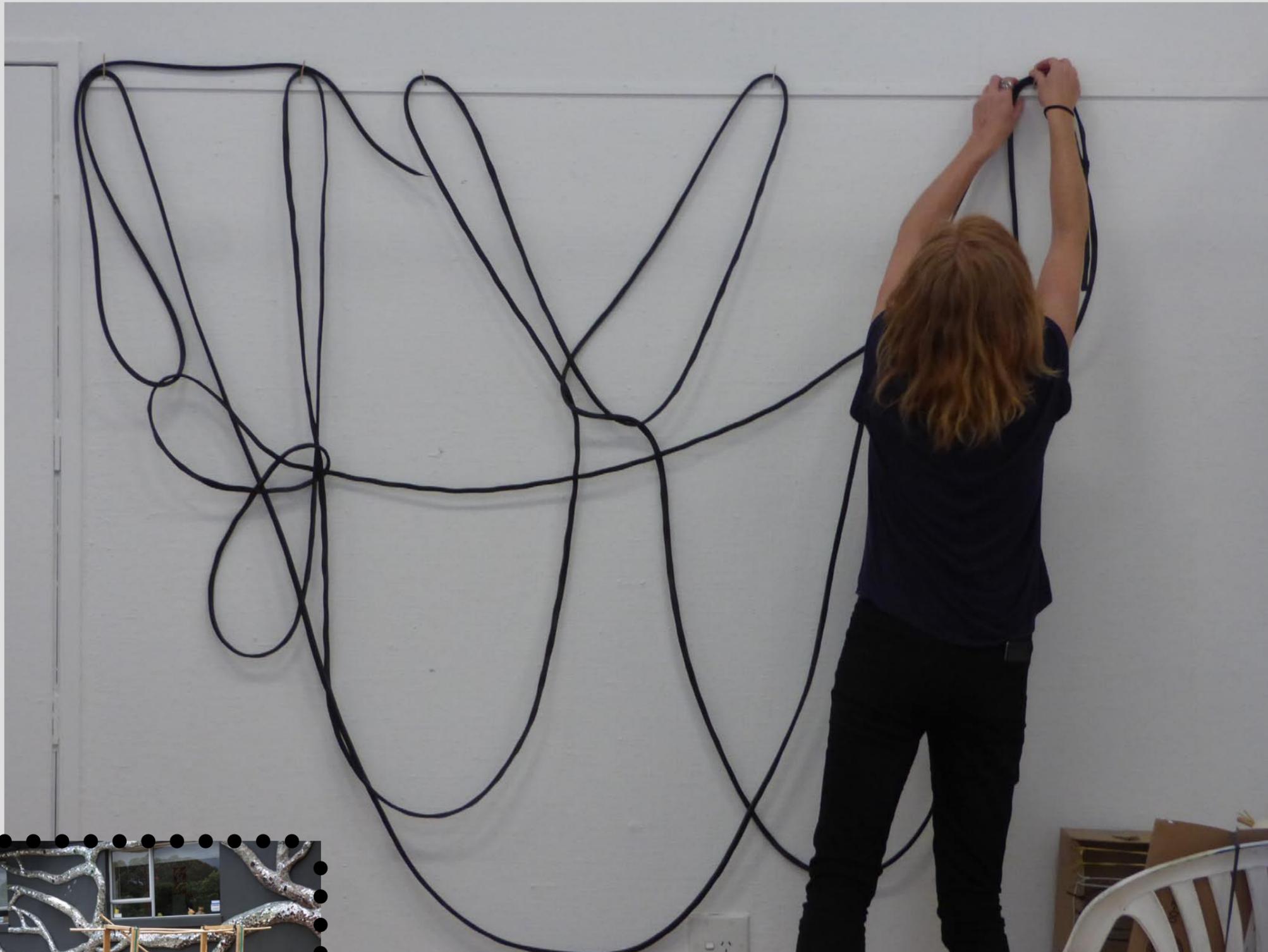


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24 Reading station

A reading station of documents on environments for creativity, for perusal during What? 2017.

25 Experimenting with clay station of local clay by Clint Taniguchi

Clint Taniguchi* appropriated a whole lot of Mairangi clay scavenged from a local building site to offer visitors to What? 2017 a lump for scratching, molding, building, tumbling....

26 Collaborative and improvised watercolours by Courtney, Cua, and ?

See [5].

27 Iterations of mobile carts

Carts made of free and local materials can be extremely useful as wheelbarrows, exhibition stands, food stalls... but they do take some perfecting. Pleasurable iterations.

28 Roving 'art' pamphlet stand

29 'Free Cuts' offered by Xin Cheng in Mairangi Bay village

One-day "weirdo in residence" at SANS 2016 Xin Cheng* offered "free cuts" in the Mairangi Village. Only one game fellow took her up on the offer.

Jo Eng and children experiment with various ways of making stilts

Jo Eng's* visit to SOW 2017 reminded us of the powers of the interactions of bodies and junk! It also inspired the creation of the pamphlet Junk Yoga*



31 Grandfather and granddaughter experiment with various tensions in boat building exercise.

So great to see intergenerational sharing of knowledge of various tensions and play between grandfather and granddaughter during their (extended) visit to SOW 2017.



Ginger beer bugs

Tracey Sunderland's* sharing of a simple ginger beer recipe during What? 2017 brought another kind of fermentation experiment to MAC (see also [11]). The delicious output of the first batch was delivered in a lunchtime tasting at Mairangi Bay School, and the bugs live on 6 months later... constantly producing. You can taste some during Making Friends.



34

33 "Free Cut and Trim" offered by Ayu and Cua

The tradition of "free cuts" (see also [7] and [29]) continued at What? 2017. Please ALWAYS feel free to engage in styling practice in public.



33

34 Chris Berthelsen and Grant Merriman 'make friends'

Exciting, awkward, dangerous, a new experience for all. The perfect recipe for making friends. (Occurred during SOW 2017)

35 Cua in front of hut during SOW 2017



Protest sign about the ~~the~~ dairy industry by Ikumi and Yuka

Encouraging to see new residents not taken in by Pure NZ Dairy propaganda. Protest poster created in response to local resident's protest about "maggot burgers" at Wendys during What? 2017.



37 'Right of slide' public waterslide by T, T and C

Test run for public waterslide offering during SANS 2016 (see also [X]).

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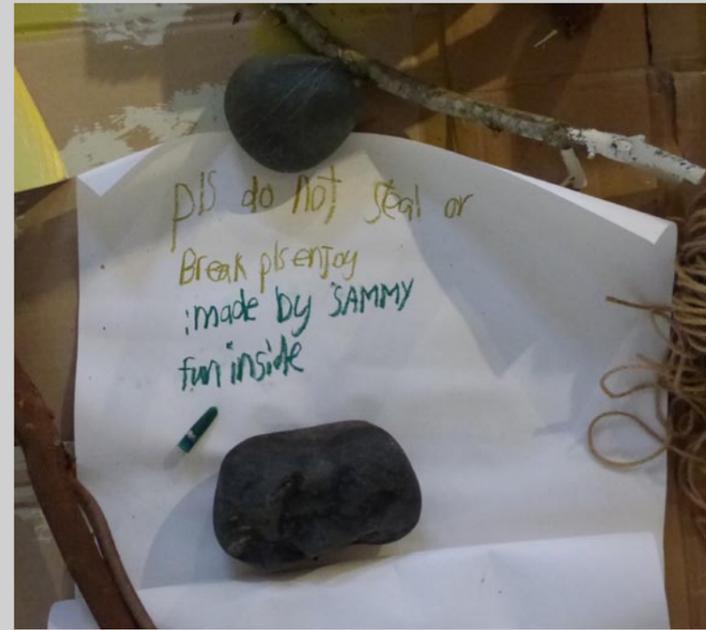


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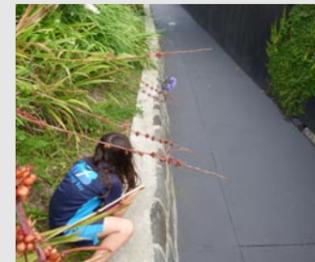
46 Figure mobile

A sweet and thoughtfully constructed hanging doll recovered from the junk terrain at SOW 2017. I wonder who made it...



47 Sketch for a net terrain

The hammock building activity with a rescued trampoline frame from Shota Matsumura* and various donated string-like stuff inspired an hallucination about soft net terrains in the inner city for Changing Lanes during Auckland Artweek (not implemented).



48 Turning a well-travelled path into a new game

The "method of noticing" means to find or rediscover joys and infinite games* in the everyday environment that we take for granted.

49 Matariki mural by

Judy and Olivia* spent fine times creating this large Matariki-themed mural (among many other activities, over a few hours) during What? 2017.



50 Juice riot at Mairangi Bay School

As the first entry into making Mairangi Bay School more edible and delicious* Tracey Sunderland*, Amy Johnson-Buckley* and the PTA held this juicing riot during lunchtime, followed by a cordial making and tasting session later in the week (during What? 2017)



Dreamcatcher of discarded hulu hoop

It is always fun to see and experience waste materials transformed. This example is from SANS 2016.



52 What can you do on a fence #2

Experiments in relief and tension using elastic ropes left over from a MOTAT project, cardboard tubes from a blinds shop on Constellation Drive, and found natural materials, on fence of 28 Maxwellton Drive, Mairangi Bay.

53 Huge Sack experiment with Chris and Cua

Windy days and huge sheets and sacks are a play-full mix! We collected a play kit of various items for large scale wind play during SOW 2017. You can easily find some large sacks by asking at a nearby furniture store (these ones came from king-size beds).







also 83



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No. of QUESTION	Name	Page 8
54	Juicing station and experiments	
	Continuing on from the juicing riot [50] Tracey Sunderland* instigated a juicing station stocked with bountiful citrus from local gardens during What? 2017. An invitation to refresh, play, improvise juicing devices with junk, and share a well-earned snack.	
55	Station Pencil stand made of junk hairdryer Scavanged from Corban Estate Arts Centre dumpster	
	The boundaries of waste in Auckland art centres become increasingly porous. We were inspired by this vivid and practical reuse during SANS 2016.	
56	Free Garage Sale of materials for creativity at Summer Art, Not School 2016	
	All creative scavengers were invited to take home fragments and remnants of the Summer Art, Not-School activities for further use at home. And more than one of them did.	
57	Hanging out	
	Environments for creativity also include spaces, opportunities, and invitations for hanging out with various friends.	
58	"Work on Berms"	
	Working in public opens up possibilities for chance encounters, provocation, slow-forming acquaintances, neighbourhood storytelling, and working large.	
59	Inter-generational imaging using 'simple machine for imaging art centres' with Judy, Cua, and friend.	
	The Simple Machine for Imagining Art Centres during SANS 2016 was a paper-based machine for generating oblique perspectives on how an art centre might be different.	
60	"Write on windows"	
	Open garden, 12-6ish 28 Maxwellton Drive, during SANS 2016 - It proved hard to lure passers-by into our garden to help transform our windows into an amazing display of creativity and companionship! But, we did get a few takers, and they even ground our coffee beans. Drawing on windows reminds us that homes don't always need to be primed for sale.	
61	"Right of ^{slide} way" 1-month public waterslide	
	During SANS 2016 we enjoyed a weird and slippery experience at Mairangi Bay Park with our improvised water slide made of a bar of soap, 9 milk bottles, and some plastic sheets. We left it installed for passers-by to take a chance on risk and pleasure. Fantastic to come across unknown sliders on a daily basis, and to hear parents tell their kids that they prepared it for them! Thank you to maintenance workers for leaving it in place without a fuss.	



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62 Large scale origami experiment

Large scale origami is a shared experience in yoga. Translating hand movements to body scale cracks open new ways for your bodies to work together. During What? 2017.



63 Inter-species making friends

Making Friends is not just about humans.



64 Exploring

This cat seems to be on its usual daily routine but following it can be considered a tool for exploration of our familiar environments.

65 Soft architecture experiments

Bamboo, rope, fabric offcuts, ripped tents... materials for playing with soft architecture aspects of light, shade, flutter, flex, give and take, hide and seek... During SANS 2016.



66 Interacting with Aya Yamashita's installation of video experiments

Aya Yamashita's* gift of her video experiments during SANS 2016 was both weird and a great invitation to interactive shadow play.



67 Avocado interactions

Seeing unfamiliar sprouts from familiar materials. A lesson in hidden potentials and slow-key experiments during SANS 2016.



67

68 thing with Adam

We are not sure what to call this thing we made when Adam Ben-Dror* came over for his meditations [see 1] but we DID enjoy playing with this variously flaccid/taut convivial dance instrument made of waste elastic bands and a ventilation cover (at SOW 2017).

68



69 Commercial hairdryer scavenged from Corban estate Art Center turned into display of wildflowers from MAC grounds.

The boundaries of waste in Auckland art centres become increasingly porous. We were inspired by this whimsical reuse during SANS 2016 (see also [55]).



64



71



75



Workshop at 28 Maxwellton Drive

Always happy to open up the garage.

71 Display of woodcrafts by Galaxy Art and Science workshop.

Members of new local crafting studio Galaxy Art & Science* exhibited art works and hand-made products and interacted with visitors during What? 2017. We look forward to visiting their workshop and collaborating (tutoring, artwork and product sales, public projects) with them in the future.

72 Experimenting with Aya Yamashita's swing/thing

Aya Yamashita's* woven thing with rope and tyres can be used in various ways.

Kawakawa and Orange Experiment

Inspired by local juicing riots (see e.g. [50]) we gathered oranges from Nicky* and kawakawa from the MAC grounds to experiment with various infusions during What? 2017.

74 Improvised raincoat

Just trying to keep dry, with plastic covers used to transport mattresses scavenged from Wairau Park furniture stores.

75 "Yes!" shirts

A load of "employee uniforms" recovered from a dumpster in Wairau "Park" combined with waste house paint rescued from Mairangi building sites attempt to communicate messages of openness to pleasurable encounters.

76 Yakitori Stall "Weird Bird" at the beach

77 Local clay open Air Studio with Jack Tilson

An open and "open to chance encounters" outdoor workshop making vessels with clay from the collapsing cliffs of Mairangi Bay along the walkway between Mairangi and Murrays Bay, with inspiring Jack Tilson during SOW 2017.



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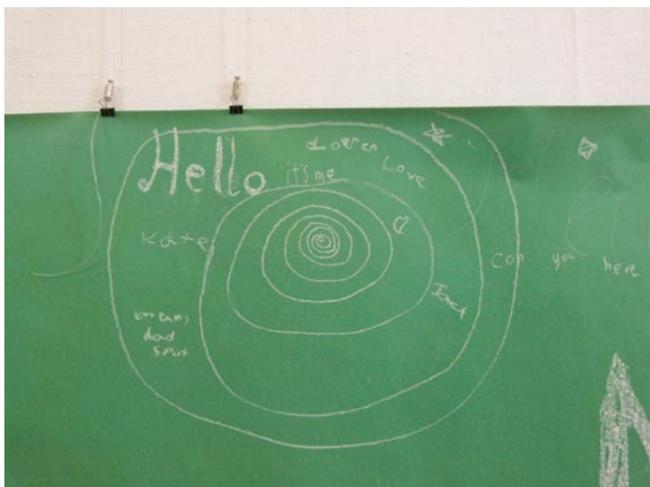
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No. of QUESTION

Name _____

Page 11

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Makeshift Signage

Spend more time with others and making, less time on "designs".

79

Clay work by Jōta during (2)

Fun head work by Jota

80

Clay work by Courtney during (2)

Always encourage celebrations of the body.

81

Flower arrangement by Clint Taniguchi

An explosive arrangement of organic materials gather from MAC grounds, created by Clint Taniguchi* over a day hanging out during SOW 2017.

82

Bucket sculpture public work

Working on a bucketsphere on a berm in Mairangi Village during SANS 2016 encouraged various weird interactions, discussions around the possibilities of buckets, sharing of life stories, and shared edible treats. Working large and in public with everyday materials attempts to open up cracks for mutual understanding, new opportunities, play, and development of relationships between locals.

83

Juicing contraption made during (54)

When you've never done something before you can come up with contraptions that amaze. [See page 24]

84

Detail of all-access wall mural during Summer Art, Not-school 2016

Free play with chalk and building paper rescued from the trash. Wall length public mural at MAC during SANS 2016.

85

"Draw on our car" public graffiti workshop/riot

Scribbling on cars is an easy win down at the beach during SANS 2016, and a good start to loosening respect for the metal beasts that rule our pathways.

Free!
What could an art centre be?
What could be an art centre?

FREE art Workshop
Jan 9-18
all welcome
Small-workshop.info

Pop in and draw on our windows
With us 12-3

I am collecting stories
about life in Mairangi Bay
Please bring yours, and I'll share them with you!
Swimming pool also open



Weird Bird
Open:

mac MAIRANGI ARTS CENTRE
GALLERY RECEPTION STUDIO 1 & 2
all welcome Jan 9-18
Strange Experiences and Pleasurable for free at MAC
Small-workshop.info/sow2017/

78

We are making LEMON ADE!
Tuesday and Thursday (next week)
meet at the hall
Please bring (if you can):
- citrus fruit
- juice
ALL WELCOME!
contact: 0274 856 026

20 mac MAIRANGI ARTS CENTRE
ART FOR THE COMMUNITY
www.mairangiarts.co.nz
Are you a mac member yet?
Mairangi Bay Scout Group
FREE SPACE FOR ACTIVITIES
JULY 9-22

Vege lucky dip!
dig one out carefully
+ add it home
see what grows!

Summer Art, Not-School
FREE ART ACTIVITIES
with for all!
at MAC

What is an art centre?
Welcome!
Come in to make and change stuff!
Last Day Please take any materials you like!
(not pens, scissors etc...)

Place to read, snooze, snuggle, feed by breast or other means, relax, eat
all welcome

Being an artist and parent in a city of riches?
Pamphlet and discussion with Tim Devin

Tim Devin* is a Boston-based artist, librarian, parent and more. His work supports the need for information and feeling connected that are essential for people having a say in their communities and the world at large. This discussion starts from three points coming out of his project "How to be an Artist and a Parent?" - how to be a "good parent" and also do the other stuff you need to do, the question of what happens to a community life pressures slowly hinder people from being creative, and the fact that both Boston and Auckland are going through huge transformations right now.

87 Vessel made by Jack Tilson during (77)

One of the first tests of firing and glazing unprocessed clay gathered from collapsing cliffs of Mairangi Bay.



88 Musical instrument / color composition by Cath O'Brien

Surprising materials for handmade instrument. You can learn so much when "mucking around".



89 Making slippers

Quiet time, soft materials.



90 Construction during SANS 2016 and SOW 2017

Stuff emerges from rubble, often unannounced.

91 Spring onion factory created to propagate ingredients for ~~the~~ Yakitori-ya "weird Bird" (see 10, 76)

Attempting to start a cycle of frugality in community feasting.



92 Judy Blakey at play during Summer Art, Not School 2016

The chairperson of the MAC BOT is ALWAYS at play.



93 Development of Yakitori-ya "weird Bird" with Shota Matsumura



88

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94 ~~Art~~ Art walkway chalk drawing with leftover clay from MAC.

Simple repurposing of art centre waste materials.

95 Experiment with body and junk from Corban Estate Art Centre during SANS 2016 and SOW 2017

Simple repurposing of art centre waste materials.

96 Testing mobile food stall for Yakitori-ya Weird Bird during (76) with Shota Matsumura.

97 Various ^{hand made} contraptions for fishing, Murray's Bay wharf.

'Normal' people are at least as creative as artists.

98 'Running repairs' on hand made food cart in the middle of the night after (76), with Elton and Mark

Just because it breaks down does not mean it is a failure. "Bugs" are impetus for convivial times and essential learnings. Or as Elton* said, "an adventure".

99 'Fixed' scooter, with wheels scavenged from trolley device devised for headland sculpture on the gulf

The pieces keep combining into other things.

100 'Brick Walk' by Rumen Rachev, with Kaoru Kodama

Crucial "European" artist Rumen Rachev* staged his first "Brick Plus Walk" right in the heart of Mairangi Bay.

'Making a bowl' experiment during local clay ~~work~~ invitation

Pottery doesn't have to be thrown or built, it can be carved straight out of the cliffs and rock pools.



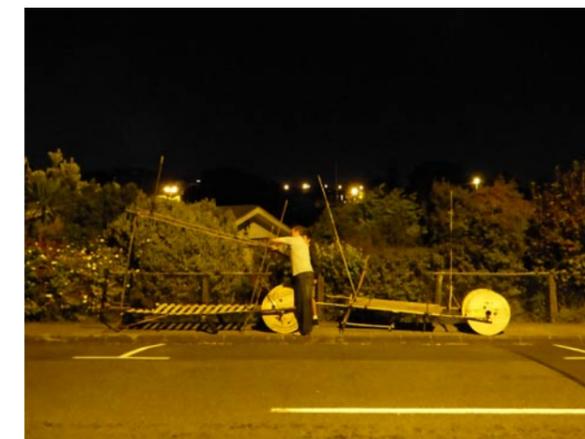
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102



Recent zines display and various zines



105



Development of charcoal powered footbath for use during What? 2017

Cobbling together materials from local renovations, restaurants and factories.



104

~~8/10/17~~ A festive community feast during SOW 2017, with Shota matsumura, Katsu Yotsumoto,

Grilled food stall, free hair cuts on the lawn, weird furnitures, handmade intruments... [See [7] - pages 3, 4, 5)

105

Entanglement room created and enjoyed by visitors to SANS 2016

You NEVER know what will happen in an empty room.

106

Testing iteration of wheelbarrow initially created to haul clay for (77)

The Making Friends cart is a continuation of this train of thought.

107

Someone fixed my shoe during sow 2017

Thank you!



108 Comb construction during SOW 2017

Find 'fits' between materials. In this case corrugated cardboard holes and bamboo skewer off-cuts (from [10]).

109 Peaceful times during SANS 2016

Concentration, construction, spacing out.

110 makeshift camera holder during (100)

The commercial product can never be expected to account for the specific needs of all individuals at all times. Find workarounds and fixes.

111 Appropriation of street fixtures for athletic pursuits

Things are always already other things, and are open to use.

112 Weird Bird illustrations by Yurie during (10)

113 Mythical Japanese Creature 'Tanuki*' serves up 'bliss balls' during (7)

We DO encourage cross-cultural, interspecies festivities.

114 Playing with local Countdown staff during (11)

We DO support playful interactions in everyday life.

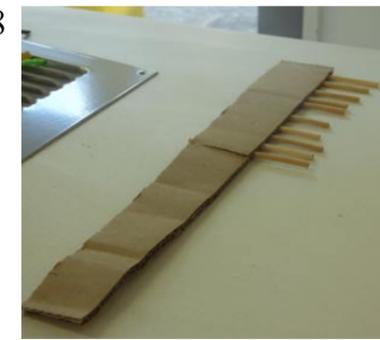
115 Frugal elephant creation by 'Dad' during SANS 2016

Thanks dad!

116 Bath Bomb experimental workshop and stall during ~~the~~ what 2017

Tracey Sunderland* provided several semi-experimental homemade stalls using everyday ingredients.

108



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Peaceful times during end of workshop exhibition for SOW 2017

We do try to also create environments for reflection and spacing out. Key aspects of environments for creativity and knowledge transformations.

118 Handmade Bermspace for creative activities during what 2017

Working on berms transforms a no-space of transition (jogging, going to the bus stop, walking to school, etc) into a landmark, signpost and interface. These signs of life on our streets invite conversation, chance encounters, and open up everyday life for creative activity.

119 'Brains' by Grandma during SOW 2017
Thank you grandma!

120 Spontaneous citrus offering during what 2017

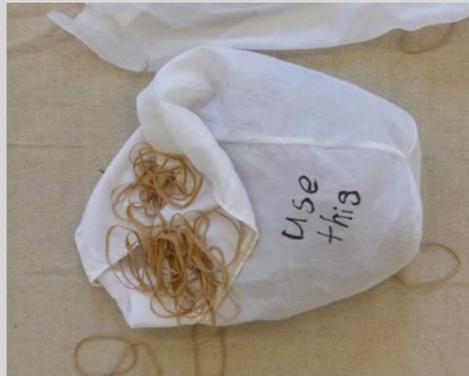
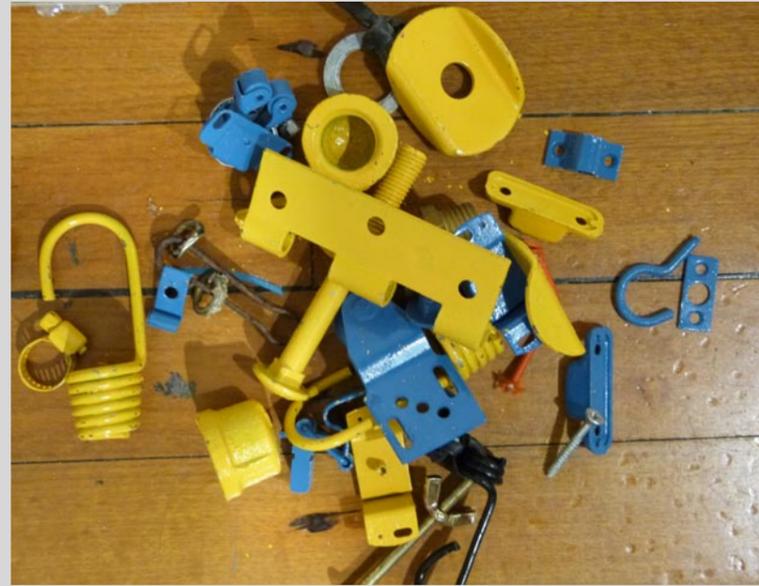
121 'Loose parts'

"In any environment, both the degree of inventiveness and creativity, and the possibility of discovery, are directly proportional to the number and kind of variables in it." Simon Nicholson*

122 Audio device created during SOW 2017

Stationery organisers developed during SANS 2016 and SOW 2017

124 Detail of (81)



121





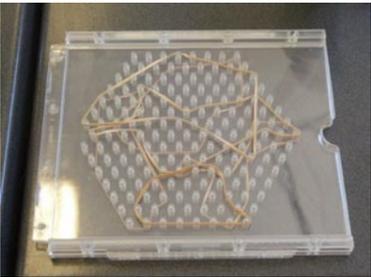
Family activity during SOW 2017

You can learn and enjoy a lot of different "stuff" about each other when you make without a plan.

Berm of despair during SANS 2016

A Mairangi Bay resident offered up their fence as a site for creative play! The BERM OF DESPAIR! People were invited to take a walk, a look, and join in...

127 Elastic geometry toy during SANS 2016



127

Public improv session with handmade 'instruments' and junk during SOW 2017

Thank you Rudy* and Tomoko* for jamming on the beach and creating instruments on the fly.

129 Unauthorised food stalls during SOW 2017 and what 2017

I love how these girls are happy to create a space for their stall wherever they please.

130 Sketch during SOW 2017



130



~~127~~ catapult during SOW 2017

129

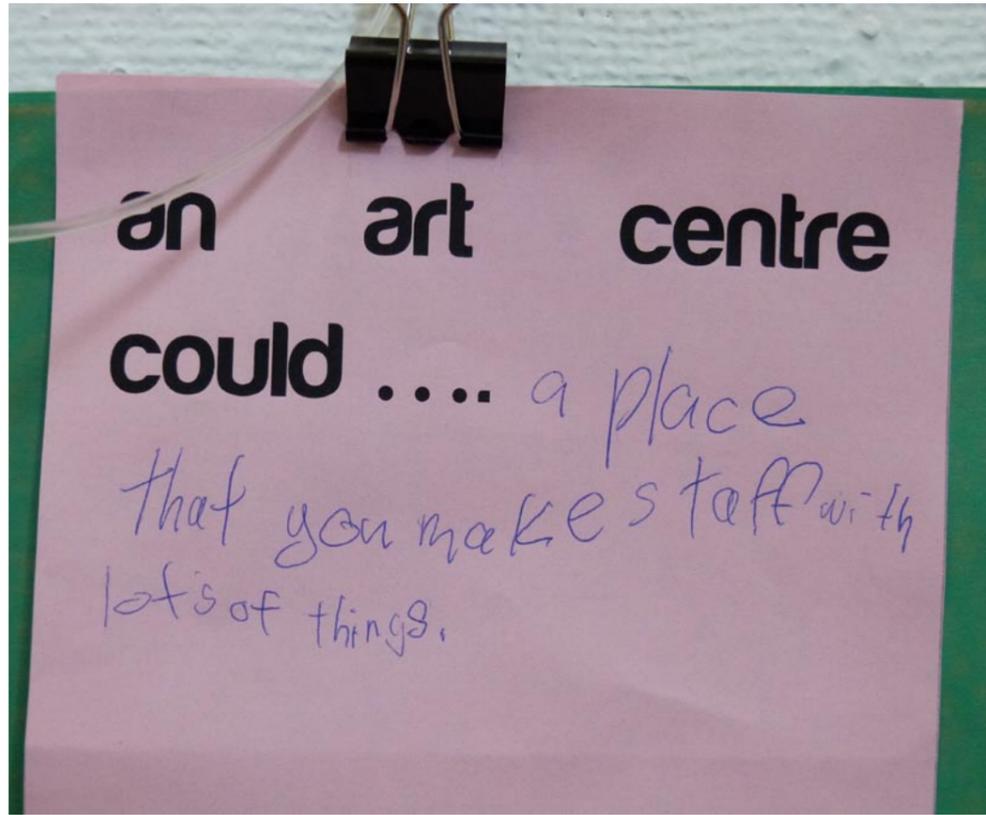


132



132 Mairangi Organic Making Space during SOW 2017

Mairangi Organic Making Space was an invitation to spend time making, doing and 'making-do' for SOW 2017. It was a prototype hand-made park that is always changing and does not need money for its development and upkeep.



134



137



138

133 Good suggestion during SANS 2016

TOTALLY agree!

134 Signs of life during 'off track walks' for ~~S~~ What 2017

Going off-track can crack open spaces for adventure in suburban informal greenspace. You start to say things you don't usually say when you are off-track. Special thanks to Aya Yamas-hita*, Clint Taniguchi*, Rumen Rachev* and Kaoru Kodama*

135 ~~Public~~ Public experiment during ~~SOW~~ SOW 2017

136 Dreamcatcher ~~by~~ by mum during SOW 2017

137 Learning from each other / making friends during SANS 2016

Working in public opens the possibilities of learning and enjoying with 'others' you'd never otherwise meet.

138 Geometric experiment toy during SOW 2017

139 Handmade instrument workshop during ~~SOW~~ SOW 2017

140 Family improv session on Junk instruments during SOW 2017



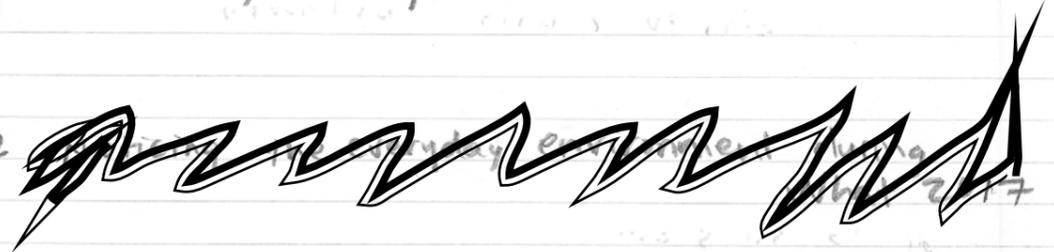
139



140

141 Activity during What 2017

142

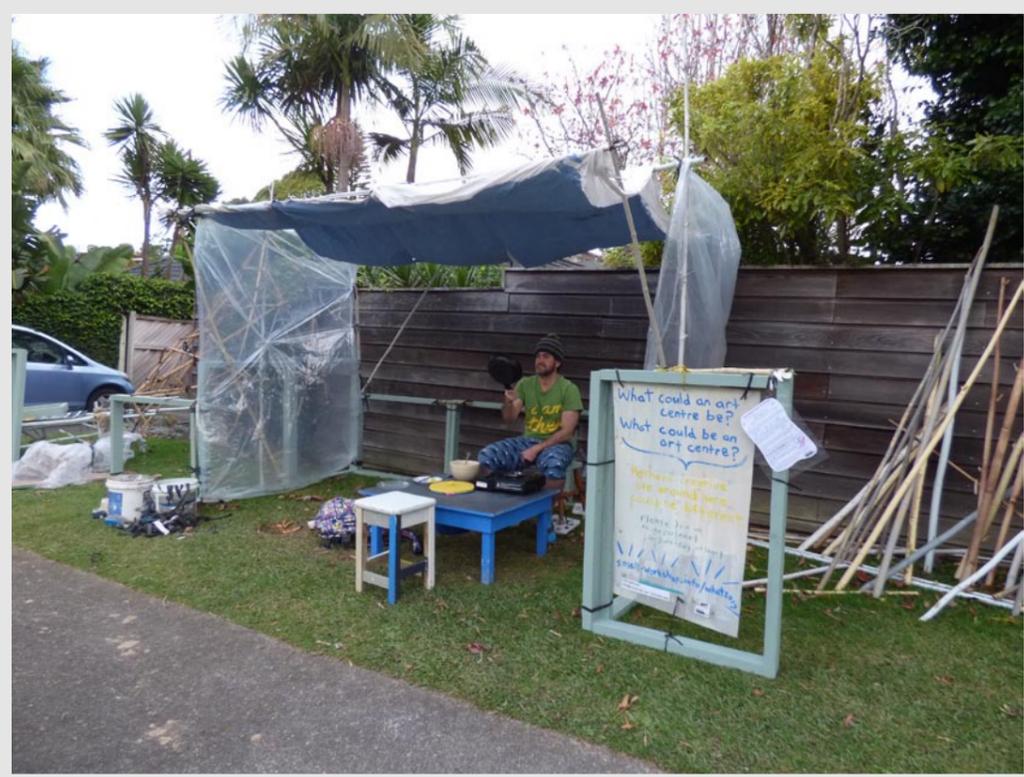


143 Interloper during SOW 2016



144 Drinking from assemblage vessel during (7) for SOW 2017

Thank you to Diane* for testing this "wine glass" made from pipe from local renovation dumpster and the top of "grandma's broken glass". Held together with Liquid Nails.





Making Friends

Generative, agile, and pleasurable collaborations come from the (s)low-key process of “making friends” with people, all of whom have particular “flavours” and special skills and abilities that will bubble up, be nurtured, and mixed together during the friendship (where friendship is a dynamic spectrum not a particular state). They do not have to come from “calls for proposals” or provisions of service but can emerge from the uncertainty of everyday life if we are open and maintain a stance of “noticing” and “accompanying”.

Porous, Asynchronous, Uncertain Activities

The porous aspect refers to how the activity seeps through multiple layers (physical and non-physical) of our community. Asynchronous activity stretches itself through space and time. Start and end points are fluid and the location of activity is scattered throughout the community. Uncertainty gently turns the activity from a “transaction” or “pay for play” into a story, in-direct negotiation, and an opening for participation or foothold for further development. An example of this is the Clay Invitation ran over the 2 months (and beyond) of the project and took place throughout the neighbourhood – cliffs, beach, berm, park, home, art centre. As the clay is an unprocessed natural resource it is still uncertain what the fired and glazed outcomes will be like.

Neighbourhood is Resource Centre

All materials were sourced from our local environment at no cost (waste materials, renewable resources, etc). The majority of them will be re-used in future iterations of the project. In addition to the cost and waste-minimization benefits procuring materials in this way cracks open our neighbours/neighbourhoods for convivial interaction, development of casual relationships, and the collection and creation of stories about the people, things and places around us.

Berm Can Be an Interface

Working on berms transforms a no-space of transition (jogging, going to the bus stop, walking to school, etc) into a landmark, signpost and interface. These signs of life on our streets invite conversation, chance encounters, and open up everyday life for creative activity.

Art Centre Can (Also) Be Noticeboard, Open Studio, and Resource Centre

MAC can be a place where people can invite others to work together by exhibiting works in various states of completion or by working in public in an open studio. It can provide an open repository for tools and resources that individuals or small groups cannot or do not want to own privately. People can bump up against ideas and activities to be continued elsewhere in our community.

Art Centre Can (Also) Be Living Room for Creative Activities

Our neighbourhood has a lack of non-commercial, non-sporting, warm, and sheltered public spaces where people can be around others. We were inspired by the many people who visited our Free Shared Space for Activities and stayed for three, four or more hours. This does not happen when we have exhibitions. MAC can be a place where people can be, make, do, and make-do, together. As opposed to a library they can engage in a variety of activity, sometimes messy, sometimes loud. They can cook and share meals while taking breaks. The space grows warm and changes its flavour as the inhabitants come and go. As opposed to a general use community centre the umbrella concept of “art” brings people with a shared interest in a very broad field together.

These projects provided us with a valuable opportunity to “make new friends” and spend time experimenting creative capabilities, increasing and deepening the local arts-community interface, and widening the margin of art in the community. Below is a selection of highlights.

Groups of home/un-school families visited MAC on three occasions during Free Shared Space for Activities (FSSA) (part of What? 2017). They stayed for the whole day (4-5 hours) engaging with the activities and materials on offer, working on their own projects, mixing with other visitors, and using our kitchen to prepare food for themselves and to share with others. Another group visited the free clay workshops at Mairangi Bay beach. Before the project they had mentioned that finding non-commercial warm and sheltered public places to “be” with other families in their Auckland-wide group was a continuing challenge. We were very pleased that they felt welcome to use MAC as a shared house for creative activities and to enjoy chance encounters with other visitors. We look forward to continuing discussions with them so as to both help meet some of their needs and also bring in new perspectives to the way MAC is run and the programmes we provide.

A painter and tattoo artist who had recently moved to Browns Bay from South Africa set up her watercolor painting studio in a corner of the MAC gallery during FSSA as she had no space to paint at home. She spent more than 20 hours over multiple visits, working on her own projects, experimenting with other available materials, cooking, and resting. It was particularly interesting to notice how she met, interacted, and played with other visitors to MAC while working in public, resulting in the sharing of skills and ideas, and development of friendships.

We collaborated with local chef Tracey Sunderland on a series of activities focusing on citrus fruit freely available from trees in our neighbourhood. With Tracy’s knowledge and experience we were able to begin to explore how multi-sensory experimentation with edibles can contribute to widening the margins of art and creativity in our communities. The collaboration drew in other interested parties in the neighbourhood who exhibited and shared knowledge about hand-made devices for growing plants and proposed further iterations of the original project, based on their own interests and experiences. Future workshops include hand-made ginger beer experiments and tasting, DIY garden making, and large-scale sauerkraut workshops at the local school, MAC and in our neighbourhood. A longer-term project involves the creation of community gardens in Mairangi Bay, including an orchard at the local school, asset mapping of existing fruit trees in private gardens, and developing MAC’s capacity to operate as a learning and experimenting kitchen and edible landscape.

Members of new local woodworking and crafts studio Galaxy Art & Science (previously unknown to us) were present at MAC for two days at FSSA to exhibit art works and handmade products and interact with visitors. They invited many of their friends and associates to visit on their second day, introducing a group of people from around Auckland to MAC. We look forward to visiting their workshop and collaborating (tutoring, artwork and product sales, public projects) with them in the future.

Two art students visited MAC for two full days during FSSA. They used the space as a public kitchen, cooking for themselves and sharing baking with visitors. One of them hosted a walking activity – “Brick Walk” – as part of the beginning of his doctoral studies and the other took the chance to use MAC as part of her research into her honour’s level work into public facilities for nomadic living in the Super City. This was particularly pleasing as we have had little interaction with “people like them” but would like to work on improving this as part of our strategic plan

We rescued the frame of a trampoline from a collaborator who was moving house and did not have room at his new residence. We took this chance encounter as a foothold for improvised creation and set it up in the gallery space during FSSA with a note that “we are thinking of making a huge hammock / please donate string-like stuff”. This simple and slightly improbable invitation led to a three week long collaborative project involving over sixty pairs of hands working on weaving (in their own weird ways) a 3m diameter hammock out of thread, wool, and odds and ends that was capable of holding a family of four (at least). We plan to (1) exhibit this work in the local community during summer, (2) repeat the collaborative making exercise outside as a form of ever-growing public sculpture, and (3) experiment with other uncertain and improbable collaborative exercises.



Weapons workshop. We were delighted to meet with a family who have spent a lot of time at our previous related projects (Summer Art, Not-School 2016, Summer Open Workshop 2016-17). While the adults expressed concern at their children's continued fascination with weapon building we were impressed with the way that they explored the MAC space and brought together materials from separate activity spaces to suit their own creative ends in their iterative development process. We discussed the possibility of the two children running a weapon/tool making workshop during the next school holidays. We look forward to this opportunity to work with them to learn about how we can support younger members of our community to not just be consumers of activities but to be able to active creators of activities that suit their interests.

The clay invitation stall that we set up at various locations around Mairangi Bay and stocked with balls of local clay harvested from the collapsed cliffs was a valuable experiment in working in a porous, asynchronous and uncertain way. Over 150 clay balls were picked up by members of the public and returned to MAC during FSSA. Including the clay invitation at MAC during this time this resulted in the creation of over 250 pieces of work. These are now being fired and glazed and will be offered for collection at MAC in a small exhibition and reunion. It was inspiring to experience how a simple offer of a free local resource which many consider a nuisance can act as a vehicle for convivial making (and making friends) together, an opportunity to try a new creative pursuit, and a provocation for discussion around our local environment.



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handmade musical instruments
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSxpJa6NMGcf_ivpJJzXWDs7YTWaLQLzk

infinte games
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finite_and_Infinite_Games

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Judy and Olivia

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http://small-workshop.info/doc/junk_yoga.pdf

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