

# All Conference

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*All Conference: A new organising network for the arts*

*All Conference* is a newly formed organising network comprised of 14 artist-led, experimental and cross-disciplinary arts organisations from around Australia.

Representing a crucial stratum of the national arts ecology, *All Conference* was established to articulate the current value, and future potential, of Australia's Artist-led Initiatives and small-scale arts organisations through research, publishing, conferences and knowledge sharing.

The group's founding members are: Alaska Projects (NSW), BLINDSIDE (VIC), Boxcopy (QLD), Bus Projects (VIC), c3 (VIC), Constance (TAS), FELTspace (SA), Firstdraft (NSW) Kings ARI (VIC), Moana (WA), Liquid Architecture (VIC), Runway (NSW), Seventh (VIC) and Trocadero Artspace (VIC).

Together this alliance forms a platform for greater recognition for a cohort of organisations that present diverse, artistic-centric programs which support the practices of living Australian artists. *All Conference* members connect these practices to diverse audiences

via a passionate localism coupled with significant national and international peer-to-peer networks. *All Conference* is the result of a national collectivising impulse by a dynamic group of organisations commonly focused on the production and presentation of new contemporary art. As described by Firstdraft in Sydney: "Firstdraft is where the future of contemporary art emerges, through a program that is current, critical, ambitious, challenging and experimental. As an artist-centric organisation, Firstdraft, like our fellow *All Conference* members, leads innovation, experimentation and career support for contemporary arts and looks forward to being part of this important new network."

These organisations operate at the forefront of their artforms, providing exhibition opportunities to a diverse range of artists and developing social and creative networks that benefit both artists and local communities. For BLINDSIDE in Melbourne: "*All Conference* strengthens the voice of the very platform that has allowed generations of artists to flourish and thrive. We are thrilled to be joining forces with other esteemed ARIs across Australia and bringing more awareness to the important role we all play."

With a history spanning back to the independent galleries of the late 1960s, Artist-Run Initiatives and small-scale arts

organisations in Australia are important sites of self-determination for artists within the art system. They achieve this through a variety of collectivist strategies and collaborative actions, which enable artists to resist established systems of commodification and offer alternatives to dominant forms, often with important political ramifications.

“Liquid Architecture is proud to be a founding member of the *All Conference* network. We’re thinking of it as an experimental institution for non-institutions. A space to pool our resources and value and collectively sharpen our thoughts. Strength in numbers. Strength in difference.”

*All Conference* champions the important role that artistic-centric organisations play in sustaining the Australian arts ecosystem and in imagining alternative futures. New knowledge will be generated by an active research and publishing program that seeks to contribute to discussions around conditions of labour, under-resourcing, and foreground issues of gender, cultural diversity, First Nations agency, and LGBTIQ+ representation in the arts.

The website at [www.allconference.org.au](http://www.allconference.org.au) will provide a primary hub for information, publishing, news, and knowledge sharing. Sign up to the mailing list to keep in touch.

*All Conference* gratefully acknowledges the support of Creative Victoria.

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