

DAREBIN ARTS

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**SPEAKSY**

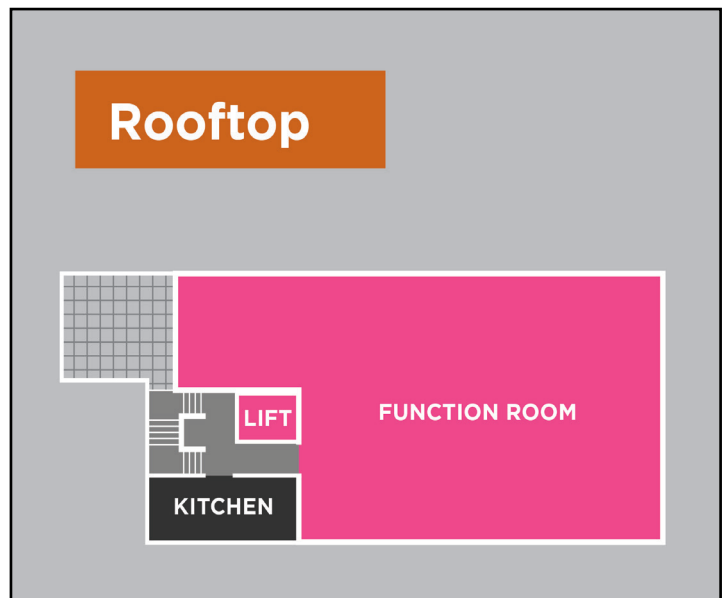
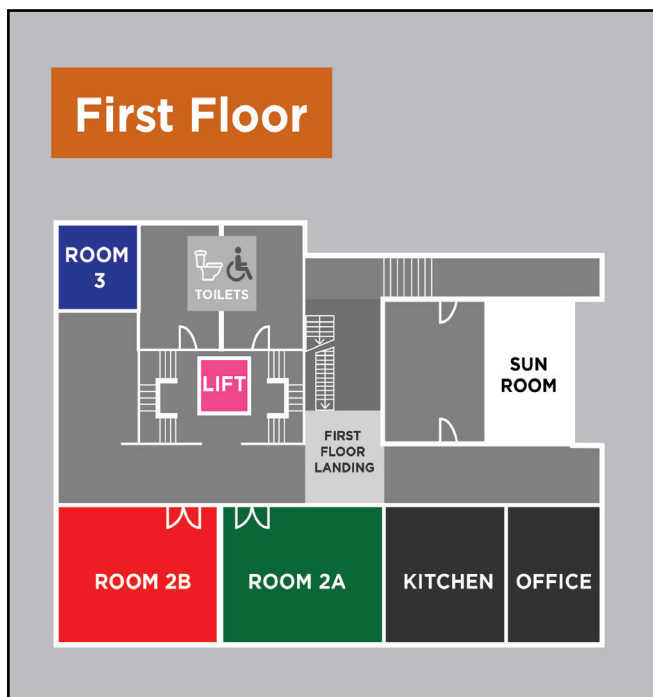
PRESENTS

# LET'S TAKE OVER 2022



City of  
DAREBIN

# PROGRAM MAP



WEST WING			EAST WING - GROUND FLOOR			EAST WING - FIRST FLOOR			EAST WING - SECOND FLOOR
Loading Dock	Studio 1	Studio 2	Main Hall - Side 1	Main Hall - Side 2	Historic Entrance	Room 2A	Room 2B	Room 3	Sun Room
<b>The Heartwood Map</b> by Jamil Nabole	<b>Out of Sight. Out of Mind.</b> by Tash Atkins	<b>The Gods are Dead</b> by Akwal Magek	<b>Asantewaa</b> by C.FRIM	<b>Within Walls</b> by Kalina Lauer	<b>They come and they go...</b> by Fathiah Raihan	<b>Tracing un-cultivation</b> by Leila Edelstein	<b>Merry Christmas, Babe!</b> by An Dang	<b>The blue area</b> by Merinda Dias-Jayasinha	<b>The telephone is a river; it asks you to cup your hands and pray</b> by Wen-Juenn Lee
									<b>Rooftop</b>
									<b>YUKYUH</b> by Kuda Mapeza

# ABOUT LET'S TAKE OVER

What happens when young people are given the chance to produce site-specific and participatory art works at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre? They take over!

The sensationally successful program, Let's Take Over returns for it's fourth year showcasing the creativity of 11 talented young people, aged 15-25, for a one-day arts festival.

Featuring participatory artworks by the 2022 Let's Take Over participants:

**Out of Sight. Out of Mind.** by Tash Atkins    **Merry Christmas, Babe!** by An Dang

**The blue area** by Merinda Dias-Jayasinha    **Tracing un-cultivation** by Leila Edelstein

**Within Walls** by Kalina Lauer    **The Heartwood Map** by Jamil Nabolé

**They come and they go...** by Fathiah Raihan    **YUKYUH** by Kuda Mapeza

**Asantewaa** by C.FRIM    **The Gods are Dead** by Akwal Magek

**The telephone is a river; it asks you to cup your hands and pray**  
by Wen-Juenn Lee

*Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Darebin stands. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

# THE ARTWORKS

## ***The Gods are Dead* by Akwal Magek | West Wing, Studio 2**

*The Gods are Dead* is inspired by the myths and legends of South Sudanese culture - once 'fabled' they are now brought to life through a series of photographs. By representing goddesses from the 21st century, the collection illustrates how modern South Sudanese people are influenced by Australian culture. Through the lens of futurism, the essence of South Sudanese mythology and its connection to matriarchal society is captured with a contemporary twist.

## ***Merry Christmas, Babe!* by An Dang | East Wing, First Floor, Room 2B**

*Performance times: 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, duration: 25mins*

Babe is trapped in her own flat. At her own Christmas Party. With everyone she's ever loved. How will she get out?

A rehearsed reading of a new original musical.

## ***Asantewaa* by C.FRIM | East Wing, Ground Floor, Main Hall, Side 1**

*Performance times: 4.30pm & 7.30pm, duration: 10mins*

"My body defies the restrictions of a society consumed by boxes and binaries"

An experimental sound design performance exploring the ideas of Afro and Asian futurism. A collaboration with diaspora artists Mirasia and Limerence, exploring the concepts through movement and fluidity.

## ***YUKYUH* by Kuda Mapeza | East Wing, Second Floor, Rooftop**

*Performance times: 4.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm, duration: 15mins*

*\*Please gather for this work by the lift entrance on the ground floor.*

*YUKYUH* is a performance piece that dances on the crossroads between distaste and curiosity. It invites participants to find sanctuary in the uncomfortable. What is more powerful than our ability to connect with similarity is our ability to remain curious and empathetic towards each other's differences?

### ***They come and they go...* by Fatiah Raihan | East Wing, Ground Floor, Historic Entrance**

Just as a fossil embeds itself into the earth, so too do other people, experiences and environments leave imprints on us long after they've passed. Using the ephemeral medium of henna over a series of four tactile mandala artworks, *They come and they go...* illustrates the constant flux between choosing to hold onto or let go of certain patterns. An intimate collaboration with the artist invites the audience to enter a new cycle, honouring the process of reinvention.

### ***The Heartwood Map* by Jamil Nabolé | West Wing, Loading Dock**

Paying homage and acknowledging our country's Indigenous background, *The Heartwood Map* guides the audience throughout the works showcased at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre during the 2022 Let's Take Over event. This tress represents each Let's Take Over participant involved in the 2022 program and their shared purpose for the day: to reignite the arts as the community emerges from the coronavirus epidemic. As all forms of art are reborn, *The Heartwood Map* invites you to further this new chapter of art that we share together.

### ***Within Walls* by Kalina Lauer | East Wing, Ground Floor, Main Hall, Side 2**

*Within Walls* houses the forgotten dreams, untold characters, and hypnagogia illusions we once shared from childhood through a fantasy of dreamlike sculptures.

*Generations of stories live within your walls. This installation is merely just one of them...*

The installation questions the audience on their relationship with their inner child and encourages different moments of perspective as you enter the sculpture's mysterious realm.

### ***Tracing un-cultivation* by Leila Edelstein | East Wing, First Floor, Room 2A**

This work explores the human instinct that is to curate and collect our environment, to alter and remove it from its wild home. The work also looks at people being a part of nature. It is a projection of the paradoxical relationship between the different sectors of wildlife. The act of collecting, carving and cleansing objects while bringing one closer to the branches, shells and rocks is ultimately making them less wild and more cultivated.

### ***The blue area* by Merinda Dias-Jayasinha | East Wing, First Floor, Room 3**

With recorded spoken reflections on cultural heritage and erasure, familial knowledge and the artist's own drive to embrace her Sri Lankan/Australian identity, this work sees the artist getting ready in a saree, gifted to her by her Granna in her bedroom. The audience is challenged to question initial perceptions of appearances so that the safety and intimacy of a bedroom may extend out to all other spaces. The work is another step towards the artist articulating and unravelling her identity and a means to continue to understand and proudly hold her heritage.

In this work, artist, Merinda Dias-Jayasinha expands on the grey area, a previous sound work that explored intergenerational memory and inner turmoil that comes with living between two cultures. After the physical separation between her and her family during the pandemic and experiencing strong feelings of loss, Dias-Jayasinha developed a strong desire to actively preserve her family culture. In *The blue area*, the artist reconciles her feelings of uncertainty and cultural erasure - arriving at a place of peace and tranquillity and wholeness. The artist sees this feeling manifest in the colour blue.



## ***Out of Sight. Out of Mind.* by Tash Atkins | West Wing, Studio 1**

*Out of Sight, Out of Mind.* challenges the audience to think about the forgotten aspects of identity and the role technology has in everyday life. It immerses the audience in an ambient soundscape created by Algorave (music created by code) coupled with projections of the code that shows the audience how the music was made. It invites the audience to think about how code is invisible in our everyday life but governs how we navigate our lives using technology. Further, it invites the audience to think about how our own invisible identities can be overlooked, forgotten and 'out of mind.' The invisibility of code in our lives draws parallels to the artist's own invisible identities as a disabled, bisexual, non-binary person.

The artist asks: what makes you feel invisible? The audience is encouraged to respond to this question using QR codes. Collected responses will create a semi-improvised opera performance within the coded landscape.

## ***The telephone is a river; it asks you to cup your hands and pray* by Wen-Juenn Lee | East Wing, First Floor, Sun Room**

*The telephone is a river: it asks you to cup your hands and pray* is a meditation on the relationship between language, distance and God manifested in a telephone - an object defined by what it reaches for. A telephone resembles a prayer, a desire for distance to be overcome. In speaking, one acts with the faith that our words transgress boundaries; that something is heard. Composed in the backdrop of the ongoing and everyday solitude that many are experiencing, *The telephone is a river...* makes the phone call an event again; an ode to those we reach for and who reach for us.

# MEET THE ARTISTS



## **AKWAL MAGEK**

Akwal is an arts facilitator from Melbourne's west, where she has worked extensively with a wide range of communities and age groups. Her arts practice utilises poetry and spoken word to focus on the issues of identity and self-love. Akwal thrives in creative environments and places that allow self-expression in different forms. As a Facilitator, she loves supporting others in accessing such spaces for themselves, and in their creative exploration within them, and particularly loves working with children and youth.



## **AN DANG**

An Dang (she/her) is an actor, dancer and singer with a background in circus where she trained with the National Circus of Vietnam as a contortionist. An has a passion for both theatre and film and is currently training at Melbourne Actor's Lab and Melbourne Teen Actors, while also studying languages at university. Her recent credits include a sold out season of The Mermaid at La Mama Theatre and the Berlin tour of Body of Knowledge.



## **C.FRIM**

C.FRIM, a.k.a Charlotte Frimpong, is a Naarm based DJ, Event Curator and Broadcaster. As a DJ, her music is influenced by her perspective as a member of the Ghanaian-Filipina diaspora, the various musical styles she grew up listening to and watching Jerk and Dougie videos. C.FRIM blends urgent and forward-thinking global club sounds to evoke deep feelings of nostalgia. She is an eclectic artist and DJ with a confident vision and a desire to push boundaries that blend cultural silos and a refreshingly distinct style.





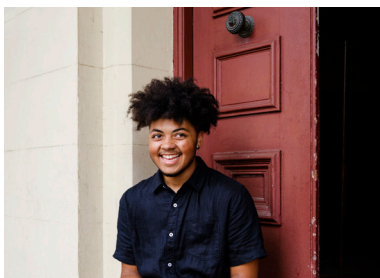
## **FATIAH RAIHAN**

Fathiah (she/her) is a henna and jagua artist working on Boonwurrung Country with an interest in facilitating community healing through the arts. Her identity as a Malay-Muslim woman informs her advocacy for intentional arts practices to subvert colonial ideals of meaning-making. Through an exploration of illustration, painting, digital collage, photography, writing and textiles, Fathiah hopes to become a multi-disciplinary artist, art therapist and mentor for young people.



## **KALINA LAUER**

Raised on Darumbal land, Kalina is a Queensland-born creative artist who works across film, stage, and design. Kalina's play, *Bayou Bart* was performed recently by Ilbijerri Theatre Company. Kalina's practice explores the relationship and impact of dreams and inner healing.



## **JAMIL NABOLÉ**

Jamil Nabolé (He/Him) is an aspiring event manager and pop culture enthusiast based in Naarm (Melbourne). Previously, Jamil participated in community and school theatre productions, and is currently a leader in the Hume community through the Hume Youth Action Committee and FReeZA. By working with FReeZA, Nabolé has gained extensive knowledge around events planning and management. Jamil is deepening his creative side by focusing on building connections to mental health, social justice issues (like equality for all) and environmental justice.



## **KUDA MAPEZA**

Making waves in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne alike, Kuda Mapeza's multidisciplinary artistry continues to grow. The limit does not exist for a singer/songwriter, musician, performer, actor and storyteller of her curiosity. From acquiring Bell Shakespeare's John Bell Scholarship in 2017 to concocting musical accompaniment for Shake & Stir Theatre Co's *Macbeth* to acting in multiple roles in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, this is only the beginning for the young and fervent artist.



## **LEILA EDELSTEIN**

Leila Edelstein is a 17-year-old, South Africa born award-winning photographer, filmmaker, circus performer and artist living on unceded Wurundjeri land. Her practice explores the relationship between humans, earth and nature; how people connect to place; and the impact the environment has on the self.



## **MERINDA DIAS-JAYSINHA**

Merinda Dias-Jayasinha (she/her) is a creative artist and musician whose practice explores heartfelt and lyrical storytelling, genre-blurring compositions and the melodic and textual potential of the voice. Born and raised in Meanjin with Sri Lankan/Australian heritage, Dias-Jayasinha explores her artistry through a number of ensembles and projects and delights in collaboration, connection and community.



## TASH ATKINS

Tash Atkins (she/they) is a Melbourne based mezzo-soprano, composer sound artist and creative who is passionate about accessible classical music. Their practice combines an interest in opera, installation and sound art to create experimental compositions using technology and code. Tash uses technology as a uniting factor for creating classical music that is accessible and inviting for new audiences.



## WEN-JUENN LEE

Wen-Juenn is a poet and editor who lives on un-ceded Wurundjeri land. Her writing has been published or is forthcoming in *Meanjin*, *Antithesis*, *Landfall*, *Scum Mag* and *Going Down Swinging*. She previously served as a poetry editor at Voiceworks.

# SPECIAL THANKS

Across 16 weeks, the 11 Let's Take Over participants have completed a professional development program facilitated by **Sarah Austin, Cassandra Fumi** and **Stella Charls**, with mentoring support from **Guy Ritani** and **Edwina Green**.

Workshops were led by guest industry professionals: **Uncle Bill Nicholson Jnr., Wesley Enoch, Caroline Bowditch, Kate Davis, Selene Bateman** and **Declan Furber Gillick**.

## With thanks to:

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Supported by:

