



THE SUBSTATION

ANNUAL REPORT | 2017

A black and white photograph of a person with long hair, wearing a dark shirt, leaning over and looking into a large, illuminated spherical glass container. The container is filled with a bright, glowing light source, possibly a light bulb, and is mounted on a stand. The background is dark, and the overall mood is contemplative and artistic.

ABOUT

The SUBSTATION is a multi-art space presenting a curated program of contemporary, experimental, interdisciplinary work by local, national and international artists. Engaging with artists from across artistic disciplines, working in non-traditional modes, we commission and curate our program to create opportunities for audiences in the greater west of Melbourne to see the best of contemporary and experimental arts. We aim to engage local audiences in an inspired, critical dialogue about current society.

154 ARTISTS

66 PARTICIPANTS (NON-ARTISTS)

13 WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED

22 PRESENTATIONS

5 SELL-OUT PERFORMANCES

AN AVERAGE OF **80%** CAPACITY OF TICKETS SOLD

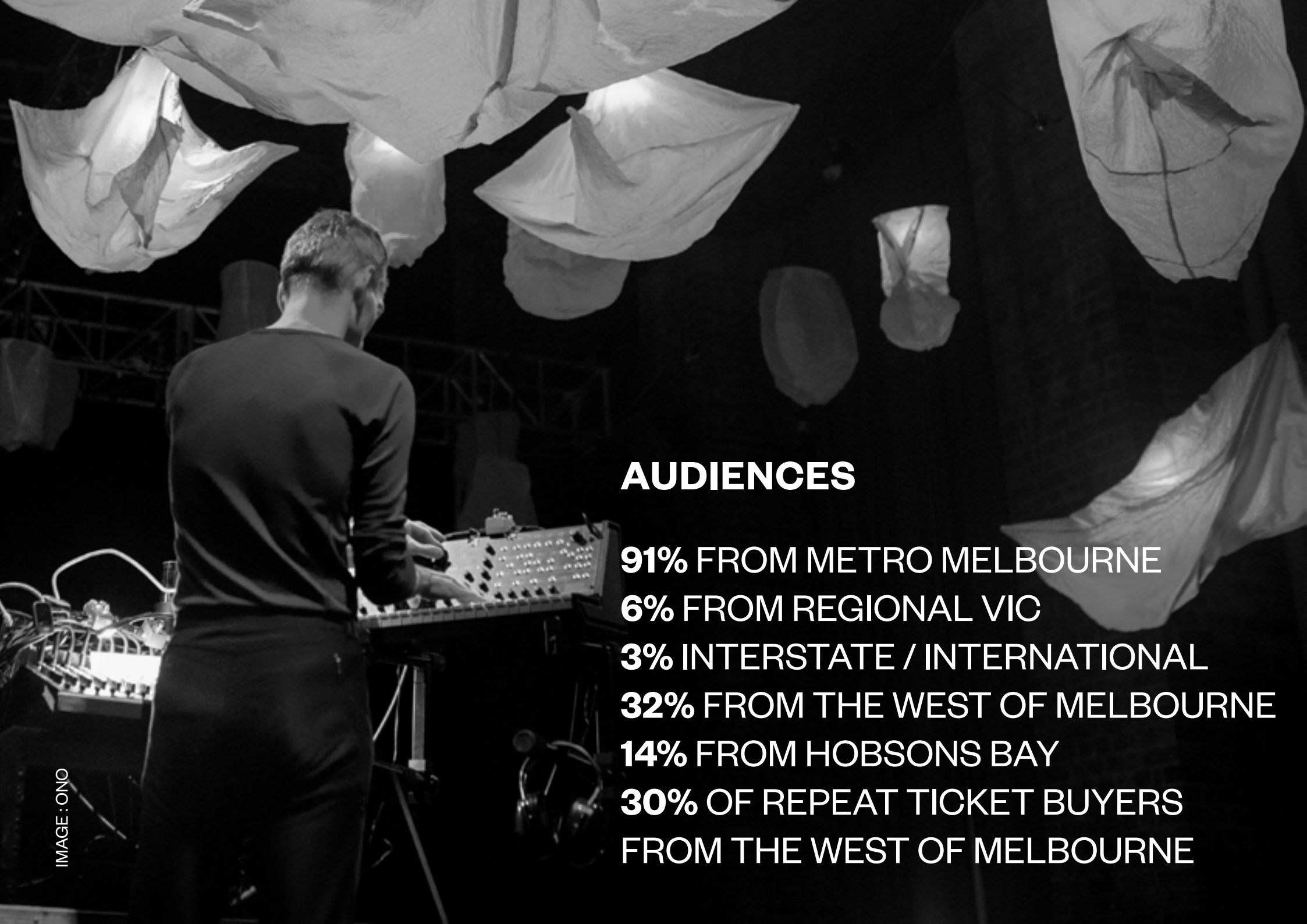
IMAGE: ELLENFULLMAN

5 NEW COMMISSIONS

3 RESIDENT ARTISTS

60K + VISITORS

700K + SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



AUDIENCES

91% FROM METRO MELBOURNE
6% FROM REGIONAL VIC
3% INTERSTATE / INTERNATIONAL
32% FROM THE WEST OF MELBOURNE
14% FROM HOBSONS BAY
30% OF REPEAT TICKET BUYERS
FROM THE WEST OF MELBOURNE

ARTISTS

63% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE

26% IDENTIFY AS CULTURALLY DIVERSE

20% FROM THE GREATER WEST OF MELBOURNE

IMAGE : MORE UP A TREE
PHOTO BY REBECCA SMEYNE



IMAGE : BUNKER
PHOTO BY DUNCAN JACOB

**THE SHEER SIZE OF THE VENUE IS SO IMPRESSIVE
AND IS AS CLOSE AS YOU'LL GET TO A EUROPEAN
CLUB IN MELBOURNE.**

- ADRIAN BELL
CURATOR, BUNKER
NEW RHYTHMS
MARCH 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

THE TRIBE

Performed by HAZEEM SHAMMAS, THE TRIBE is a story of belonging and family, told by the small boy, Bani. At the heart of THE TRIBE is Bani's love for his Tayta, his grandmother and core presence in his life, who carries all the truths of 'The Tribe' – a small Muslim sect who fled to Australia from Lebanon.

Taking place in a Newport backyard, performed alongside cellist and composer OONAGH SHERRARD, SHAMMAS's Bani is like a visionary child channeling a Bedouin storyteller. Based on MICHAEL MOHAMMED AHMAD's award-winning novel, THE TRIBE is an open invitation to listen to an Arab-Australian story from our backyard, in our backyards.



IMAGE : HAZEEM SHAMMAS



RATED BY AUDIENCE MEMBERS

“Loved it, he was so captivating. Loved the experience of walking to a mystery location and into someone backyard to experience theatre. Love the innovative way the SUBSTATION are programming in diverse pockets of the community.”
– Audience Member

“This is what theatre is really about for me. The knowledge passed on from Tata grounds the audience in the heart of the Tribe. Hazeem was charisma oozing from every gesture, his well trained golden voice capturing the imagination of the ancient bedrock of Lebanese culture crossing Christianity and Islam. Pauline Hanson should be a captive audience member. It would soften her hardened heart if she met Tata through Hazeem’s love and respect for her courage and care. Pauline - get into The Tribe!”

– Audience Member



92% of attendees said they gained more appreciation of other forms of cultural expression by being exposed to them through experiencing The Tribe.

29 EOIS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS
TO HOST THE TRIBE

298 ATTENDEES

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

XIU XIU PLAYS THE MUSIC OF TWIN PEAKS



The iconic music of American TV series Twin Peaks by composer Angelo Badalamenti and David Lynch was given a makeover in this special live performance by acclaimed experimental pop group XIU XIU.

XIU XIU's performance wasn't simply a recreation of the Twin Peaks music, but offered an entirely new interpretation that emphasises its chaos, drama, fear, noise and sidelong leering glances.

“As with any great show, it ends and you wish it didn’t. It’s the kind of performance that lingers for a few days, that makes you go home and play the record that very night, letting you indulge in that remarkable blend of something so unavoidably derivative and so utterly original.”
- Tiarney Miekus, Realtime



900 ATTENDEES

2 SOLD-OUT PERFORMANCES 2nd show released due to popular demand

12 INDEPENDENT REVIEWS AND EVENT LISTINGS

2,000+ SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

**I'M STILL MULLING IT IN MY HEAD, BUT I'M
WONDERING IF IT'S ONE OF THE BEST
LIVE PERFORMANCES I'VE EVER SEEN.**

- NICHOLAS KENNEDY
COLLAPSE BOARD
AUGUST 2017

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHANNELS THE AUSTRALIAN VIDEO ART FESTIVAL

CHANNELS, The Australian Video Art Festival is the only festival dedicated to showcasing new contemporary moving image by some of the most exciting Australian and international artists. In 2017, The SUBSTATION provided CHANNELS with a subsidised office space in the lead-up to and during the festival.

The SUBSTATION was host to a number of events throughout the festival, including a major group exhibition FUTURE TENSE, the festival closing parties, a GIF making workshop run by artist JESSIE SCOTT, KATE GECK's participatory digital artwork RELAXATION AGENCY RLX:TECH and CAROLINE GARCIA's performance FLYGIRL. 2017 was the first year in the festival's 5-year history where the festival hub was located outside of Melbourne CBD.

IMAGE: ANTOINETTE J. CITIZEN
PHOTO BY ZAN WIMBERLEY



2,000+ ATTENDEES AT THE
SUBSTATION IN THE FESTIVAL'S
10-DAY PERIOD

2,200+ SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CONFLICTED: WORKS FROM THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE PROJECT

Phuong on the other hand was wonderfully ignorant



Following a 2-year creative development period at The SUBSTATION, we were thrilled to present PHUONG NGO's ambitious solo exhibition **CONFLICTED: WORKS FROM THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE PROJECT**.

CONFLICTED explored the political and social aspects of the Vietnam war through the lens of service men and women. Utilising found images and objects from NGO's VIETNAM ARCHIVE PROJECT, of over 10,000 items, the exhibition comprised a series of intimate moments and large-scale installations, offering a nuanced and alternative reading of the Vietnam War.

IMAGE : PHUONG NGO
PHOTO BY MATT STANTON

10,000+ ATTENDEES
13,000+ SOCIAL MEDIA REACH
8 NEW ARTWORKS CREATED

Presented with the Human
Rights Arts and Film Festival



IMAGE : PHUONG NGO
PHOTO BY MATT STANTON

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

ONE STEP AT A TIME LIKE THIS

SLOWN, SMALLEND & SON

ANTONY HAMILTON

MARGIE MEDLIN

PAEA LEACH

GAIL PRIEST

THE RABBLE

YANDELL WALTON

ALISDAIR MACINDOE

LINDA SASTRADIPRADJA

ZAK PIDD & CHARLES PURCELL

CLAIRE EDWARDES & RICHARD CILLI

IMAGE : ANNA VARENDORFF

PROGRAM PARTNERS

ST MARTINS
CRYPTIC
BUNKER
HRAFF
CAVES
ONO
MESH MASH
PLASTIC LOAVES
MELBOURNE FRINGE
LIQUID ARCHITECTURE
ROOM40
FOREST FRINGE
BACK TO BACK THEATRE
PERFORMANCE SPACE
STABLE MUSIC
CHANNELS
PERFORMING LINES
URBAN THEATRE PROJECTS

SUPPORTERS

HOBSONSBAY CITY COUNCIL

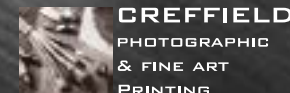


IMAGE : MADELEINE FLYNN, TIM HUMPHREY

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IMAGE: RUDI WILLIAMS