Constant Ecology

*Constant Ecology* is a series of in-home residencies commissioned by BLINDSIDE, CAVES, KINGS Artist-Run and West Space during lockdown.

About

In 2020 the various cultural, economic, environmental and global ecologies we find ourselves undergoing major upheavals and transformations. From the unprecedented bushfires to the global pandemic, these changes to our contingent and fragile ecology require urgent reflection and critical scrutiny. In response, four independent art organisations—BLINDSIDE, CAVES, KINGS Artist-Run and West Space—have developed *Constant Ecology*, a collaborative initiative that seeks to address this current moment by supporting a series of in-home residencies by artists and creatives based in Victoria.

*Constant Ecology* will commission eight artists to undertake a two-month, at-home residency during this period of isolation, to allow artists to think-through, unpack and creatively respond to the current ecological crisis in all of its manifestations. Each artist will be assigned a liaison who will act as a point of contact to support resident artists where appropriate. While the project is not outcomes-focused, we aim to make the lines of inquiry established by each artist accessible through a range of public programs and an exhibition to take place in October - November of 2020*.

This project is supported by the City of Melbourne.

*Note that this is a tentative date pending the duration of lockdown and the organisations’ access to appropriate spaces. Additional exhibition support will be made available in the instance of an exhibition.
About the Opportunity

BLINDSIDE, CAVES, KINGs Artist-Run and West Space are calling for artists and creatives to propose projects that creatively and critically respond to the thematic of ecology. These projects will be developed through a residency in their own home in June to August 2020.

Eight artists will be selected to undertake an at-home residency. Successful applicants will receive a $3,500 artist fee, and will be assigned a key liaison from one of the commissioning organisations. Participating artists will have the opportunity to connect with each other remotely during the residency. There is an opportunity for public presentation towards the end of 2020, pending public health safety.

Creative and critical response to the theme of ecology may include (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Climate change, environmental emergency, isolation, toxicity, nonhuman ecologies,
- Indigenous sovereignty, Indigenous epistemologies, land rights, policy, health, sickness, wellbeing, quarantine, food deserts, disaster capitalism, slow violence, illness narratives, reparation, restoration, mutual aid networks, democracy, food webs.

Residency Details

Artist Fee: $3500 per participant
Location: Victoria
Residency Duration: June - August 2020
Exhibition/Public Outcomes: Public component to take place in November/October, 2020*

Eligibility

Priority will be given to artists facing financial or social hardships during this time. This may include: lost income, mental health impacts, carer responsibilities, immunocompromised people, artists with disabilities, First Nations artists.
Applicants must be based in Victoria
Propose a critical and creative response to the theme of ecology
Engage a readiness to partake in the opportunity
Provide potential to develop your practice in new ways
Show evidence of relevant skills and experience.
Liaison Support

The following liaisons will be supporting the participating artists in this residency: Jake Treacy and Chloé Hazelwood (BLINDSIDE), Storm Gold and Kathryne Honey (CAVES), Jeremy Eaton and Ashley Perry (KINGS Artist-Run), Andy Butler and Tamsen Hopkinson (West Space).

Timeline

- Friday April 24: Applications Open
- Friday May 15: Applications close
- Monday May 25: We aim to notify all applicants of application outcomes
- Monday June 1: Residency commences