

Artist statements from Resident Artists October 2022 to June 2023

Poet/classical pianist Belle Bregovic's work speaks to intimate portrayals of love, romance, grief and the many iterations of self. Her collaborations with **guitarist Eitan Muir** explore spoken word and popular song forms, through to immersive musical-theatrical performances of Bregovic's poetry, with highlights including Bregovic's composition *The Dance* for poet and guitar; and *The Keepsake Triage* for poet and large ensemble. During their 2022 residency at The Old School, the emerging Sydney-based duo will delve deep into their craft and develop new performance works, culminating in a premiere performance for the Mt Wilson local community.

Helen Pitt is a senior writer at *The Sydney Morning Herald* and the Walkley Award winning author of *The House, the extraordinary story of the Sydney Opera House and the people who built it*. She grew up in western Sydney, spent a lot of time in the Blue Mountains as a child and was editor of her award winning high school newspaper at Parramatta High. She has since worked as a television reporter in France at *Euronews*, and as a writer for the *New York Times* in California. This residency will be her first attempt at writing fiction, working on an idea about French female explorers in NSW. She wants to re-examine the explorers path over the Blue Mountains, forged by Blaxland, Wenworth and Lawson and reimagine it in a fictional setting. All tips from locals about the explorers path across the Blue Mountains are welcome.

My name is **Helen Begley**. I am a **songwriter, composer, performer, teacher and facilitator**. I am currently working on a trilogy of musical performance pieces that explore the stories of female immigration to Australia in the 1830's; "Voyage", "Wild" and "Wrecked". "Voyage", was completed in 2021. It is now time to write "Wild", the story of immigrant, Martha Wild. During my residency, I will work on a draft of a narrative song cycle about Martha. I am curious to see how the resonances of The Old School's environment, history and the "ghosts" of previous artists work will influence her story.

Sharon Peoples spends a lot of time wandering and wondering about gardens. She is energised and draws inspiration by walking in not only her own domestic garden, but also the local bushland and a little further afield to national parks. For this residency she proposes to take time to research and explore the birds that are present or migrate through the Mt Wilson 'garden'. Sharon is interested in not only making bird-like structures but also playing around with the visual representations of birds and bird sound. Birds have been present in her work for many years, and more formally since a solo exhibition *Birds: Portraits* (2018) at Narek Gallery, NSW.

Anna Glynn & Peter Dalmazzo

30 days Art & Science at the Old School Mt Wilson

Art and science are both ways of looking at and describing the world. Through differing perspectives an artist and scientist will see and describe the world differently but both work to draw attention to the distinct elements of the natural world. In an interdisciplinary collaboration exploring the Blue Mountains Basalt Forest endangered ecological community we will create artwork to focus attention and highlight a stunning and complex environment. Our aim is to create works, mainly using digital media, that address nature, ecology, history and the environment, embracing art as a way to pursue meaningful conversations and exchanges

Marynes Avila is a multi-award winning artist concerned with socially engaged practice **who creates work that specifically responds to site and community** by implementing the use of multiples as "data connectors" in the public realm.

Working at the intersection of art and science and taking inspiration from the wonders of nature and its forms, Avila utilizes repetition to redefine the object and its symbolism offering an inquisitive platform to often question the consequences of human imprint in the age of the Anthropocene. The investigation of multiples as an allegory for the relationship between the individual, the group, and their interaction with nature has shaped the vital focus of Avila's art/science research practice.

Meticulous drawing, microphotography, micrographic digital video, and digital photography are central to the artist's process, being the catalyst for the artist's largescale immersive installations. Installed in site-specific configuration varying from landscapes to architectural spaces, Avila's identical cast-off multiples explore the close relationship between the notions of multiplicity, a sense of place and belonging