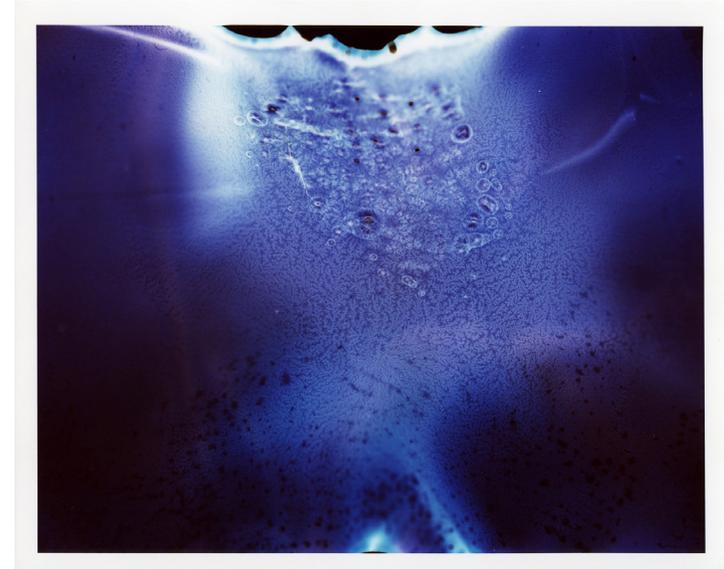


Case Studies

Annette Liu

Emerging Artist Support Scheme Residency

Photography encapsulates moments of personal, intimate, and critical encounters – an articulation that can often either affirm or challenge what we know, and what we hold to be true. As a medium that inherently engages with truthfulness, photography inspires critical encounters with the world around us, and can provide a sense of grounding in disorienting times.



Annette Liu is an Australian-based Taiwanese curator and photographer who was awarded the 2019 ANU EASS Graduate Award and joined us for a year. At the culmination of her residency, she assisted in curating the inaugural iteration of our ongoing VIEW series, *VIEW 2020*.

Emerging from her initial residency, Annette has grown in leaps and bounds, writing several essays for many national and international publications, including: *Art Monthly*, *White Rabbit Gallery Blog* and *Magnum Photographs*. Throughout this, she has kept growing with PhotoAccess, writing exhibition essays throughout 2020 and 2021.

After assisting in the curation of Wolfgang Tillmans retrospective *To look without fear*, at MoMA she curated an online show at PhotoAccess titled *What I Know to be True, And Other Encounters* in late 2021.

Images: From Liu's curatorial project with PhotoAccess by Jhen-Ying Lin & Aaron Turner.

Ephemeral Ecologies

Online Workshop

In response to the changing landscape of photography and the demand for accessible workshops, PhotoAccess hosted a sold-out online lumen print workshop taught by 2022 exhibition artist Remi Siciliano. Participants had the opportunity to explore the materiality of silver gelatin photographic paper and its potential to capture ecological encounters through the process of lumen printing.

The workshop was designed to introduce participants to this alternative, camera-less method of photography that involves exposing the light-sensitive paper to light, moisture, heat and direct contact with plant and biological matter. Through this process, the traces of these encounters are recorded in the paper's emulsion, becoming a visual representation of the artist's relationship with their surroundings.

Remi Siciliano led the workshop over several weeks, providing guidance and support to participants as they explored this fascinating process. In addition, participants received a personalised materials kit via mail, including all the necessary equipment to make and experiment with lumen prints from the comfort of their homes.

PhotoAccess's online lumen print workshop was a success, allowing participants to explore and experiment with a unique and fascinating photography process in a safe and accessible environment.



Image: Remi Siciliano, *Dirtscapes (after Bandicoot) #3*, 2021, lumen print.

Caroline Huf

Dark Matter Resident

Huf is a contemporary artist making experimental work incorporating performance, sculpture and video. Her work contests settler Australian myths about the mystery and threat of the bush, arguing instead for a practice of getting lost and learning to love the landscape.

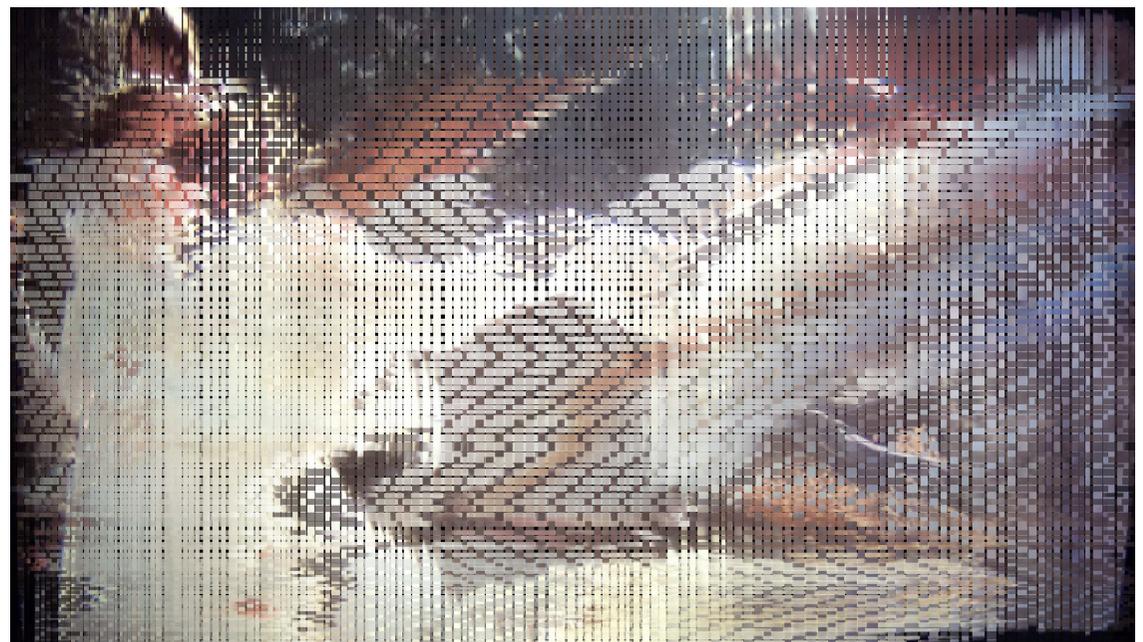
Huf has developed a technique of video weaving' in which she digitally deconstructs video files, alters sequences in speed and scale and recombines them to create patterns such as fabric twills. Her aim is to reveal the simultaneity of multiple time zones; the persistence of the past and the elongation of 'now'.

During her 2021 Dark Matter residency, Huf extended this weaving work to include analogue film. Using a Bolex 16mm camera, she captured a series of meditative walks in a local nature reserve. Huf wove the resulting film segments into a costume.

Huf explored the meaning of this work in a variety of ways, videoing friend Janet Long wearing the costume on a walk up Mt Majura, and developing *Let's Get Lost*, a performance in which the dress unravels as it is played through a projector.

Huf's residency exhibition, *Light Materials*, presented an immersive series of woven and documentary audio-visual works, as well as her 16mm costume. Huf premiered the *Lets Get Lost* performance during the exhibition, via an online stream from the Huw Davies Gallery.

Images: Caroline Huf, *It's no picnic test 1 & 2*, 2021, video still.



Sammy Hawker

Dark Matter Resident

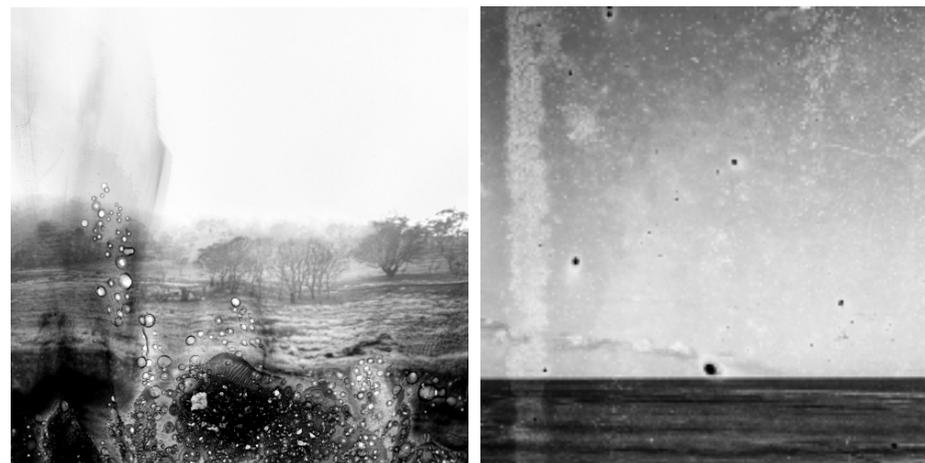
Beside giving me skills in working with film, PhotoAccess has also provided me with amazing career opportunities, connecting me with the broader Canberra arts community and offering me a placement in 2021 as one of their Dark Matter residents. I feel many of my recent career highlights can be drawn directly back to PhotoAccess and I couldn't recommend this organisation more highly.



Melt, 2020-2021, 6x6 photographic negative exposed to flame, pigment ink print

Near Rosedale, 6x6 photographic negative processed with ocean water collected from site, pigment ink print

Ngungara (Lake George) #1, 2020-2021, 6x6 photographic negative processed with lake water collected from site (work acquired by Canberra Museum & Gallery in 2022).



Prior to being awarded the Dark Matter Residency in 2021, Sammy Hawker was a regular visitor to the PhotoAccess maker spaces. During her Dark Matter Residency she developed her practice of co-creation involving the Australian landscape. The work she made was first shown at The Mixing Room Gallery in Canberra, and later, her residency culminated with a solo show at the Huw Davies Gallery titled *Experiments in Living [Melt]*.

Works from this exhibition were acquired by the ACT Legislative Assembly Art Collection and Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG). And going forward she was awarded the Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize for her work *Mount Gulaga*.

Sammy has since gone on to work collaboratively both with PhotoAccess and several other Canberra community organisations such as Headspace Tuggeranong, creating community focused work across the ACT.

Photo-Stories

Public Programs

In this first year of full programming, and despite the COVID shutdown, the Photo-Stories series featured 27 distinct events and attracted an in-person audience of approximately 2000, with the same again joining events online.

During 2021, PhotoAccess launched Photo-Stories as our on-going conversation platform. This curated series of weekly events delivered in-person (as possible) and online through our social media feeds explored the question, 'What is contemporary photography?' Each conversation is archived and permanently accessible on the PhotoAccess website or social media feeds.

Facilitated by PhotoAccess staff and guest curators, scholars and artists, the accessible program enabled audiences to interact with artists and learn more about their work, discover the history of photography and explore how photo-media arts research illuminates and challenges the production, circulation and consumption of images in our society. Photo-Stories encompassed this year a wide variety of events, including exhibition openings featuring guest speakers, book launches, professional development opportunities, a *Magic Lantern* performance and an experimental film mini-festival.

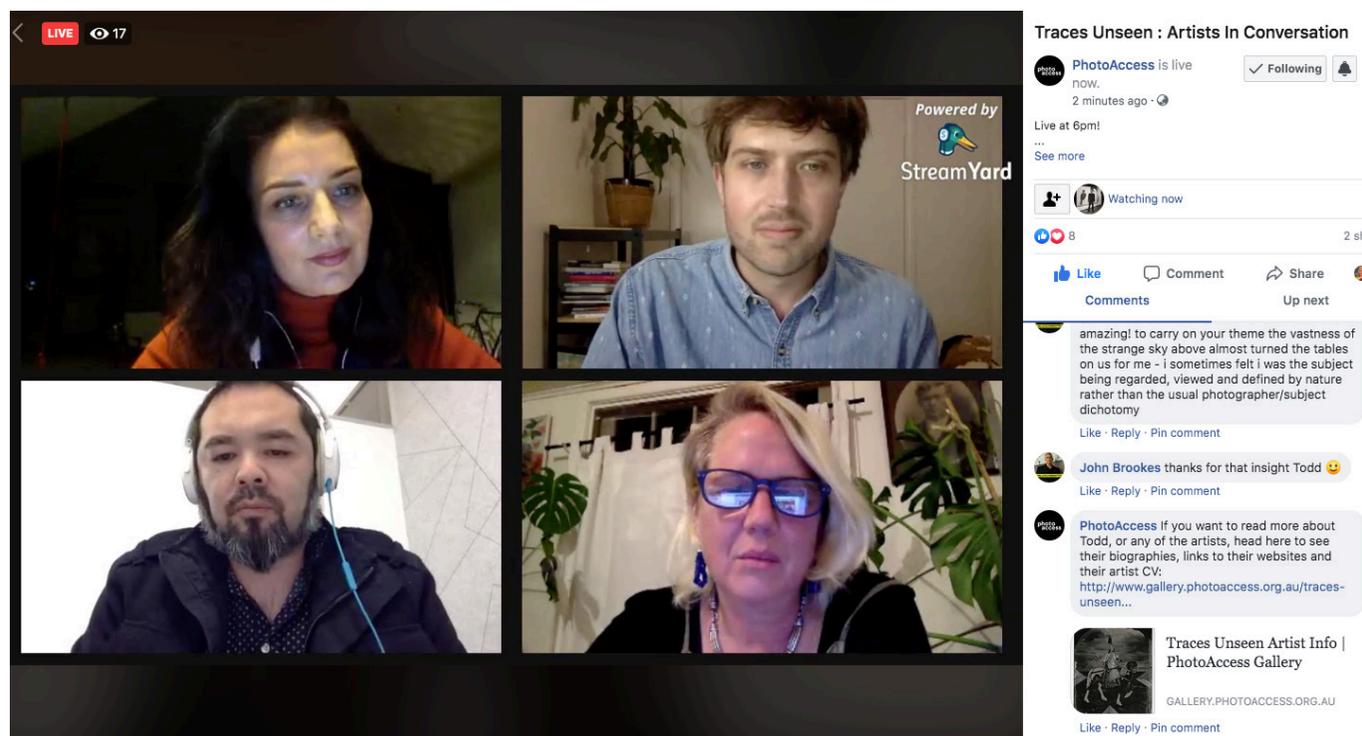


Image: *Traces Unseen* Photo-Stories via facebook live.

INTIMATE ICONS PROJECT

Workshop

In 2021, PhotoAccess partnered with the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) to create a workshop for the retrospective exhibition, *“Mervyn Bishop: Australian Photojournalist”*. The NFSA used PhotoAccess’ collection and expertise to install a darkroom in the show, and PhotoAccess developed a narrative and images for the exhibition. PhotoAccess staff also traveled to Dubbo to film an interview with Bishop and created the workshop *“Intimate Icons”* in response to Bishop’s work.

Through a private donation, four First Nations women received bursaries to participate in the workshop and develop a portfolio of prints. Bishop visited the participants in Canberra and shared his knowledge and stories, leading to the creation of a shared publication.

PhotoAccess established ongoing relationships with the First Nations women and will develop a cultural event to celebrate the publication’s launch.

One successful participant, Jessika Spencer, will have her exhibition *“Ngulagambilanha”* displayed in the Huw Davies Gallery in 2024.



Image: Merv Bishop and participants in the PhotoAccess darkroom as part of *Intimate Icons*, photo by Wouter Van de Voorde.

On the Western Edge Witnessing Bluetts

Workshop

The socially and politically engaged nature of photography and the roots of PhotoAccess run deep.

The rapid growth of Canberra's urban footprint has led to encroachments on its precious bushland spaces. The problem has become more critical as these areas play a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance and providing enriching human experiences. To bring visibility to this issue, PhotoAccess collaborated with ecologist and photographer David Wong to present a workshop called *On The Western Edge: Witnessing Bluetts*.

Over seven months, participants worked towards producing an in-situ exhibition at Bluetts Block, which Tyronne Bell, Ngunawal descendant and custodian, opened on the 1st of December 2022. Participants also produced a professional photobook, a visual representation of the richness of the area's ecosystem and the need to preserve it.

Through the mentorship of specialised tutors in ecology and photography, the workshop encouraged participants to appreciate and give space to the areas of land that are equally enriching to themselves and the ecosystems that live within them, as well as engage critically with landscape photography.



Image: *On The Western Edge: Witnessing Bluetts* in-situ exhibition. Photo by Maria Koulouris.

VIEW

Emerging Artists Group Exhibition



Images: VIEW2022 exhibition installation. Photo by Gemma Fischer.



PhotoAccess' *VIEW* series is an annual curated award exhibition showcasing the ACT and region's future leaders in photo-media practice. Launched in 2020, *VIEW* provides early career artists with a mentored 'stepping stone' from tertiary study or individual practice into a professional career, while for curators, collectors and audiences the exhibition provides an opportunity to see and meet theyear's cohort of promising new artists in the medium.

VIEW participating artists are selected through an open call and via direct invitation, with application open to any artist based within the region and in the first five years of their practice.

In 2022, PhotoAccess curator Wouter van de Voorde selected eleven artists, including recent graduates from ANU School of Art and Design and independent practitioners. The exhibition displayed works from across contemporary photo-media, including analogue and digital print works, multi-media and sculpture. It was accompanied by a substantial printed catalogue, including a major essay by emerging curator Tom Campbell.

VIEW2022 participants Fiona Bowring and Greg Stoodley were both selected as Finalists in the *National Photographic Portrait Prize* hosted by the National Portrait Gallery following the exhibition.

Concept to Exhibition Workshop

Concept to Exhibition is a ten-month program that supports artists in developing an independent photography project. This hybrid workshop is delivered in person and online. The 2022 *Concept to Exhibition* was led by Marzena Wasikowska, a 2021 *National Photographic Portrait Prize* finalist and experienced mentor in the field of photography.

Throughout the program, participants meet regularly to provide each other with feedback, ideas, and inspiration. This fosters a supportive community where participants can grow and develop their skills. One of the program's key objectives is to assist participants in developing a proposal, writing an artist statement, and preparing for a successful gallery exhibition. Through this process, participants gain experience in visual and conceptual considerations, improving their ability to read and analyse their images and the work of others.

Concept to Exhibition is run annually alongside the program, *Concept to Publication*, which guides artists through developing and curating a portfolio of work and realising it as a unique photo book.

With the support of mentors like Marzena Wasikowska and the close-knit community of participants, these long-form workshops help artists improve their skills, gain new perspectives, and produce inspiring and impactful work.



Image: Marzena Wasikowska, *Negotiating Family*, digital photograph.

Sue's Legacy: celebrating women with disabilities' journeys to leadership

Outreach Program

Developed as a partnership between PhotoAccess, Women with Disabilities ACT and Gen S Stories, 'Sue's Legacy' supported seven members of the ACT disabilities community to make a short personal film. Individually and collaboratively, the film-makers reflected on how the late human rights advocate Sue Salthouse mentored and inspired them along journeys to community leadership.

Supported by local artist Jenni Savigny of Gen S Stories, as well as photographer Kate Matthews, videographer Sammy Hawker and audio producer Di Martin, the *Sue's Legacy* participants completed a seven week intensive workshop based at PhotoAccess. With no prior experience required, each participant scripted, storyboarded, researched, narrated and edited a film of 3-5 minutes. Many drew on their personal and shared image archives. Key aspects of the workshop included the participants sharing memories of Sue, discussing her varied contributions and supporting each other through coming to terms with her loss.

The resulting *Sue's Legacy* films share seven heartfelt, deeply personal and at times, emotionally raw stories about Sue's impact. There are tears, sadness, laughter, determination, and a sense of celebrating Sue's incredible contribution to the Canberra community.

The *Sue's Legacy* film collection was launched publicly at ANU's Kambri Cultural Precinct on Friday, 30 July, 2021. The ACT Heritage Library is acquiring the *Sue's Legacy* films for its permanent collection, ensuring these stories are preserved and made available as part of Canberra's history.



Image: *Sue's Legacy* launch event at ANU's Kambri Cultural Precinct, 2021.
Photo by Kate Matthews.