

MEDIA RELEASE**7 August 2023****Twenty compelling interviews chronicle the creative work of culturally diverse 'Pacesetters' in Season 6 of The COLOUR CYCLE, Diversity Arts Australia's acclaimed podcast**

Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS) is thrilled to announce [Season 6 of The Colour Cycle Podcast: The Pacesetters Conversations](#), showcasing the creative journeys of trailblazing artists from culturally and racially marginalised backgrounds and their transformative impact on their respective industries.

DARTS' original Pacesetters project - which emphasised an urgent need to create a historical archive chronicling the creative practice of artists from culturally diverse backgrounds in Australia - laid the foundation for this season of The Colour Cycle. From 2019 to 2020, DARTS launched [The Pacesetters Creative Archives](#), an invaluable collection of stories from established practitioners across various art forms like literature, visual arts, performing arts, screen and film, and community cultural development.

Thanks to Create NSW's Rescue and Restart program funding, the pilot program centred around artists living in New South Wales. DARTS commissioned local writers to conduct intergenerational interviews with notable talent, capturing the histories of veteran artists and creative workers who have significantly contributed to the sector. These pieces were featured in high-profile publications, including Sydney Review of Books, Rolling Stone Australia, Australian Photography Magazine and Mutual Art.

The project features compelling interviews with twenty exceptional artists: Fadia Abboud, Paula Abood, Khadim Ali, Anandavalli, Tony Ayres, Paschal Daantos Berry, Boey Kim Cheng, Alissar Chidiac, Sawong Jabo, Simone Amelia Jordan, Kamahl, Mayu Kanamori, Lindy Lee, Lex Marinos, Khaled Sabsabi, Saleh Saqqaf, Annette Shun Wah, MC Trey, William Yang, and Edison Yongai. A group of talented writers conducted the interviews: Patrick Abboud, Abdul Abdullah, Safdar Ahmed, Sunil Badami, Hawanatu Bangura, Valerie Berry, Alissar Chidiac, Eileen Chong, Cecelia Cmielewski, James Elazzi, Roanna Gonsalves, Simone Amelia Jordan, Yuki Kawakami, Melissa Lee Speyer, L-FRESH The Lion, Teik Kim Pok, Shakhidharan Sivanathan, Saleh Saqqaf, Kean Wong, and Tian Zhang.

"The interviews were structured as a conversation about the creative journey of these artists and practitioners, including specific projects, exhibitions, performances, or a broad overview of their work," says Lena Nahlous, DARTS CEO. "We explored common themes in their work, mentors and influences that informed their practice, their legacy, advice for younger artists, particularly those from non-Anglo backgrounds, and finally, their future hopes for the arts/creative industry in Australia."

Yuki Kawakami, one of the writers and interviewers, expressed her gratitude, saying, "The Pacesetters Creative Archive project gives visibility to the life work of artists who have contributed significantly to the vibrancy of Australia's arts and cultural landscape. This opportunity allowed for cross-generational dialogue to flourish, which was an incredibly moving and enlightening experience. Sharing the stories of leaders and elders within our community is integral in shaping our understanding of who we are while providing future generations a chance to understand and connect with their cultural heritage."

Don't miss the opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of these extraordinary artists. [Season 6 of The Colour Cycle Podcast: The Pacesetters Conversations](#) is now available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and all major streaming platforms.

[VIEW PROJECT ON DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA WEBSITE](#)

ABOUT DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA

Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS) is Australia's national voice for ethnocultural and migrant racial equity in the arts, cultural and creative industries. Our work is underpinned by a human-rights ethic, social justice principles, and the belief that a diverse spectrum of creative expression and participation is fundamental to a democratic, inclusive and sustainable creative sector, and society.

More information

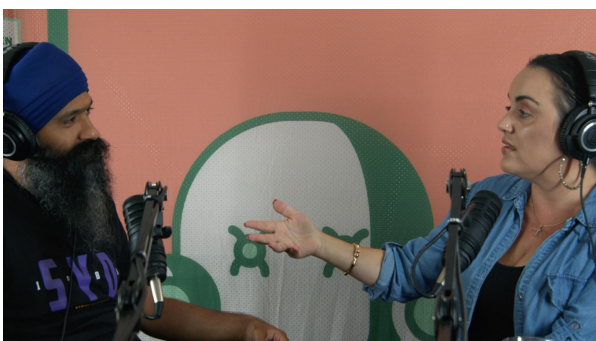
For enquiries, email communications@diversityarts.org.au



A conversation between female forces: Rapper MC Trey (L) interviewed by writer Simone Amelia Jordan.



The original digital storyteller: William Yang (right) was interviewed by performance maker, Teik Kim Pok.



Music journalist and author Simone Amelia Jordan (R) was interviewed by performer L-FRESH The Lion.



Dramaturg Paschal Daantos Berry (R) was interviewed by his actor sister, Valerie Berry.



Photographer and theatremaker, Mayu Kanamori (R) was interviewed by creative producer, Yuki Kawakami.



Award-winning contemporary visual artist Khaled Sabsabi (R) interviewed by artist Abdul Abdullah.



Pacesetters Saleh Saqqaf (L) in conversation with community activist and theatre-maker, Alissar Chidiac.



Legendary stage and screen star Lex Marinos (L) interviewed by academic, Dr Cecelia Cmielewski.