

During October of this year I undertook a month long residency in Alice Springs with Watch This Space ARI. The support I received from the Independent Art Foundation helped make the residency possible by providing funding towards the cost of accommodation. During the residency, I researched conceptual ideas, began developing new work, and experimented with processes and equipment. My time in Alice also provided an opportunity to engage with local artists and the community, furthering my professional development by establishing new relationships within that community.

Using the studio as my base, I not only explored Alice itself but also travelled further a field to explore the vast landscape of central Australia. I spent much of my time within the landscape drawing inspiration for my practice. The natural history of the region was what prompted me to seek out the Watch This Space Travelling Artist Residency in particular. Visiting Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park I also had the chance to see UK artist Bruce Munro’s Field of Light, an expansive and remote light installation.

Part of my purpose in undertaking the residency was to concentrate on extending my filmmaking knowledge, especially in the production of virtual reality. I purchased a 360-degree camera and VR headset prior to leaving so I could experiment with and begin producing immersive film-based works. I used the residency to become familiar with the equipment and its possibilities and limitations. Additionally, I also began developing a video work made from appropriated film sequences. The work, once fully resolved, will be promoted for inclusion in subsequent proposal rounds.

As my practice and PhD research concentrates on the embodied and tactile qualities of cinema, in part achieved through materialistic sound design. I also experimented with ambient sound recordings. The recordings I made will either be included as a component to film-based works or evolve into stand-alone installations.

Watch This Space ARI didn’t require a resolved outcome at the conclusion of the residency as their exhibition programming determined whether one could be accommodated or not. Therefore, I concentrated on the production of enough material, that when fully developed, the resulting work will be proposed in future exhibition callouts. Since the conclusion of the residency I have already secured an exhibition with SAWTOOTH ARI in May next year.

Without the funding and support from the Independent Art Foundation the residency would not have been possible. Through this support I have been able to develop new work and continue to expand my arts practice. Once again, I thank you so very much.

**Kristen Coleman**