

KINGS Artist Run acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We offer our respect to Elders both past and present and extend this offer to all First Nations people.

KINGS

*Bianca Lyla Clifford,
James Hazel, Kaz Therese*
4K OR FERAL

MARCH / APRIL
14.03.24-13.04.24

Artist Run

Established in 2003, KINGS Artist-Run provides a location for contemporary art practice, supporting distinctive experimental projects by artists at all stages of their careers.

Open 12-5pm Thursday,
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
69 Capel Street,
West Melbourne VIC 3003

GALLERY TWO

Bianca Lyla Clifford, James Hazel, Kaz Therese 4K or Feral

Emerging from discussions and embodiments among the three underclass artists from social-housing backgrounds, *4K or Feral* explores the notion of ‘fidelity’ from a working-class, intersectional perspective.

Beyond the idea of ‘lo-fi’ as merely a co-optive or performative strategy employed by the design practices of the so-called creative class, or corporate propaganda, here we seek to examine what it means to work within the limitations of practice in a time of ongoing disaster by returning to what is available to the artists (often cheaply available media) and aligning with the ad hoc emergent.

By ‘tuning in’ as artists adrift between classes and codes, and questioning narratives around professional aesthetics and their imperatives to “overcome” our precarious (human) conditions to “succeed,” the works express nuance in the ecstasy and agony of underclass voices by ‘staying with the trouble’ of contemporary struggles – challenging mythologies of ‘working-classness’ that are often narrated from the outside by extractive social practice(s).

BIANCA LYLA CLIFFORD is a Mediterranean/Australian interdisciplinary artist currently residing in Naarm. With a transient upbringing and a queer lens she explores the corporeal as a mapping device to personal and ancient myths. Bianca lived on an artist visa in Berlin from 2010 – 2016, where she founded the publication: Offline Samizdat. She was a Resident artist at Castlemaine Contemporary Art Space, 2020 – 2021 and has performed for: Ron Athey: Pasiphae, Communitism, Athens, 2021, Linda Montano: 80th-Birthdayarama, Franklin Furnace, New York, 2022 and Where is Ana Mendieta? Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, 2016. In 2023 she participated in an Artists Residency, (GR) as part of The Lovers Collective with an Australia Council Grant.

JAMES HAZEL is a composer, artist and sound researcher working on the unceded Gadigal Lands of the Eora Nation. As someone who was born in Western Sydney, and lived in social-housing, James’s sonic practice draws upon lived and authentic working-class experiences, utterances, vocalities, and imaginaries to explore what it means to listen, love, live, labour and ‘make do’ in a world that is increasingly characterised by socioeconomic inequality. James’ work has been featured/exhibited at Cite internationale des arts, Performance Space/Carriageworks, Liquid Architecture, Gaudeamus (The Netherlands), Arts Incubator (Seoul) Cashmere Radio (Berlin), and ABC Radio National. Founder of CLASS ACTIONS, ADSR ZINE, and poor opera(tions), James has recently focused on creating spaces and workshops to better listen to working class practices.

KAZ THERESE (they/them) grew up on Darug land in Mt Druitt, Western Sydney. They are an interdisciplinary artist and cultural leader with a practice grounded in performance, activism and community building. Their work is inspired by place and narrative from working class & underclass settings. From 2013 – 2020 they were the Artistic Director of PYT Fairfield. Kaz directed the Helpmann nominated PLAYLIST (premiered 2018), UnWrapped, Sydney Opera House (2019) Other works include TRIBUNAL presented at Griffin Theatre, ArtsHouse Melbourne, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Festival; WOMEN OF FAIRFIELD with MCA C3West and STARTTS, winning the Sydney Myer Arts & Cultural Award for Best Arts Program (2016). Kaz is founder of FUNPARK, Mt Druitt (Sydney Festival 2014) and a graduate of the 2019 Australia Council Cultural Leadership program.

List of works:

GALLERY TWO

Front screen: Kaz Therese, *Mute Inheritance*, 2022, video, 10:12, edited by James Hazel, courtesy of the artist.

Left screen: James Hazel, *underclass(auto) theology (1 & 2)*, 2022, video, 8:56, courtesy of the artist.

Back screen: Bianca Lyla Clifford, *NF with soundtrack by Eleni Poulou*, 2024, video, 7:28, in collaboration with Aurora Sophie & Hunter, film crew: Lucy Clifford, courtesy of the artist.

KINGS Artist-Run is generously supported by City of Melbourne through the Arts and Creative Partnerships Program, and Burnley Brewery and Heaps Normal through their ongoing drinks sponsorship.



4k or Feral

14 March 2024–13 April 2024

Kings Artist-Run

Artists: Bianca Lyla Clifford, Kaz Therese, James Hazel

Emerging from discussions and embodiments among the three underclass artists from low-SES backgrounds, and Clifford's conceptual provocation of '4k or feral' aesthetics, the proposed exhibition project seeks to interrogate the notion of 'fidelity' from an intersectional working-class perspective.

What does it mean to make video work from the perspectives and discourses of lack and loss? What does this say about the material conditions of working-class life and the representation of 'feral' themes?

Beyond the idea of 'lo-fi' being a co-optive or performative strategy employed by the design practices of the creative class or corporate propaganda, we seek to examine what it means to work within the limitations of practice in a time of ongoing disaster by (re)turning to what is available to the artists (often cheaply available media) and aligning with the ad hoc emergent.

By 'tuning in' as artists adrift between classes and codes, and questioning narratives around professional aesthetics and their imperatives to "overcome" our precarious (human) conditions to "succeed," the works express nuance in the ecstasy and agony of underclass voices by 'staying with the trouble' of contemporary struggles. In turn, challenging mythologies of 'working-classness' that are often narrated from the outside by extractive social practices.

[straightforward english version]

4k or Feral

14 March 2024–13 April 2024

Kings Artist-Run

Artists: Bianca Lyla Clifford, Kaz Therese, James Hazel

These three artists come from public-housing backgrounds. They've been talking and expressing themselves creatively as a collective. They are interested in what it means to tell working-class stories through video.

They want to put on an art show that looks at the idea of being true to yourself, especially when you're from a poor community and face different challenges. They ask questions like: What does it mean to make video-art about not having enough money or resources? What does this show about the lives of working-class people? And what's it like to talk about silenced parts of underclass life?

They also want to think about how they make their art. Instead of using fancy equipment or copying what rich artists do, they want to focus on what they have and what's available to them. They believe this is a more practical way to create art.

These artists want to express what it's like to be stuck between different social classes and social codes. They question the idea that success means leaving behind the struggles of being poor. Their art shows both the good and the bad parts of being poor. The artist want to challenge the negative stories people tell about working-class life that are untrue