

# REFLEX | IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Geelong Arts Centre and Deakin University will host **Reflex Symposium** – November 15 & 16, supported by the City of Greater Geelong. Gathering together creatives, academics and community members from the region, and across Australia, Reflex untangles the connection between artist, infrastructure and community partnership.

The two-day event coincides with the opening of Geelong Arts Centre's \$38.5m Ryrie Street Redevelopment, with public lectures, panel discussions and presentations of future-facing works programmed across the centre's four studio spaces and creative industries floor.

Keynote speakers, **Dr Betty Sargeant** and **Dr Megan Beckwith**, are joined by representatives from Geelong's cultural precinct, leading artists and academics from Deakin University, to explore how and why we must remain responsive to changes in community, innovation, technology and arts practice.

Joel McGuinness, Geelong Arts Centre CEO, said, 'Adaptability and innovation are essential characteristics of all future facing industries, and the arts have always pushed the boundaries, embracing technological and cultural progress.

'We're incredibly proud to partner with Deakin University to bring such important cultural conversations to our rich community of arts practitioners and creatives.'

The symposium buds from a long-standing relationship between Deakin University and Geelong

Arts Centre that has spanned over two decades, and will be the first of a series of annual Geelong Arts Centre Creative Engine initiatives.

**Associate Professor Katya Johanson**, Deakin University's Associate Dean, Partnerships and International (Faculty of Arts and Education), said, 'In all spheres, collaboration between individuals and organisations with differing expertise is the key to future sustainability and community well-being. The creative sector is no exception. The relationship between Deakin, Geelong Arts Centre and the City of Greater Geelong continues to make for a vibrant and exciting cultural life.'

**Reflex | The Future of our Creative Community** will take place on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November at Geelong Arts Centre, 81 Ryrie Street, Geelong.

Ticketing and further information is available through [geelongartscentre.org.au](http://geelongartscentre.org.au)

## About Dr Betty Sargeant

*Dr Betty Sargeant is an award-winning media artist. She places audiences in the centre of multi-sensory installation experiences. Betty is co-creative director of PluginHUMAN, an Australian art-technology duo. She has exhibited her work in Asia, Europe, North America and Australia.*

*Betty was a finalist in the Contemporary Art Award 2019, she won a Good Design Award in 2018 and a Victorian Premier's Design Award in 2017. She is currently creator-in-residence at the Exertion Games Lab through RMIT University, Australia. In 2016, Betty was the Melbourne Knowledge Fellow,*





*creator-in-residence at the Asia Culture Centre in South Korea from 2016 to 2017. Betty's PhD was ranked top three at the CHASS Prize 2015.*

### **About Dr Megan Beckwith**

*Megan Beckwith combines live performance and multi-media to develop works that explore the relationship between the physical & virtual. She investigates this relationship by combining contemporary dance and 3D animation in a choreographic process that layers one over the other, re-working the human figure into new forms that both fascinate and horrify. Her practice explores the idea of physicality and technology through the figure of the cyborg and augmented reality. Her current work asks: how does the body react within a distorted reality and how does virtual reality affect emotions through the use of stereoscopic 3D illusions.*

### **Accompanying Panellists and Speakers**

**Maria Takolander** | Public Art, Sculpture & Visual Arts

**Shaun McLeod & Olivia Millard** | Dance, Choreography & Technology

**Karen Le Rossignol** | Writing & Literature

**Tricia Simmons** | Visual Arts & Costume

**Tonya Meyrick** | Visual Communications Design

**Anne Wilson & Cam Bishop** | Movement, Sound & Technology

**Rea Dennis** | Performance

**Nic Velissaris** | Writing & Storytelling