



Nina Rupena

Graduated 2005
Bachelor of Industrial Design



Project - Beastly

Beastly is the latest project I worked on. It consisted of an art installation and three performances for the international Georgetown Festival in Malaysia. We created a series of small, secret places where the audience can experience short beastly themed performances, which invite deeper reflection about how we as human beings relate to the animal world.

Beastly is the first fruit of a growing relationship between Australian, Malaysian and Indonesian organisations that work

with disabled artists. The collaboration seeks to further democratise art and include the work of disabled artists in international festivals.

My role in the project was as co-curator and lead artist. I collaborated with established artists from Indonesia and Malaysia as well as artists with intellectual disabilities from Tutti Arts in Adelaide and Stepping Stone in Malaysia. The project will also be shown at the 2016 OzAsia Festival in Adelaide.

CV

After graduating I worked for a design consultancy Proen Design. As much as I loved studying industrial design, working 9 to 5 in front of a computer almost drove me crazy. In 2009 I decided to pursue my love for arts. I went back to UniSA and did a Masters degree in Visual Arts.

Currently I live and work as a freelancer in Melbourne. Since finishing my masters, I've collaborated on projects with artists, designers, filmmakers and various organisations. I work across mediums and practices responding to each project individually. The work ranges from fine arts and illustration to art installations and set design. I've exhibited in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally and I'm passionate about working on projects with different community groups - elderly, refugees and artists with disabilities.

In 2015 I did a three month art residency in Georgetown, Malaysia where I worked on a project called FACE IT, a social experiment that involved Georgetown residents. I presented this project at the 2016 International RANZCP Congress of Psychiatry in Hong Kong.

Uni Memories

I loved all the projects we did from sheep lice detector to kids furniture. Studying industrial design was great fun and Peter Schumacher is an inspiring lecturer! I don't miss 100 MB Zip drives and all-nighters spent in the computer rooms though. Maybe just a bit...

Advice

Advice I got from the lecturer Gerhard Schurer 'grab life by the horns and ride it'. Don't be afraid to make your own path. Have fun with it!

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