

Symposium

STORM:
Colliding Art and Biomedicine

Saturday 21 July

Federation Hall,
Grant Street, Southbank

9.45– 10.00	Registration	Presentation
10.00– 10.15	Professor Jon Cattapan Director, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne	Welcome and Introduction
10.15– 11.00	Keynote: Professor Marcia Langton Associate Provost Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health University of Melbourne <i>Indigenous weather knowledge and its significance and attributes</i>	The storm is a weather phenomenon that is conceptualised in many ways. Among Aboriginal peoples, these are variously regarded as things in themselves as weather events, as spiritual phenomena, as spiritual responses to human and non-human activities, and as an inevitable part of our environment. How they are conceived in each society varies. The Bureau of Meteorology has worked with Indigenous peoples to assist them in documenting and publishing this knowledge of weather and climatic seasons. Talking one example on the Australian Bureau of Meteorology website, the Miriwoong Seasonal Calendar is an interactive representation of the traditional weather knowledge of the Miriwoong people. Using video, visuals and sound, the calendar was designed by the Mirima Language and Culture Centre, and the Kimberley Land Council with the intention of focusing on preservation of traditional language and culture, language links with the environment, relationships between flora, fauna and climate, and nature plants and animals as indicators of seasonal climate change. The Mirriwoong seasonal calendar shows the links between observed changes in weather patterns and the response of flora and fauna in the landscape. The calendar is being used as a management tool to monitor and evaluate the on-ground impacts of weather events and climate change.
11.00– 11.30	Nate Byrne, Meteorologist, Presenter ABC News Breakfast <i>Turning sunlight into lightning: how storms are born, live and die</i>	This presentation explores the formation and life cycles of thunderstorms, what causes them to be so ferocious, and why they can be so difficult to forecast accurately.
11.30– 12.00	Professor Jo Douglass Head of Department of Immunology and Allergy, Divisional Director of Neurosciences, Cancer and Infection Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital Honorary Clinical Professor University of Melbourne	In 2016 Melbourne experienced storm asthma, a devastating cluster of asthma deaths that arose from a periodic coincidence of winds, rain and pollen loads. Hundreds more were affected and hospitals and emergency services were overwhelmed. It seems certain that Melbourne will be threatened with recurring asthma storms in the future. but why does it happen? Who is at risk? Can we prevent asthma deaths? And how can medicine and art work together to raise public awareness?

12.00– 12.45		Lunch
12.45– 1.15	Dr Sophie Knezic Lecturer, Critical and Theoretical Studies, Victorian College of the Arts University of Melbourne <i>Imaging Disaster: Tempests in Art from the 16th Century to the Present</i>	The phenomena of violent weather conditions have intrigued artists over the centuries, their collective explorations forming a genre of representation classified as the imagery of disaster. In 1757 Edmund Burke neologised the term 'sublime' to denote the specific amalgam of horror and compulsion such cataclysmic natural forces inspired. Tracing a micro-history of artworks depicting tempests unearths the ways in which this imagery articulates its fascination with extreme weather and continues to enact a tumultuous conjuring that both affirms and contests the aesthetic category of the sublime.
1.15– 1.45	Dr Drew Berry Biomedical Animator Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research <i>The molecular machines that create your flesh and blood</i>	After 20 years producing bio-molecular visualisations with 'Hollywood-style' animation pipelines, Drew Berry and his team at wehi.tv are switching to the extraordinary power of video game technology for generating vast, detailed molecular and membrane landscapes that will reveal the insides of your living cells. Drew Berry will show his latest experiments with real-time 3D 'diorama' open-world scenes of membranes and molecular engines that underlie the conversion of the food we eat into chemical energy for our cells, for interactive storytelling and memorable education experiences.
1.45– 2.15	Dr David Chesworth Artist, composer and researcher, Associate Investigator, ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH) <i>A shift in normal atmospheric conditions</i>	We get caught up in some storms that leave us wet and dishevelled, or much worse. Other storms we experience mentally. Storms are beautiful from afar and terrifying from within. As an artist and composer currently working with scientists, I find myself asking: In what different ways have scientists, musicians and artists revealed and made use of this turbulent force, that sometimes surrounds us and at other times swirls within us?
2.15– 3.00	Professor Gary Anderson (Chair) Director Lung Health Research Centre University of Melbourne	Speaker Panel, Q & A
3.00– 3.15	Professor Jon Cattapan	Closing Remarks
3.15– 4.00		Refreshments served in Foyer