

ART MATTERS – *Collective Swab* exhibition

Jubilee Hall, Horsham – June 2016

Group paintings: Charcoal, pastel & acrylic on paper: 240x120cm

Artist Facilitators: Visual Art– Anthony Pelchen, Movement–Amy Anselmi, Video– David Bowie

Collective Swab #1 (Mr Squiggle on fire), 18/3/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Mary Fitzgerald, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Joshua Mackley, Graham Manwaring, Zoey Manwaring, Toni Niblett, Bev Simon.



Collective Swab #2 (Reef) 4/4/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Mary Fitzgerald, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Graham Manwaring, Zoey Manwaring, Toni Niblett, Bev Simon.



Collective Swab #3 (Affirmation) 7/4/2016

Grahams Bridge Road Artists: Narelle Sanders, Kathleen Anderson, Martin Landry, Kim Graham, Shane Steward, Maxine Manwaring.



Collective Swab #4 (Church Window), 11/4/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Graham Manwaring, Zoey Manwaring, Bev Simon.



Collective Swab #5 (Rorschach Tests Dr Who) 18/4/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay.



Collective Swab #6 (Colourful Spiderweb) 20/4/2016

Cooinda Artists: Rodney Greenaway, Kim Kendrick, Roger Batchelor, Lisa Taylor, Glenda Bush, Chelsea O'Connor, Nathan Davies, and Hilma Summerhayes.



Collective Swab #7 (Purple Rain) 2/5/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Toni Niblett.



Collective Swab #8 (Hotdog Bus) 9/5/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Graham Manwaring, Zoey Manwaring, Toni Niblett.



Collective Swab #9 (Tuesdays cruise around the Yarriambiack Creek in May) 10/5/2016

Woodbine Artists: Thomas, Matthew, Keenan, Ash, Shantelle, Jayne, Rachael, Josh, Zane, Damian, Xavier, Kim, Andrew.



Collective Swab #10 (Through the Clouds to the Sea) 16/5/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Toni Niblett.



Collective Swab #11 (Tower) 23/5/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Graham Manwaring, Zoey Manwaring, Toni Niblett.



Collective Swab #12 (Elvis Fell off the Stage) 30/5/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay, Graham Manwaring, Zoey Manwaring, Toni Niblett.



These twelve large paintings have been made by people with vivid imaginations and enviable creative reserves.

They are made as a collective effort, with everyone working together as they move around the table top. The cold white of the paper is first broken with a web of charcoal and pastel, then layers of paint emerge...a mix of the considered and the impulsive.

These works are a form of 'collective swab'— a visual record at a moment in time of the feelings, tendencies and imaginations of all who contribute over the hour or so it takes to form them. Far from being clinical swabs, they are rich, layered visual records of what it is to be fully alive and vital.

Images, marks and colours build through a generosity of spirit to share and work together; all allow each other to adjust, change and even 'destroy' what they have individually put down... as they continue to circumnavigate the paper. Some go forward, some recede, but all add to the final work by coming together and being a part of a supportive group.

The process is inevitably a playful 'dance' and the results are all the more powerful because of this. Over-thinking and fear of beginning is dropped; it is more about just doing and responding in cycles, both to the personal and collective choices that happen in each moment.

Ultimately something powerful emerges. While there may not be a clear representation of something we obviously recognize, each painting has an infectious confidence and a collective voice – a very full and confident one that is saying something new and worthwhile, even if we can't pin it down.

It has been a group dance over three months – the participants with us as facilitating artists, as well as the many others who have been critical to this project's success.

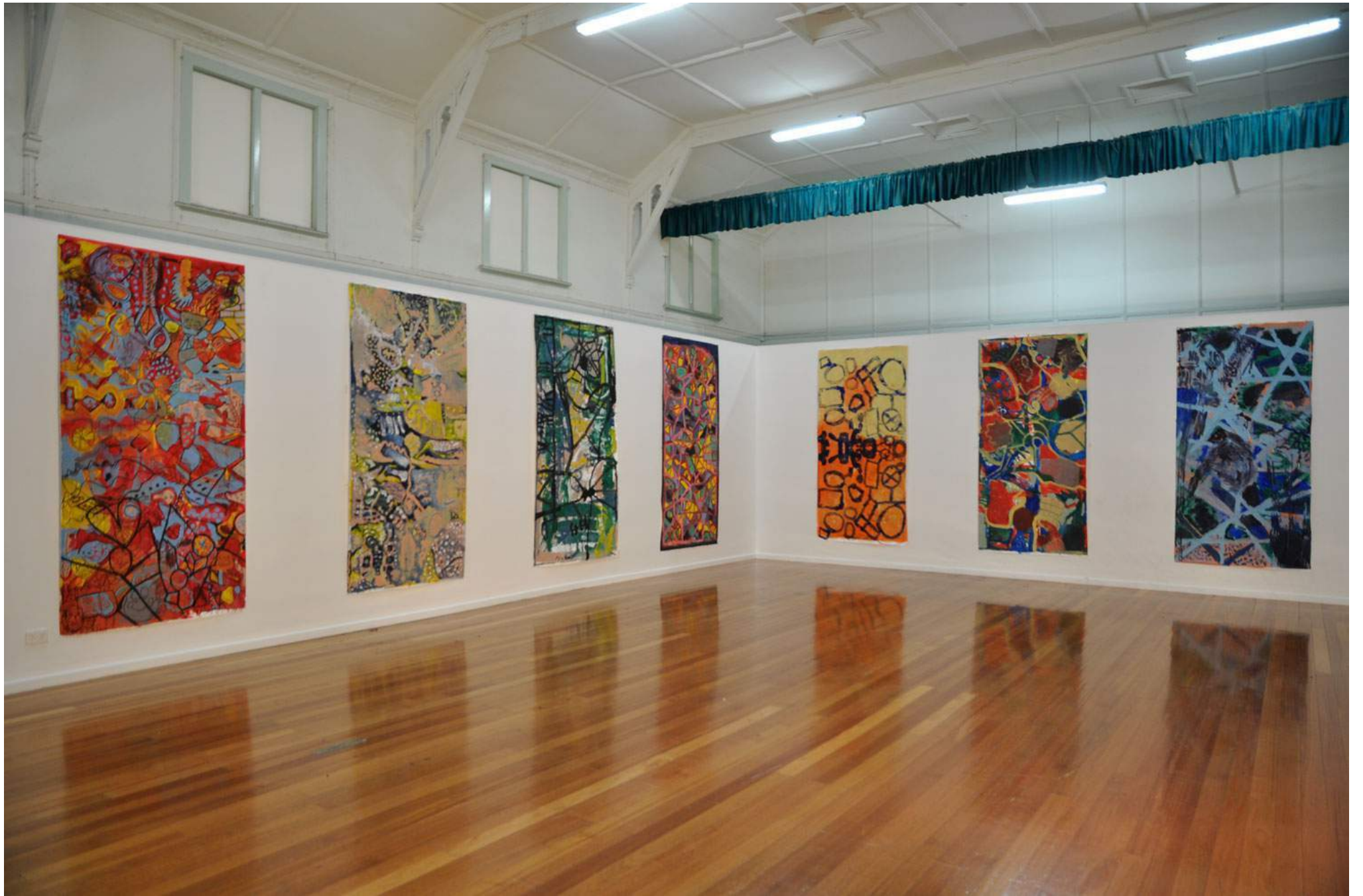
Anthony Pelchen
June, 2016

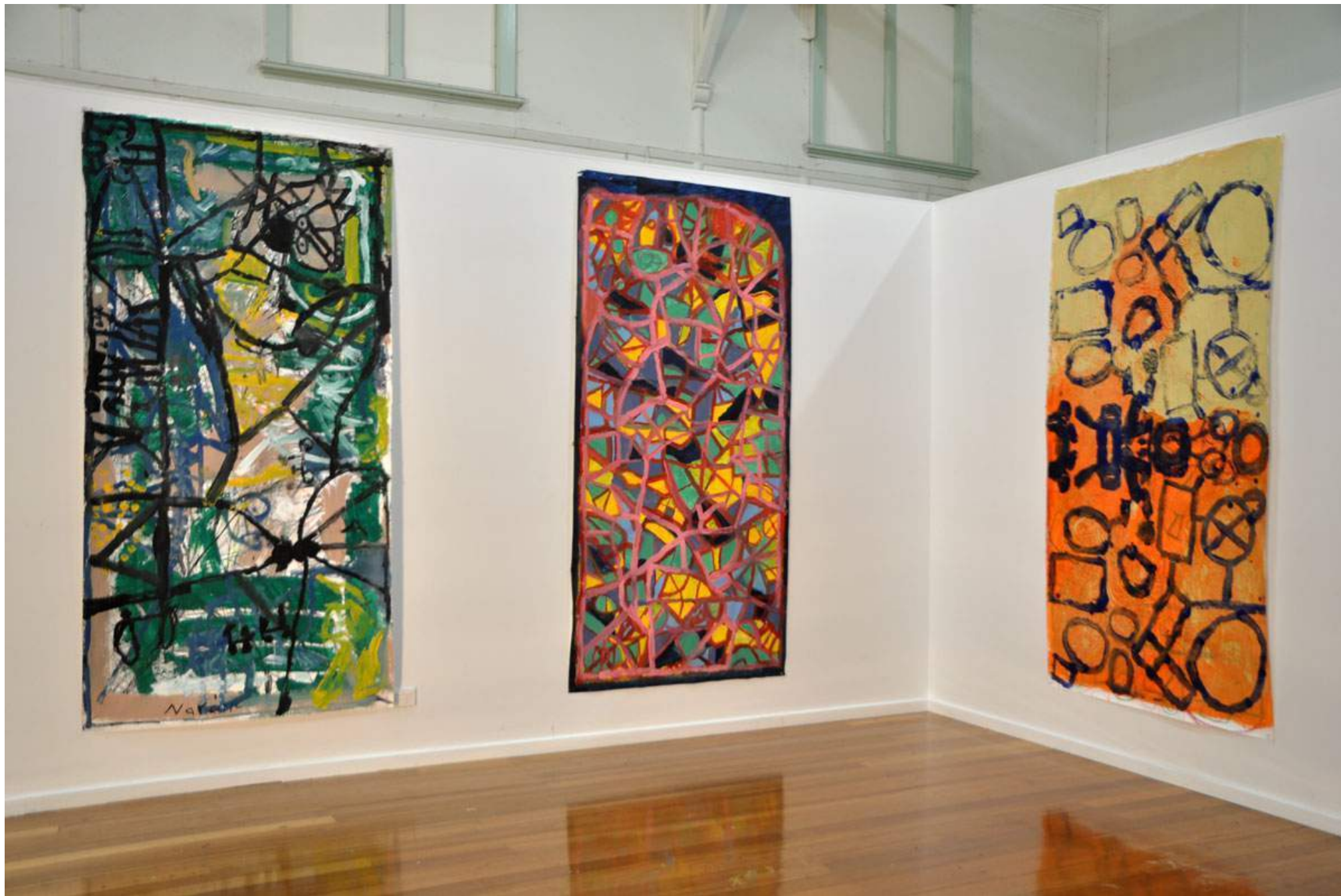


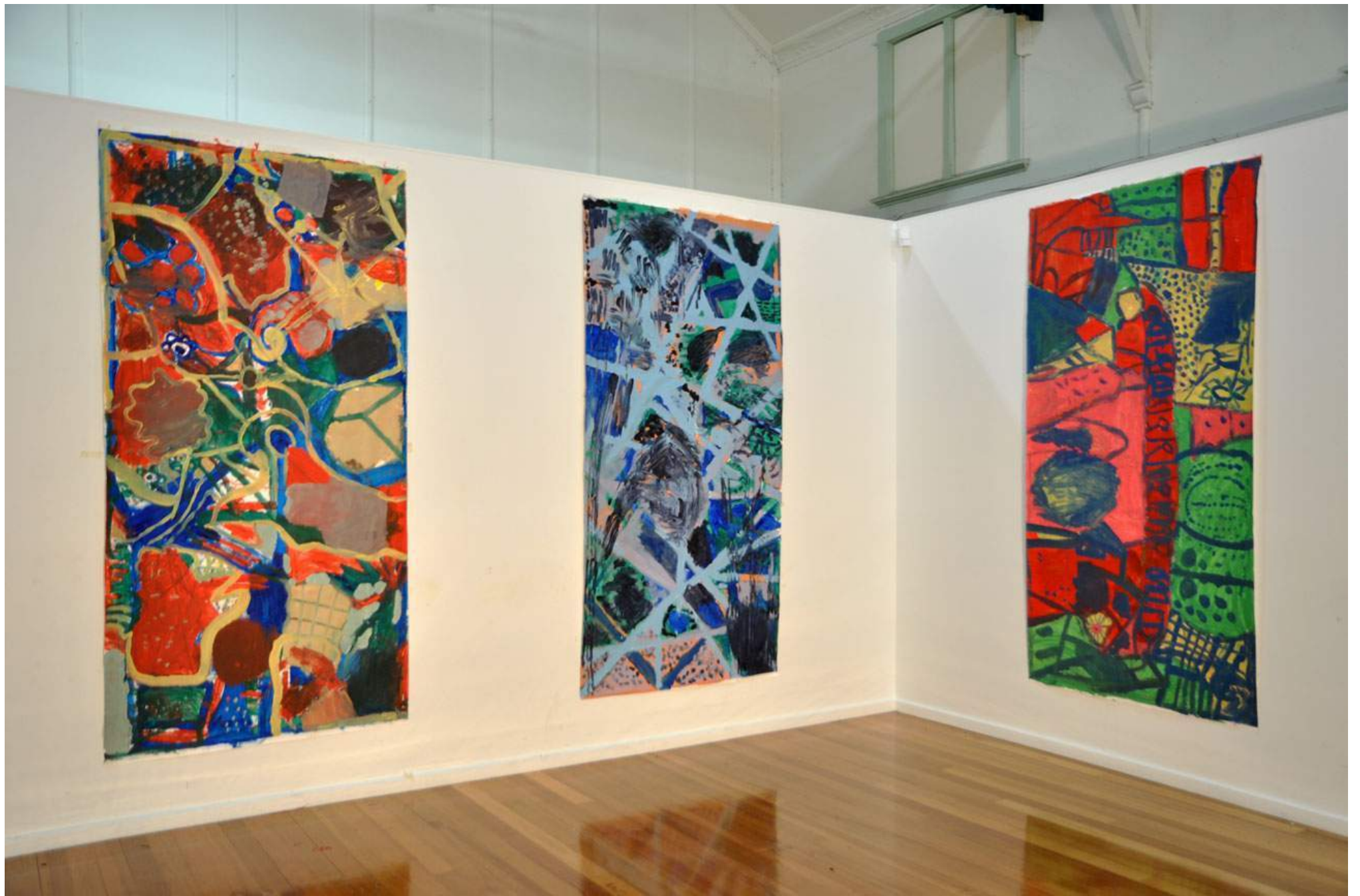
The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional and remote Australia, administered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

Our thanks to Chisolm Hi Fi for assistance with the video installation









The making of *Collective Swab #5 (Rorschach Tests Dr Who)* 18/4/2016

Artists: Lel (Joan) Bever, Alexandra Davis, Lynne Gercovich, Zak Gercovich, Shae Howie, Peter H, Donna Leith, Troy McQualter, Garth McKenzie, Peter Mackay.















