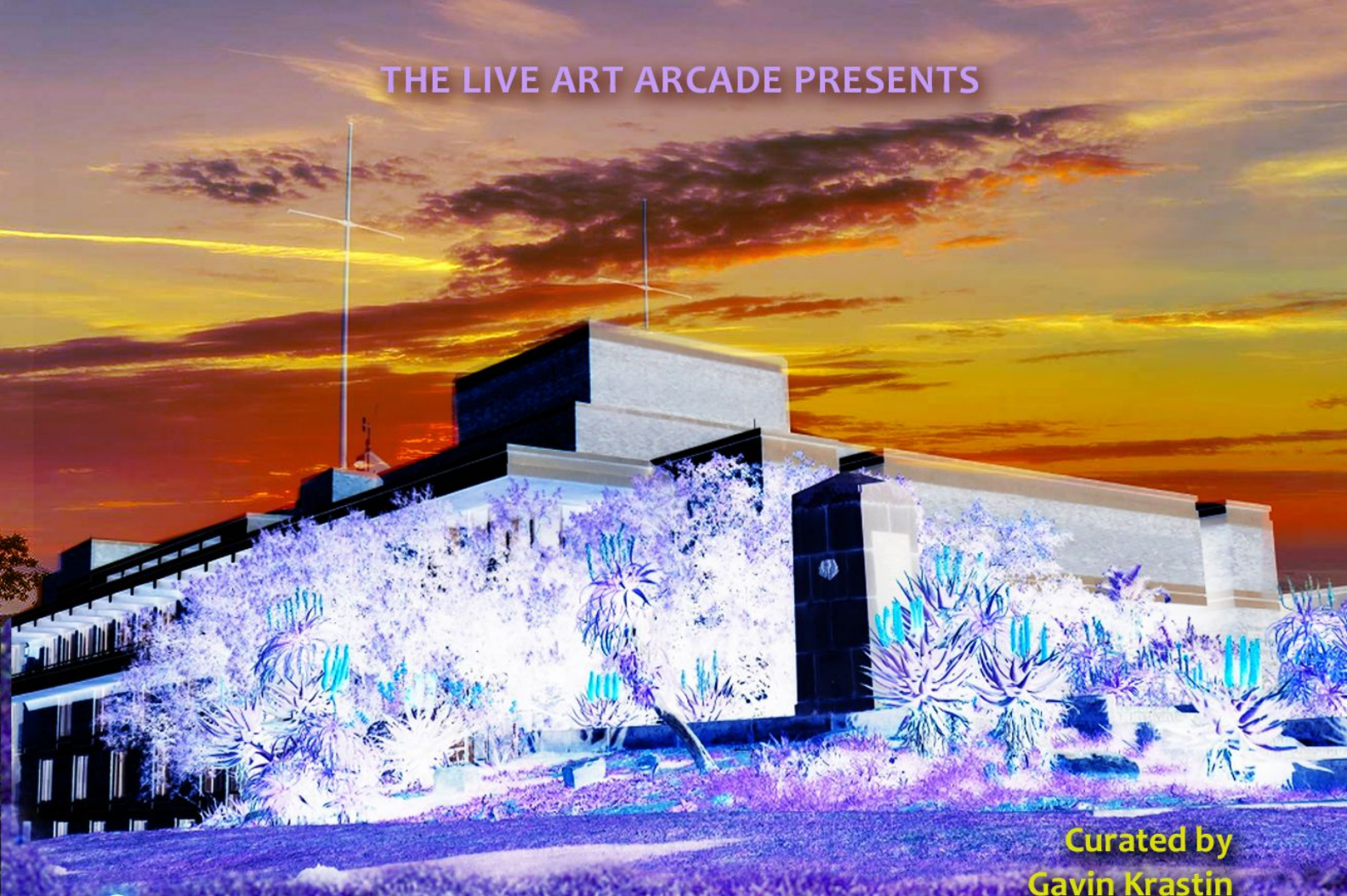
THE LIVE ART ARCADE PRESENTS



Curated by
Gavin Krastin

www.liveartarcade.co.za
Live Art Arcade
@liveartarcade

24 March 2023
The Monument
Makhanda

Open 14:00-20:00

2023

ARCADE

Axl Forder | Carbon | Christelle Futshane | Lethabo Makweya | Luke Rudman
Martinique Kotze | Obusitswe "Birdking" Seage | Qondiswa James
Rafé Luke Green | Teresa Willoughby
Thabile "Terry" Rala-rala

The Live Art Arcade was established in 2018 as a nomadic exhibition platform for early-career artists working in interdisciplinary live performance with interests in durational and site-responsive work. Dwelling in sites, spaces and places, our aim is to produce immersive assemblages of experimental body-based live art performances: an arcade of durational, itinerant and cyclical live art, where all encounters happen simultaneously, and audience/participants can engage with the performances at their own discretion and structure their journeys as they wish.

For Arcade2023 we are re-routing monuments through live art as 11 artists from across the country occupy Makhanda's Monument (formerly the 1820 Settlers National Monument in Grahamstown) in a constellation of performances. The various galleries, theatres, archive rooms, dressing rooms, smoking booths and passageways comprising the 2 basement levels of the Monument are destabilised and reimagined through long durational live art performances, interventions and activated installations.

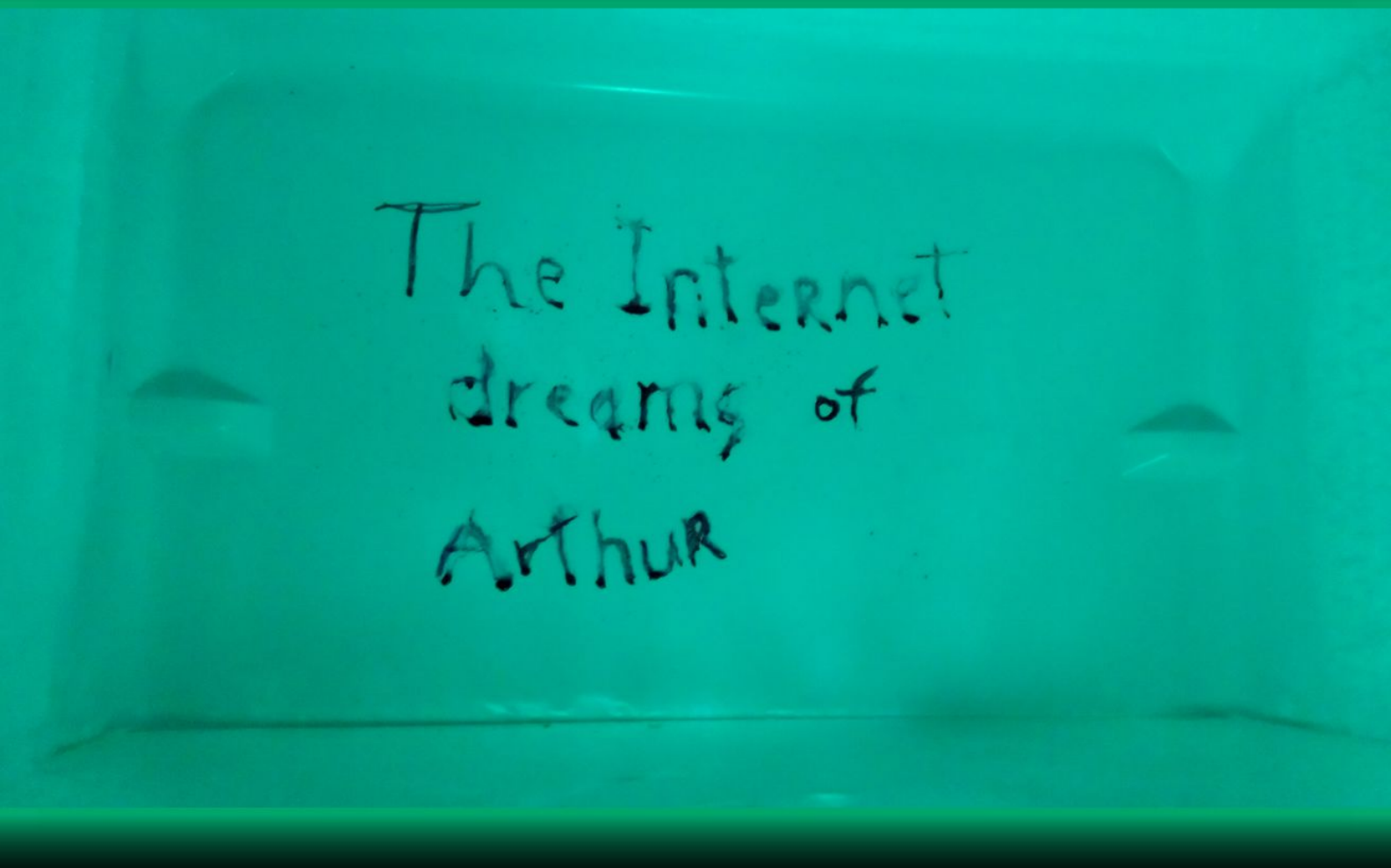
These artists and artworks strive to question, provoke, reflect, subvert and archive our current realities in order to postulate and consider alternatives. At Live Art Arcade our approach to creating, producing, facilitating, and curating live art and performance is one of collaboratively and communally worlding a pluriverse in a speculative manner.

THE INTERNET DREAMS OF ARTHUR

Axl Forder [@axlfod]

Arthur has a problem. He does not know what it is, or how it started, but he has a box full of toys and a high-speed internet connection. Now, this vulnerable, maladjusted young man must navigate this algorithmic fugue.

Axl is an actor-writer whose work focuses on the growing rift between the rational mind and the emotional body.



NOT YET DEAD

Carbon [@carbonatedart]

Poetry, animation and a wheelbarrow filled with rocks, wheeled until exhaustion. The work considers endurance and enduring; a comment on how we treat each other and how the world treats those in the margins.

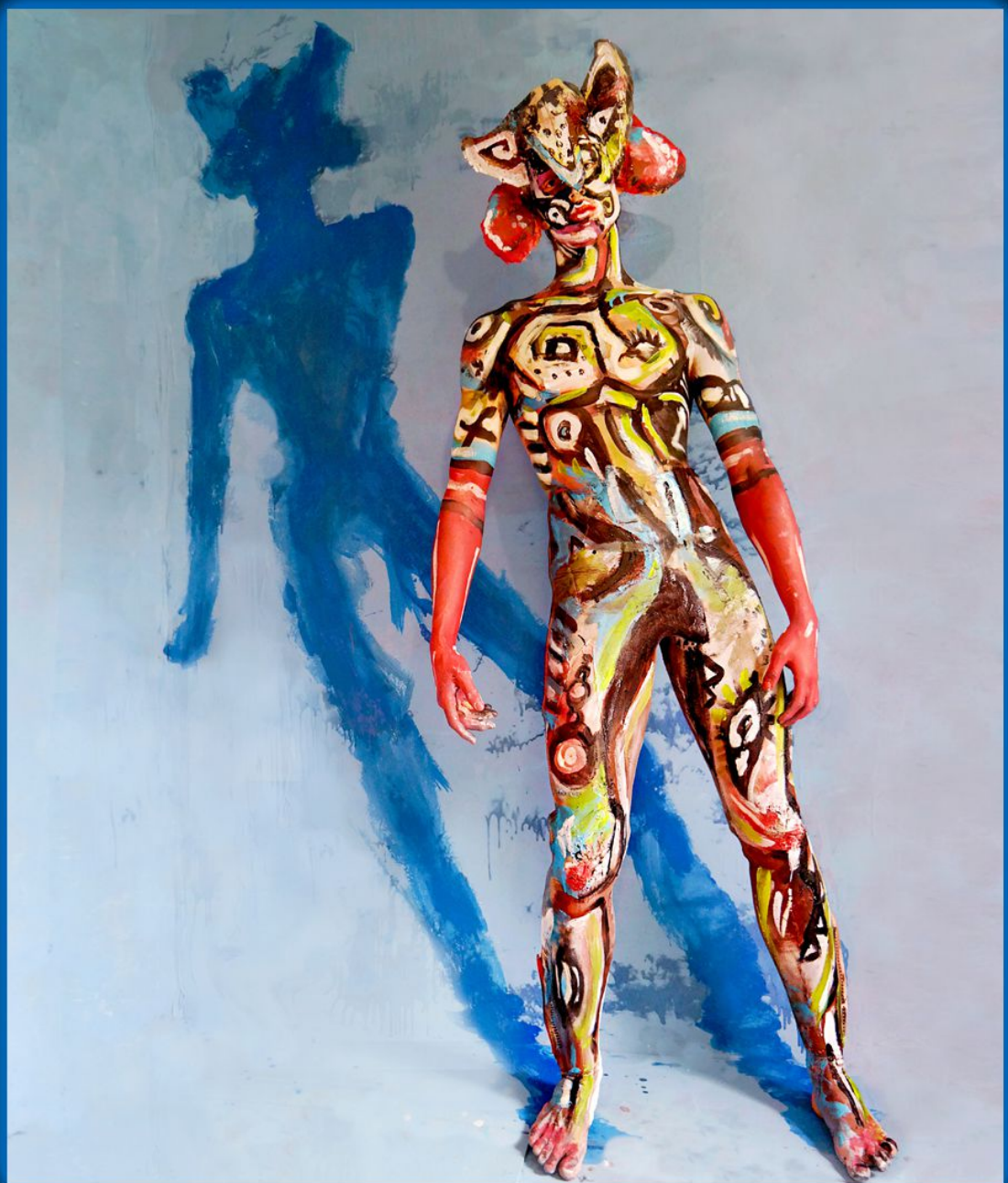
Carbon is a black trans multidisciplinary artist, activist and academic. A proud member of The Trans Collective, Carbon organises and creates for the liberation of all marginalised people in supposedly post-apartheid South Africa, with a particular focus on neurodivergent and black transgender people.

EDEN AND LUKE

Luke Rudman [@lukerudman]

In Eden and Luke the artist forms part of the installation as a living sculpture and as a painted-painter. Binary distinctions between nature, humanness and queerness are blurred, as are the borders between artist and artwork.

Luke is a Gqeberha-based living sculpture whose work exists within the intersection of painting, performance and installation.



THEATRE IN THE MUCK: UN-TRASHING THE FUTURE

Obusitswe "Birdking" Seage [@odysseyofobi]

This interactive experience tackles humankind's deep problem with trash. Themes of rampant consumerism and its effects are highlighted in the performance offering as the artist navigates this toxic environment that humanity has created. What about the impact it has on our psyche? Here the use of trash play, garbage assemblage and upcycling of waste paraphernalia and found objects are employed as strategies to realign our planetary future.

Obusitswe is a multidisciplinary performance artist, percussionist, community creative change maker and eco warrior. His alter-ego, "Birdking", is a hero of social commentary and eco-awareness who uses his voice for common good.

Thanks to Michelle Lowry for her assistance and to the Social Employment Fund.

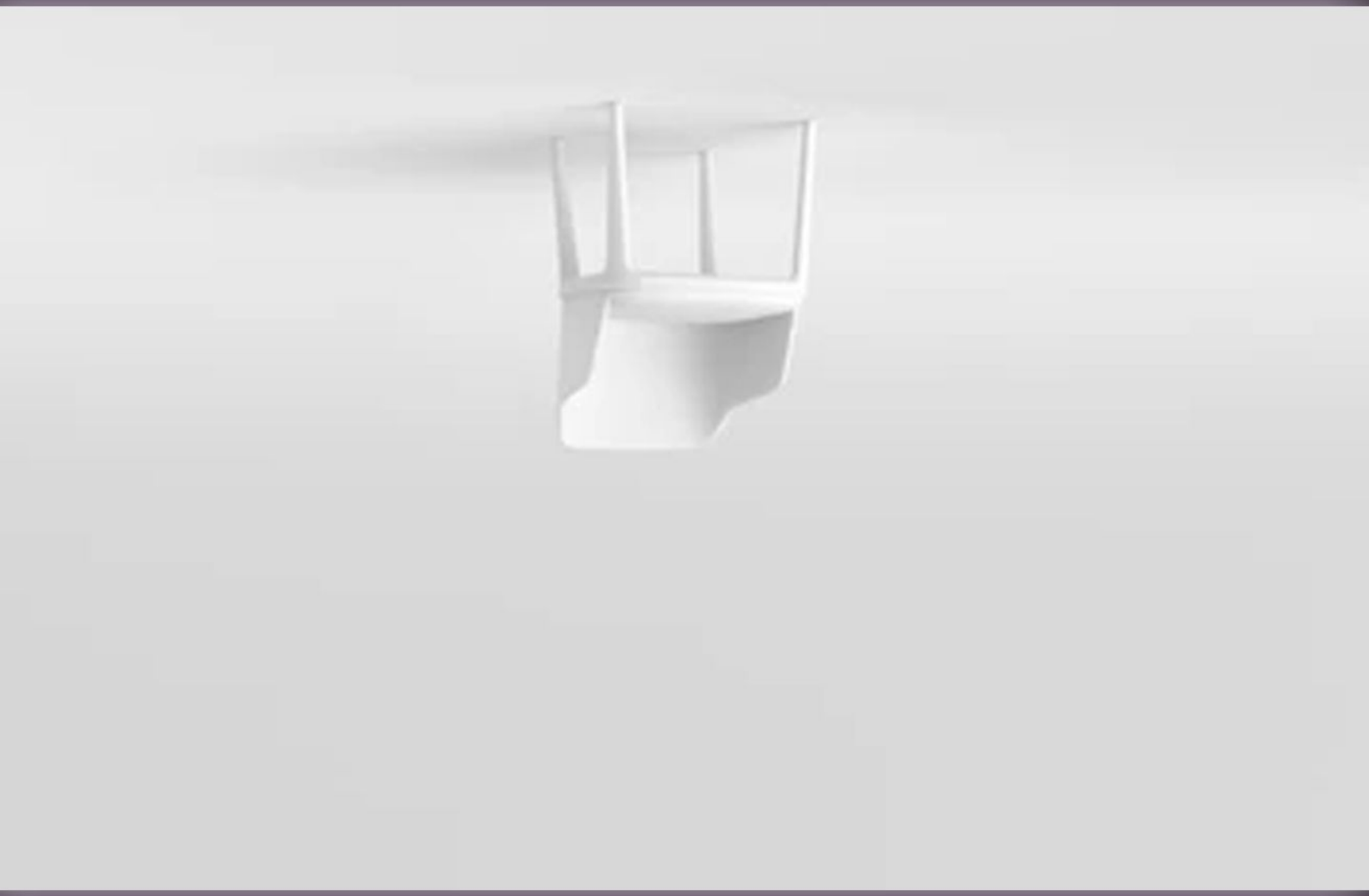
I AM ALSO HERE

Qondiswa James [@blqgrl.radikl]

I am a busker, or street vendor, experimenting with the socio-political and economic functions of art interventions. Here the 'soapbox' is used as a tool to interrogate in/visibility, to share information, to witness, to reflect, to disrupt, to dwell, to imagine alternative presents.

Qondiswa is a freelance cultural worker living between Cape Town and Johannesburg. Her work engages the socio-political imagination towards mobilising transgression.

See www.weareeverywhere.co.za for more.



SITTING PIECE

Rafé Luke Green [@yvonneme__]

Category is: a Rosa-Parks-in-the-back-of-the-bus-window-not-aisle-at-the-table-passengerside-jeans-are-too-tight-can't-sit-right-ladies-night-on-the-floor-reserved-for-special-guests-on-the-edge-of-yasqueen-asana Seat.

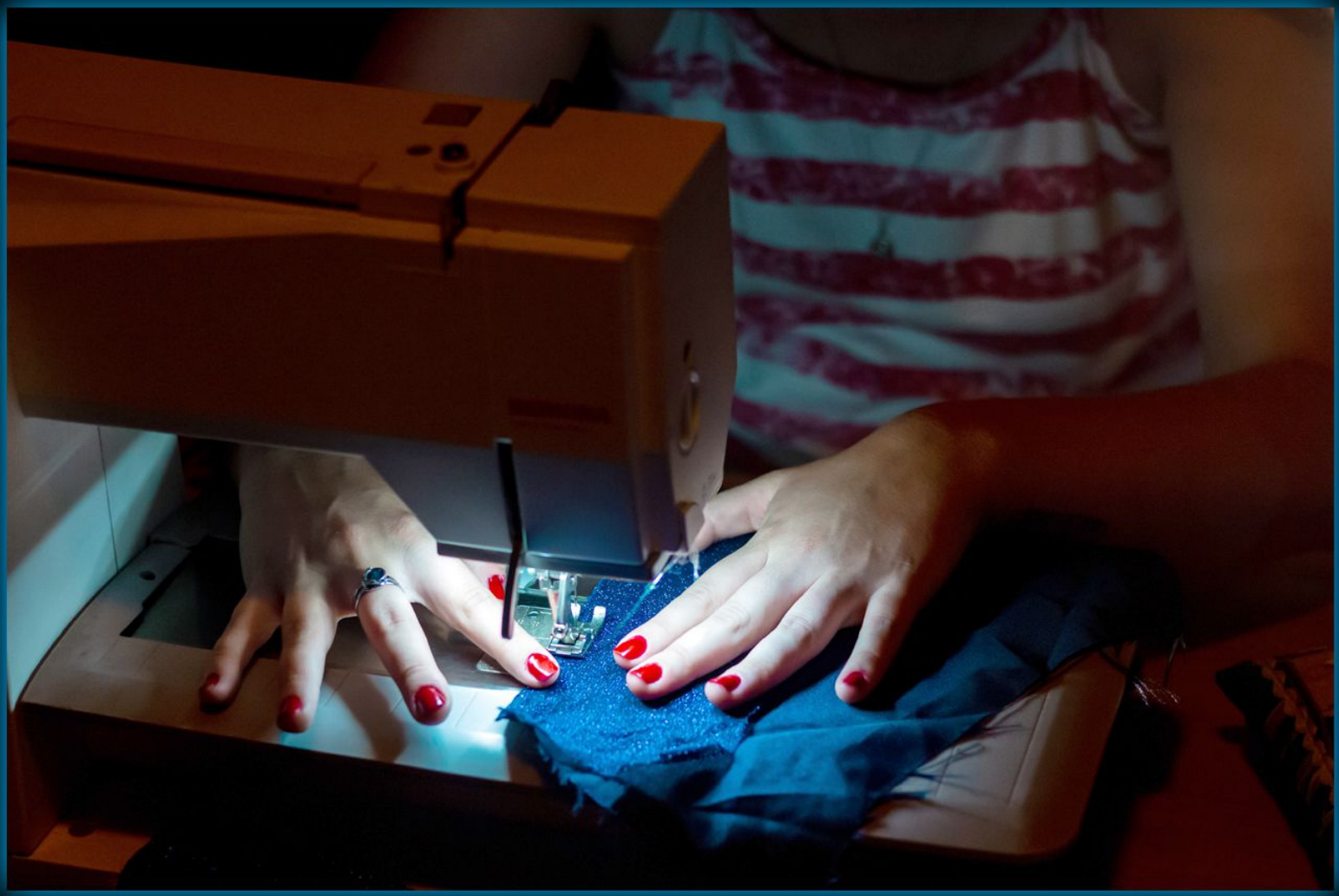
Rafé Luke Green, aka "Yvonne Me" is a queer performance artist and sound curator currently based in Cape Town. Their mission statement as an artist is to understand connection, it's politics and poetics, and to discover alternative modes of healing.

MEMORABILIA

Martinique Kotze [@martiniquekotzexx]

An exploration into memory and the association of memory with objects. This work reveals memories of events buried deep inside my brain as I sit with various objects, performing revealed memories from my subconscious as they arise.

Martinique is in the final year of her Master of Arts degree at Rhodes University Drama Department. The focus of her research is on the brain's creative ways in which it stores memory and how it can elicit dreams, remembering and re-remembering.



BASE/MENT

Christelle Futshane [@skinny.brows]
Lethabo Makweya [@Lethabo.makweya]
Teresa Willoughby [@resa_m_w]
Thabile "Terry " Rala-rala [@H_a_p_p_y_in_sotho]

We start at the base, the bottom. A first place from which other things build. A foundation of sorts. A space of starting points, or points of departure, for further building. A home base for moments of play and collective monumenting.

Christelle, Lethabo, Teresa and Terry are aspiring multidisciplinary performance artists and scholars currently studying towards their Honours degree at Rhodes University Drama Department, where they are specialising in Physical Performance.

ARCADE 2023

Curated by Gavin Krastin

Dramaturgical support by Alan Parker

Project Management by Raphaela Linders

Design by Rat Western

Web design by Julia de Rosenwerth

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Directors of the Live Art Arcade NPC (2022 / 629077 / 08): Gavin Krastin, Alan Parker and Evaan Ferreira

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Live Art Arcade

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For an archive of past Arcade projects, and a full list of participating artists, please visit our website.

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National Arts Council NAC
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