

EXTRA Zine Issue # 37



For Joanna Kambourian



IMAGE 1 (Caption) Joanna Kambourian at Grafton September 2013

Our friend Joanna passed away recently and we, along with many others, have had a chance to pause and reflect upon our experience of 'hangin-out' with Jo.

We believe that her involvement and influence in many creative spheres would go beyond our small connection, so we

write these words in some way to highlight the richness Jo brought to all our shared experiences.

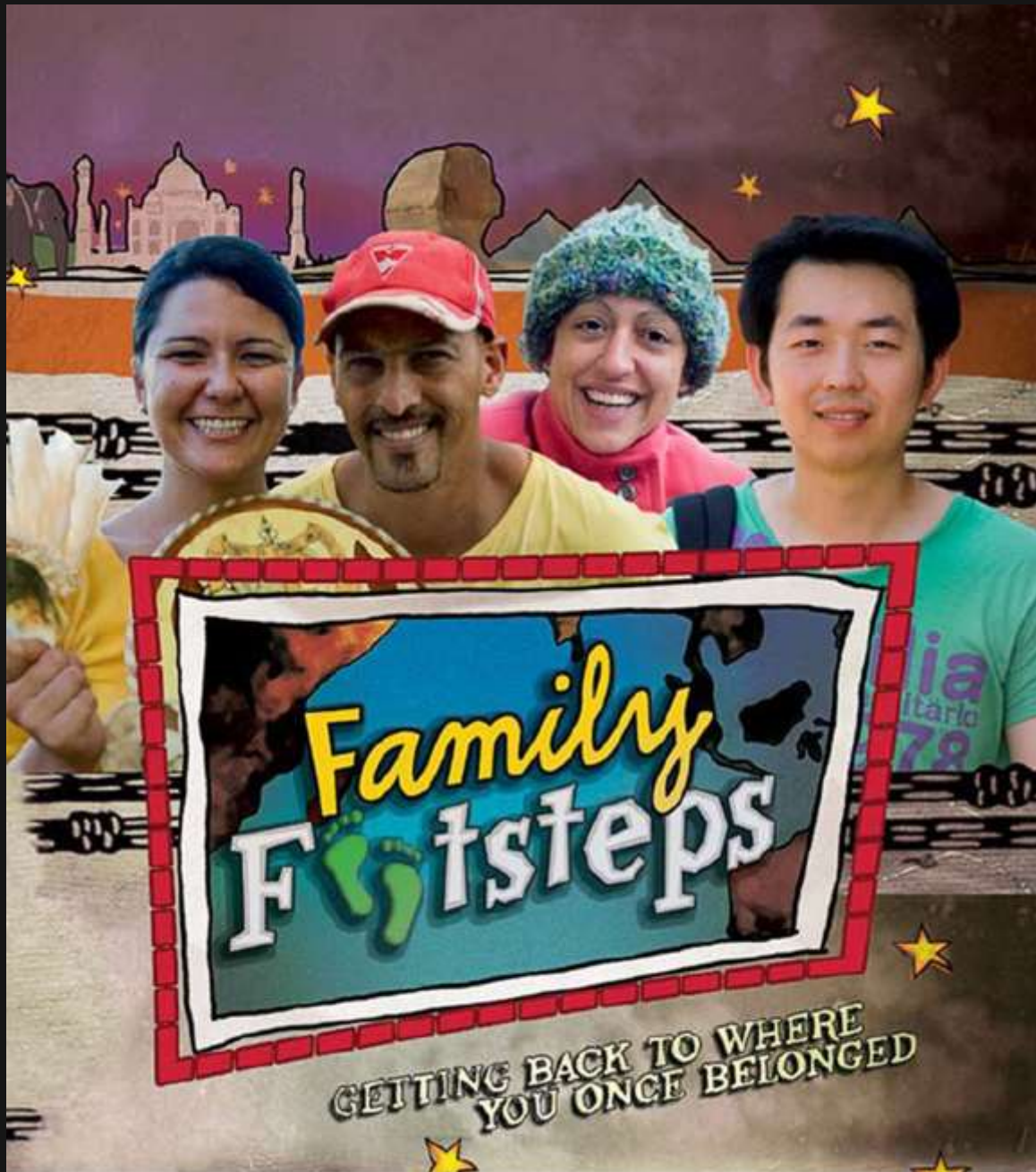


IMAGE 2 (Caption) Family Footsteps Poster ABC documentary (screenshot)

We first met Joanna in 2009 at a Hervey Bay Regional Gallery multi-exhibition

opening event where we were invited to speak. Joanna's solo exhibition in the Gallery was *Dim Memories of Exile* which was based on her reconnection with her Armenian heritage. Accompanying her show was a screening of the ABC documentary program *Family Footsteps*, which featured Joanna's recent journey to Armenia. We still remember the after-opening dinner and her joyous and laughter-filled conversation about life, art and being Armenian.

We immediately found in her a great friend and a fellow supporter of artists and arts organisations that struggle to have a voice or presence in mainstream art. Joanna was an integral contributor to strong and productive collaborations with many artists including her partner Darren Bryant. Along with Joanna we were participants in many of the projects friend and fellow artist Julie Barratt organised that connected artists from across Australia.



IMAGE 3 (Caption) Jo and Darren in Lismore Artspace

In our travels we would often stay over with Jo and Darren. We visited them at Lismore Art Space (LAS), an initiative for which Jo had received funding to establish. Run with Darren, LAS became a vibrant hub for the local creative arts community and also hosted an Artist in Residence program that included international artists.



IMAGE 4 Jo at Grafton texting a photo of the finished Artists Survey book

We had a common ground with Jo on the issues and complexities of surviving as regional artists and when possible, she supported our *Artists Survey* zine publications for the Centre for Regional Arts Practice (C.R.A.P.). In 2009 we had a show of our artists' books in Barratt Galleries, directed by Julie Barratt. On reading one of our *Artists Survey* books about being at the beach making art she broke into laughter. She was so excited about the story we gifted the book to

her. In later years she supported another C.R.A.P. book project during our residency at the Grafton Regional Gallery, which was produced in collaboration with artists from the Grafton region and included friends from Queensland.



IMAGE 5: Jo working with us on Artists Survey #22 (taken from the video)

During our stays and at other times, we had long passionate discussions on how we navigated the complex relationships between art and everyday life. We aired and lamented personal, local and global issues with much thumping of the table and laughter. These conversations inspired another collaborative C.R.A.P book with Jo and Darren where we

constructed a collage of our discussion and conceptual connections. A video segment with Joanna was also recorded SEE

<https://youtu.be/gbhcfmReYME>



IMAGE 6: A screenshot of a recent artwork made in the US

With all her projects as Ms Browns Lounge and managing LAS Joanna always amazed us

with her creativity and energy. She was continually developing new approaches and practices in her ongoing Armenian heritage project where she would collage and montage motifs, icons and traditional patterns.



IMAGE 7: Still from the video - Jo talks about her father's book

Jo would often talk of her father Ron who was one of the original 'MAD men' of the New York advertising scene. One day she retrieved from her archive one of Ron's sketch/ideas books. She gave a very animated discussion about the diagrams,

thoughts and sketches that the book contained and recounted what her dad had said about certain pages. We made a video of her talk, the lively chatter and the laughter. SEE

<https://youtu.be/TbNtT0Iu5eQ>



IMAGE 8 Jo's Car Camera Obscura tribute book

Joanna's compassion for others was extended to us when she heard our teary report of the loss of our Tarago Car Camera Obscura. After 600,000 kms across Australia making images, another car

collided with us rendering our much-loved van unrepairable. Shortly after this event, a small hand-made book containing a mini painting one of the camera obscura images appeared in the mail with a note from Joanna. We were deeply moved.



IMAGE 9: Jo's 'Always Was' Post card collected from postbox.jpg

Joanna created a space for art and creativity not just for herself but the broader arts community. She was a deep and highly intelligent critical thinker but also grounded by meeting the demands

of everyday life and sustaining an arts practice.

Joanna will often return in our thoughts ... as a powerhouse of creativity, conversation and humour ...



IMAGE 10: Jo walking with Abby at Ballina photo by Victoria Cooper

All photos & videos, unless indicated, are by Doug Spowart

EXTRA Zine Issue # 37 | For Joanna Kambourian | Text by Victoria Cooper + Doug Spowart

ARI REMIX PRESENTS "SELF-MADE, ARTIST-RUN" A NEW ZINE-BASED ARCHIVAL ART INITIATIVE "THE EXTRA ZINE PROJECT" | feat. TEN ARTISTS, TEN ZINES [2022-2023]

EXTRA

EXTRA is a Queensland/ Australian networked zine collaboration building from past, present and future 'living' archival art initiatives. Issue # 37 Online Launch 18 May 2023. This emerging zine and zine making project builds out directly from the ARI Remix Project [2011-2026]. It places an emphasis on making and transmitting creative archival assemblages comprising little stories, hidden histories, marginalised narratives and digitised art/ artists' ephemera safeguarded in the personal archives of artists. Artists and allies who were directly involved in the expanded and expanding SEQ/ Queensland/ Australian artist-run ecology 1940 to Now.

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/EXTRA ZINE](https://linktr.ee/extra_zine)

<https://remix.org.au>

<https://remix.org.au/extrazine>

https://www.instagram.com/ari_remix

https://www.instagram.com/extra_zine

The ARI Remix collective acknowledges and respects the traditional and ongoing custodians of the lands where we live, make and work. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded. We support the Uluru statement from the heart.

ARI REMIX | PROJECT TWO - Stage One 2022-2024

of this project are supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and have been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

