

The Counihan Connection

Reason for Donation

The money will be used to help cover costs to create a series of works that aim to educate people and engage them on the subject of how art interacts with politics, work and the community, and especially the works of Noel Counihan and the realist art movement in Australia.

The various projects

Observational footage for the following projects has mostly been shot.

- 6 x 10 minute films. Five of the films each focus on one of the contemporary artists. The artist creates an artwork inspired by Noel Counihan. As the artist creates the work they talk about Counihan, about their own art process, and about how they see art interacting with contemporary society. The sixth film is on Noel Counihan. This series will be created for distribution into the educational market.
- 5 x 5 minute films (Interstitials). Each film focuses on an aspect of Counihan and on one of the contemporary artists. This series will be created for broadcast on television. It will be cut down from the 10 minute films.
- 1 x 30 minute film. This film will focus on Noel Counihan, his art and ideas.

The following project is at research stage. It has grown out of a realisation that there is a need for a film, website and book on the realist art movement.

- 1 x 52 minute film. This film will focus on the realist art movement in Australia.
- A website that explores Counihan and the realist art movement. It will include clips from the various programmes. It will be designed for use by senior secondary and tertiary students.
- A book proposal for a book that explores the realist art movement. The book will be compiled from a series of essays from respected academics and curators and include images of the art.

Other information

Footage of the artists creating their artworks has been shot. Further interviews with Bernard Smith and realist artists are yet to be shot. Research into Counihan's letters, articles etc, and the location and documenting of his artworks will begin in November 09.

Ronin Films has expressed interest in distributing the film to the educational sector (see attached letter).

Snodger Media is co-owned by Catherine Gough-Brady and it has agreed to provide access to editing equipment and to produce the educational and

interstitial versions of the project.

Music will be composed by Emmy award winning Melbourne composer Martin Friedel.

Sample Synopsis of the proposed 30 minute film

“The Counihan Connection” is a documentary which follows five contemporary Australian artists creating artworks inspired by the art of Noel Counihan (1913-1986).

Each artist is creating a work for an exhibition at the Counihan Gallery In Brunswick. Each artist has to research Noel Counihan and choose an artwork that inspires them to create a new piece of art.

The contemporary artists include the painter William Kelly, the filmmaker / painter George Gittoes, the glass artist Kristin McFarlane, the linocut artist Angela Cavalieri and the street artist Satta Van Daal. Most of these artists are established and represented in major collections.

Early in the documentary Bernard Smith, art critic and Counihan’s biographer, explains who Counihan was, so that the audience understands upon whom the artists are basing their new works. Briefly, Noel Counihan grew up during the depression and this shaped his ideas on the role of the artist in society. He spent much of his life tackling the issue of how to combine his communist politics with his art.

As each of the contemporary artists creates their artwork, the viewer discovers more about the ideas and work of this artist, and at the same time the artists talk about what they think about the work and ideas of Counihan.

The documentary will be recorded in a semi-observational style in each artist’s studio. The creation of the new artworks occurs whilst the artist talks about their process, their work, and about Counihan.

The artists have different reactions to Counihan. Gittoes sees him as a warning of how political art can cause the artist to be ignored by the art establishment. Kelly greatly admires him. McFarlane looks into his letters and the drawings of his children. Cavalieri and Van Daal are interested in the quality of his printmaking, but react to this in different ways. Throughout the feature each artist reveals how they mix politics, be it domestic or the stuff of nations, with their art in the creation of their works.

Near the end of the feature, Robert Smith, an enthusiastic and enigmatic art critic, and compiler of Counihan’s prints, takes the viewer around the final exhibition, remembering stories about Counihan and commenting on Counihan’s art.

Breakdown of Amounts Sought

To create the 10x 6mins educational films, the 5x5mins broadcast interstitials and the 30min film.

<i>PURPOSE</i>	<i>Seeking</i>	<i>Already Received</i>
Editing fee of \$200 per day for 40 days	\$8000.00	\$3000.00
Musical Composition fee	\$3000.00	
Research at Archives, & copying costs	\$ 650.00	
Rights clearance of Counihan pictures	\$2000.00	

To research and shoot interviews for the 52 min film

<i>PURPOSE</i>	<i>Seeking</i>	<i>Already Received</i>
Research fee to cover cost of research into Counihan and the realist art movement for 6 months for Catherine Gough-Brady	\$25,000.00	
Trip to Israel to film Yosel Bergner	\$ 3000.00	

Cost of film production funding for the 52 minute film will be sought through non-charity funding once film has reached script stage (this occurs after research has concluded)

How to donate and receive tax deductibility

Please follow these steps to donate money and receive tax deductibility.

1. To receive the tax deduction for your donation please go to:
<http://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au/da/foundation/make.php>
2. After filling in the donation form please make sure you select: *“Support one or more documentaries on DAF’s Approved List of films?”*
3. Then type “Counihan Connection” in the box
4. The Documentary Australia Foundation will let you know once the donation has been approved by their board and you can then make the payment.

So far the film has received over \$3000 in grants.

Recognition of the Grant

Please let me know if you would like to be included in the list of donors. This list will appear on the website and in the credits of the DVD versions of the documentary.

Contact Details

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