
SJ Norman (he/they)

Author, inter-disciplinary artist and curator.

b. 1984 on Gadigal Country (Sydney, Australia).

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*Please note: when reviewing this CV in a digital format, links can be accessed by clicking the **highlighted text**.

Literary representation

Pippa Masson, Curtis Brown Australia.

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Writing and Cultural Studies), University of Technology, Sydney, sub-majoring in Photography.

Early education in devised theatre, performance and movement practice includes: PACT Centre for Emerging Artists as a Impact Ensemble Member (2004); training in Butoh and Bodyweather with Akaji Maro, Dairakudakan and Yoshito Ohno at the Kazoo Ohno Studio, Japan (2005), and training in contemporary dance with Martin Del Amp (2003-2009), and exchange studies in Theatre and Fine Art at Dartington College, UK.

Training in Fine Art and design has been largely self-led and informal, but has included non-award qualifications in Silversmithing, jewelry production and fashion pattern-making at Central St Martin's School for Art and Design (2012), and partial completion of a Master's program in Photography at Tulane University, New Orleans, USA (2023).

Books

Permafrost - UQP, 2021 - short fiction and auto-fiction - a collection of spare and strange stories that queer the colonial Gothic. Sample reviews [here](#) and [here](#).

Blood from a Stone - UQP, forthcoming in 2023 - a book length auto-fictional poem, exploring the generational impact of colonial violence on Aboriginal familial structures, gendered violence, and fractured embodiment.

Current works in progress

Skin in the Game - non-fiction prose/auto-fiction. A book about queer and trans love and eroticism in times of mass contagion.

Paleologos (WT), YA Fiction. Under option with Grove Atlantic, USA.

Awards, prizes and fellowships

2024

Winner, **Best Fiction, South Australian Literary Awards**, for *Permafrost*
Shortlist (winner to be announced in 2026), **ANTI Prize for Live Art**

2022

Winner, **Peter Blazey Fellowship** for non-fiction, for *Skin in the Game*.

Winner, **67th Blake Prize for Art**

2021

Shortlist, **Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (Fiction)**, for *Permafrost*

Shortlist, **Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (Indigenous Writing)**, for *Permafrost*

Shortlist, **ASL Gold Medal**, for *Permafrost*

Longlist, **The Stella Prize**, for *Permafrost*

Shortlist, Independent Bookseller's Book of the Year, for *Permafrost*

Shortlist, UTS/Copyright Agency Writer's Fellowship, for *Skin in the Game*

Shortlist, **Small Press Network Book of the Year**, for *Permafrost*

2020

Australia Council Fellowship

Runner-up, Peter Blazey Prize for Non-Fiction for *Blood from a Stone*

2018

Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship

Longlist, TLB Prize for Experimental Non-Fiction for *Blood from a Stone*

2017

Winner, **Kill Your Darlings Unpublished Manuscript Award** for *Permafrost* (as Onyx B. Carmine)

Longlist, ABR/Elizabeth Jolley Prize For Short Story for *Hinterhaus*

2009

Runner-up, Overland/Judith Wright Prize for poetry for *Open Water*

2007

Runner-Up, Overland/Judith Wright Prize for Poetry, for *Ryokan Ohto*

High Commendation, Australia Centre Literary Awards (DJ O'Hearn Prize), for *Atrocity Exhibition*

2006

Finalist (Literature), QANTAS/Noise SOYA Awards

Cross-genre writing projects

2020-21

The Liturgy of the Saprophyte.

This suite of 8 prose poems comprise the holy literature of a speculative religion. This work was Commissioned for artist Deborah Kelly's **CREATION** project and saw multiple iterations and presentations in print, audio-visual and live performance forms at many venues, including the Sydney Opera House, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and many others.

2020

(XXX) digital durational performance/collaborative text, with Joseph M. Pierce, Liveworks Festival/Fusebox Festival/Sydney Contemporary co-presentation.

In Plain Sight, collaborative project with Cassils and rafa esparza. A commissioned group of predominantly BIPOC artists and writers were invited to submit text responding to the crisis of migrant detention in the United States. A coordinated action saw the writer's texts written in the sky above isolated ICE detention centers, signposting the often covert locations of these facilities.

Short pieces

Literary and academic journal publications have included poems, essays, experimental non-fiction and stories appearing in *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *The Australian Cultural Studies Review*, *RealTime Magazine*, *Archer magazine*, *Kill Your Darlings*, and many others.

Recent print anthologies featuring poetry, non-fiction and fiction works include:

- **World Without End** (lyric essay), unMagazine, edited by Joel Spri
 - **Fellow Traveller**, (forthcoming), Earth Ethics anthology, edited by Megan Cope, Monash University Press
 - **Codex Exstasis**, lyric essay, Factory International, edited by McKenzie Wark
 - **Figure Studies (unknown subjects)**, lyric essay, exhibition catalogue for *untitled (transcriptions on Country)*, Jonathan Jones, Artspace Sydney.
 - **The Liturgy of the Saprophyte** (performance text), with original illustrations by the artist in Debris Magazine Issue. 4
 - **The Salt Lake**, lyric essay, winner of the 2023 Peter Blazey Prize for Non-Fiction
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- **Nothing to Hide: Voices of Trans and Gender Diverse Australia (Eds. Yves Rees, Sam Elkin, Ellen Gallagher, Bobuq Sayed, Allen and Unwin, 2022;**
 - **Groundswell: The Overland Judith Wright Poetry Prize for New and Emerging Poets 2007–2020** (Ed. Toby Fitch), Overland;
 - **Flock: First Nations Stories Then and Now**, (Ed. Ellen van Neerven), UQP, 2021.

Feature interviews and articles featuring my work have been published in *Vogue Australia*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Archer Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *The Guardian*, and many others.

* Please Note: For a comprehensive list of short publications, please request my Full CV.

Selected exhibitions and performances

My international exhibition and performance history is extensive. For a comprehensive list, please request my **Full CV**.

Recent solo shows include **Every Monster is a Mother**, ACE Hotel Gallery, New York. Recent major group exhibitions include: **The 4th National Indigenous Triennial**, The National Gallery of Australia; **From the Other Side**, ACCA; **Hair Pieces**, Heide Museum of Modern Art, **Violent Salt**, Artspace Mackay, **the 22nd Sydney Biennale**.

Recent major solo exhibitions and performance works have been presented at: **Centre Pompidou**, Brussels, **Performance Space New York (USA)**, **Adelaide Festival**, OperaEstate Festival (Italy), **Fusebox** Austin, **Spill Festival** (London and Ipswich), **Dark Mofo (Australia)**. Previous presentations of experimental theatre, performance and dance work have taken place at ArtsHouse, Melbourne; DanceHouse, Melbourne; Melbourne Festival, Brisbane Festival, and Edinburgh Festival.

Major acquisitions of artwork by public institutions include the permanent collection of the The National Gallery of Australia.

Curation (performance, music, cross-art form and public discourse programs)

2024

Curator (with Joseph M. Pierce), Knowledge of Wounds presents Raven Chacon, live concert followed by Raven Chacon (Diné) in conversation with Hayden Ryan (Yuin), Performance Space New York.

2023

Curator (with Joseph M. Pierce), **Knowledge of Wounds**, co-curated with Joseph M. Pierce, Performance Space New York, New York, USA.

-A 60 minute audio-visual anthology featuring sound composition by Chloe Alexandra Thompson, video by DB Amarin (Pacific Islander) and recorded readings by 8 First Nations poets - Billy-Ray Belcourt (Driftpile Cree), Demian DinéYazhi' (Diné, Naasht'ézhí Tábaqáhá and Tódich'í'í'nii clans), Brian Fuata (Samoa), Ellen van Neerven (Mununjali Yugambeh), Jazz Money (Wiradjuri), Alison Whittaker (Gomerioi), Hannah Donnelly (Wiradjuri), and Manu Tzoc (Maya K'iche').

2022

Curator, Knowledge of Wounds presents: e fishpool, Liveworks festival, Performance Space Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Live performance by Budawang composer e fishpool

Curator (with Joseph M. Pierce), Knowledge of Wounds presents: *They Can Never Burn the Stars*, an audio-visual performance by Chloe Alexandra Thompson and DB Amarin, Portland Centre for Contemporary Art. Portland, Oregon, USA.

2021

Curator, organizer and program designer, **Knowledge of Wounds online platform**.

-In response to the circumstances that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic, the formerly live Knowledge of Wounds program moved online. This undertaking involved a radical re-design of the curatorial framework to focus on public knowledge programs and pedagogy.

An array of public programs, curricula and workshops were delivered via the dedicated KoW online platform.

Highlights included:

- Keynote conversations by numerous leading Indigenous writers and public intellectuals, including Dr Kim TallBear (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate) and Daniel Browning (Bundjalung), Dr Romaine Moreton and Nardi Simpson (INSERT MOB)
- Open course modules on a variety of topics, including a 4 week course module on IndigeQueer poetics, led by Joshua Whitehead and Ellen van Neerven
- Roundtable discussions including: *First Nations Sonic Practice*, featuring: Nicholas Galanin (Tlingit), Emma Bastable (Gomerioi), Jack Grey (Maori), Eric Avery (Wiradjuri, Ngyiampaa-Wailawan).

2020

Curator (with Joseph M. Pierce), **Knowledge of Wounds**, Performance Space New York, New York, USA. The inaugural Knowledge of Wounds festival, which gathered a diverse and dynamic cohort of First Nations writers, theorists, performers, musicians and artists from 5 continents for a two day program featuring talks, workshops, ritual, performances and music.

2019

Curator, Critical Mass : *Crossroads*, performing arts festival and public program, Melbourne, Australia.

Public lectures, panels, symposia and colloquia

2024

Following the Nose, Panel (facilitator), with Damian DinéYahzi' and S.A Chavarria, New Museum, New York.

In Conversation with Damian DinéYazhi', Print Centre New York

Visiting Artist Talk, University of Syracuse, New York

After Images, Artist talk, with Carlos Motta, Pratt Institute for Fine Art, New York

2023

In Conversation, with Joel Spring, Monumental, Art Gallery of New South Wales

In Conversation, with Seini Taumoepeau, Monumental, Art Gallery of New South Wales

2022

Art at the Water's Edge, Symposium, with devynn emory and Joseph M. Pierce, Park Avenue Armory, New York City, USA.

Reading, *Sydney Writer's Festival Storytelling Gala*, with Evelyn Araluen, Ben Quilty, Damon Galgut, Morris Gleitzman, Toni Jordan, Thomas Keneally, Amanda Lohrey, Jazz Money, Omar Musa, Chelsea Watego and Hanya Yanagihara, Sydney, Australia.

Your Favourite's Favourites: SJ Norman In-Conversation with Hannah Kent, Sydney Writer's Festival, Sydney, Australia.

Reading, *Queerstories* with Maeve Marsden, Sydney Writer's Festival, Sydney, Australia.

Panel, *The Politics of Performance*, with Darrel Sibosado, Joel Bray and Hetti Perkins, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia.

2021

Keynote Address, Arts Activated: National Arts in Disability conference

Reading, The Wheeler Centre for Books and Ideas, Melbourne, Australia.

2020

Radical Imaginary, Colloquium, Princeton University, Princeton, USA.

Artist's Talk, aabakwaad, Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

Reading, aabaakwad, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Panelist, *Live Futures: Future Care, Future Intimacy*, Liveworks Festival, Sydney, Australia.

2019

Ritual / power/ Corpo-Realities, Colloquium, Critical Dance Studies, U of California, Riverside, USA

Panelist, *More than Bathrooms: Gender Diversity in Architecture* Melbourne Design Week, Melbourne, Australia

Reading, *First Dance*, for Dance Massive, The Wheeler Centre for Books and Ideas, Melbourne, Australia

2018

Public lecture, Artforum series, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia.

Panelist, *Decolonising Practice*, Kier Choreographic Award Public Program, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia.

Panelist, *Gender, Performativity and Embodiment*, Kier Choreographic Award Public Program, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia

2017

Panelist, The Longform Society meeting, *The Argonauts* by Maggie Nelson, with Quinn Eades, Hanna McCann and Sofie Cunningham, The Wheeler Centre for Books and Ideas.

Panelist, *Blood and Identity*, with Peta Clancy and Gabriel Nodea, Science Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.

2016

Panelist, *Playing Up* Symposium, Tate Modern, London, UK.

2015

In-conversation, Stone Tape Theory, Chameleon Eye films (video, 5 min), Spill Festival, London, UK.

Artist Talk, *Marina Abramovic: Evenings in Residence*, Kaldor Public Art Projects, Sydney, Australia.

Artist Talk, Tarnanthi Festival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Adelaide, Australia.

Panelist, Dance Massive, with Jill Orr and Professor Anne Marsh, Melbourne, Australia.

2014

Panelist: *Commemoration: Rites, Rituals and Daily matters*, Venice International Performance Art Week, Venice, Italy.

In Conversation, with Cassils, Spill Tv Thinker-in-Residence Series, Spill Festival, London, UK.

Workshops, masterclasses, mentorships and pedagogy

2024

Fellow Traveller, Performance Workshop, Leslie Lohman Museum, New York

Artist workshop, University of Syracuse, New York

2023

Post-Rave Somatics, Performance workshop, Center for Arts and Research Alliance, New York

After Images, Performance workshop, Pratt Institute for Fine Arts, New York

2021

Workshop author and facilitator, *Devising Practice and Considerations*, Queer Development Program, Performance Space, Sydney, Australia. A four-day writing workshop for a generationally and culturally diverse group of creative practitioners.

2020-21

Mentor to artist and emerging writer curator Grace Marlow

2020

Workshop facilitator for Marrickville School of Economics, an artist-led pedagogical platform led by theorist practitioner Dr Rebecca Conroy.

2019-ongoing

Mentor to artist Joshua Pether

2017

Workshop author and facilitator (with Sarah Rodigari and Mish Grigor) *Second-Hand Emotions: on feminism and love*. A two-week interdisciplinary creative writing and critical theory intensive for a diverse group of creative practitioners. Vitalstatistix, Adelaide, Australia.

2017

Mentee to author Hannah Kent

2015

Mentor to Ria Jade Hartley, SPILL National Platform, London, United Kingdom

Committee work, peer assessment and sector advocacy

2023 Trans and First Nations advisory, Colby Museum of American Art, Watermill Maine,

Trans and First Nations advisory, New Museum, New York

Peer Assessor, New Museum, New York

2021 Delegate, Indigenous arts policy development, First Nations Performing Arts Network, Portland Oregon, USA.

2019 Curatorial committee, Next Wave Festival, Melbourne, Australia.

Delegate, Indigenous Choreographers Conference, University of California, Riverside, USA.

2018 Grant assessment committee, CultureLab, Arts House. Melbourne, Australia.

2017 Australia Council delegate, Indigenous arts policy development, First Nations Dialogues, Performance Space New York, USA.

2018-continuous Judging panel, Green Room Awards (Contemporary and Experimental Performance Category), Melbourne, Australia.

Grants and Residencies

2023

International Artist in Residence, Headlands Centre, San Francisco, USA
ACE Hotel New York, Artist in Residence

2021

Ford Foundation triennial endowment for Knowledge of Wounds

2020

Australia Council Resilience Grant
Australia Council International Market Development Grant
Performance Space MicroFellowship

2019

Creative Exchange Lab, Portland Center for Contemporary Art, Portland, Oregon, USA

2018

Creative Victoria Project Grant
Australia Council Career and Arts Development Grant

2017

Australia Council Delegation, First Nations Dialogues
Australia Council for the Arts Market Development Grant (International Market Development)
Australia Council for the Arts Skills and Arts Development Grant (Experimental Arts)
CultureLab creative development fund, Arts House and City of Melbourne

2015

Bundanon Trust, Writer in Residence

2014

Hopscotch, touring grant, Australia Council for the Arts
Artist in Residence, Queer Zagreb/Perforacija, Zagreb, Croatia

2013

Australia Council Indigenous Experimental Art Fund (Projects)

2012

Artist in residence, Convento Sao Francisco de Mertola, Mertola, Portugal.

2011

City of Melbourne: Arts Projects Grant
Artist in Residence, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney, Australia
IndigeSpace Artist in Residence, Performance Space, Sydney, Australia

2009

Artist in Residence, GlogauAIR, Berlin, Germany

2007

Australia Council New Work Grant (Literature)
Australia Council Write in Your Face grant (Literature)

Editorial and copywriting

2006 *Dreaming in Motion: Celebrating Australia's Indigenous Filmmakers*, Realtime/OpenCity and Screen Australia.
Assistant editor, copywriter and researcher.

2006 Copywriter, Screen Australia, Indigenous Branch, Sydney, Australia.

2004-2006 Freelance writer, assistant editor and proofreader, Realtime Magazine, Sydney, Australia.

Union service

University of Technology Sydney, Student Union Officer, 2005-2006

University of Technology Sydney, Editor Student Union Newspaper, 2004

Citizenship, residency status and Indigenous cultural ties

Valid O1, Adjustment of status pending.

Dual-Citizen of Australia and Great Britain.

Documented ancestral, familial and community ties to the Wiradjuri, Ngyiampaa-Wailawan and Dharug Nations of south-eastern Australia.