

# *In-Habit.*

## *Turning the evaluation elephant into a lamp –June 1<sup>st</sup> In Habit gathering*

An important part of our *In Habit* research and work together is to delve into how evaluation can become a creative exercise that informs our professional practice, and others who seek to experience it, support it, want to know more about it, participate, collaborate, present, produce, reconsider...

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of our June 1<sup>st</sup> gathering is to take the heavy burden out of evaluation and turn it into an object that will illuminate our practice. Our goal is that by the end of the afternoon we'll each have designed and constructed our own, singular set of 'evaluation tools'.

### **Who:**

To do this we'll be working with Martin Mulligan and Pia Smith from the Globalism Institute – RMIT, whilst assisting the research of Ian Cuming - an OzCo Fellowship recipient, in his researching of models of evaluation for artists. Dr Lachlan Macdowall, a lecturer from the VCA will also be present to briefly discuss his "most important change" model of evaluation.

We're at the same time scientists and guinea pigs, the probing and the probed, the researchers and the researched

### **Why:**

Why and how our In Habit projects 'work' (or why not), is central to our research. What we choose to take from this will in one way or another inform future works.

And rather than waiting for others to determine what model for our research evaluation, we're taking the lead by designing it and then testing it ourselves. How we go about this could well be useful to others and that's good.

'Evaluation' that provides 'evidence' is the new order of the day.

"Indicators" that signal achievement, milestones that mark progress, statistics that prove 'sustainability', are all part of the evaluation cocktail that can be as revolutionary as it can be destructive.

### **How: Pre June 1<sup>st</sup> exercise:**

**On the basis that not everyone who you'd have at/with you work can be there to experience it, draw up a list of 5 –10 contexts where you could imagine you'll be in dialogue with others helping them to understand your practice and its qualities in order to develop it over the next 5 years.**

**Bring the list along with you on June 1st.**

**We will be working individually and in groups throughout the day.**

As a starting point, Ian's drawn up a preliminary list of contexts in which evaluation is useful to furthering your practice or advocating an approach to arts practice. Add others you consider are important. Circulate your suggestions via the forum or email or send them through to Emilie who'll post and circulate for you.

**From this, each of us will be able to draw from a comprehensive list.**

**10 contexts from Ian Cumming in which evaluation might be useful include but are not limited to:**

- guest speaking events,**
- seminars and conferences,**
- exhibition openings,**
- performance program notes,**
- collaborations where a clear statement about the way we work may help us and others prepare for new work,**
- cross cultural collaborations where a starting point may help define any progress attained by working together**
- government funding applications and acquittals,**
- corporate partnering and promotion,**
- charitable foundation communications,**
- self renewal processes . . . healing and refining the way we go about our work,...**

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