

DINING ROOM

tales

AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL ART PRACTICE
FOOD. PERFORMANCE. STORYTELLING.
YOU'RE INVITED

PORTO FRANKFURTAMMMAIN YOKOHAMA SYDNEY HELSINKI MELBOURNE BELOHORIZONTE KANSAI ALENTEJO PERTH CANBERRA LISMORE AVOCA FAIRHAVEN DIXIE DERRINALLUM COBDEN NIRRANDA DARLINGTON SKIPTON JANJUC HAMILTON BELAVISTA BRUNSWICK CARLTON CASULA CERCAL CRAWLEY DICKSON ERSKINEVILLE GLENIRIS GUTLEUTVIERTEL LIVERPOOL LOURDES MALVERN MITTE NISHINOMIYA NORTHMELBOURNE NORTHCOTE PIMLICO QUARRYBAY PADDINGTON PORTMELBOURNE ROSEBAY SÄOBENTO SOUTHYARRA SOUTHBANK SUOMENLINNA SURRYHILLS SYLVANIA TARRINGTON TEMPLESTOWE TESBURY THORNBURY VITÓRIA WESTGARTH WOOLLAHRA SÄOPAULO LISBON HONGKONG BERLIN LONDON





“★★★★★”
Artshub

“The antidote to fear and misinformation and hatred.”
Alison Croggon, ABC Arts

“Top quality socially engaged creative practice.”
Jill Morgan AM, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

STITCHING OUR NARRATIVE THREADS TOGETHER, ONE SLOW MEAL AT A TIME.

Dining Room Tales is a global-local social art practice centred on food, diversity, and the role food-sharing plays in building the spirit of our communities. You are invited to the dinner table to share in the life and practice of an internationally acclaimed artist, as they prepare you a communal meal. In between moments of formal and informal performance, you become entangled in the very process of creating an artwork.

Conceived and directed by Australian artist Xan Colman, Dining Room Tales brings people together in creative actions of social resilience, deploying food, storytelling and performance to provoke critical conversations about who we are as a society, and the future we approach together.

Xan collaborates with artists around the world, each collaboration weaving performance material from the life and practice fabric of its protagonist artist. The resulting works are shared as broadly and diversely as possible, deepening understandings of small community activation through art, the impact of filtering diverse knowledge inputs into slow social settings, and connecting hyper-local action across global distance.

This is our global-local; small communities, leaning into each other from afar.



Photo: Raphael Recht



Photo: Oliver Rudkin

WE NEED TO SLOW DOWN MORE. SMELL THE ROSES. THERE'S TIME. REALLY.

Xan Colman is an interdisciplinary artist, director and producer based in regional Victoria and active internationally. He works in a variety of contexts, from international festivals to micro-residencies, tertiary education to large state theatres, experimental performance platforms to post-conflict community development.

Highlights include engagements with Makhampom Theatre (Thailand), New Territories (UK), Schaubühne Berlin (DE), Fundación Valparaíso (ESP), West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (HK), National Review of Live Art (UK), Black Market International, Robert Wilson, Berliner Ensemble (DE), The Drama Review (US), University of Melbourne and Chulalongkorn University Bangkok.

A fellow of the International Theatre Institute (UNESCO) and alumnus of the Asialink Leaders Program, Xan is also the Artistic Director of Melbourne contemporary performance company A is for Atlas.

diningroomtales.com
aisforatlas.org.au

"Nourishment for body and soul."
Weekend Notes

"A unique contribution to our cultural sector, with lasting impacts on the communities it engages."
Adriano Cortese, Seoul Marginal Theatre Festival

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

CHERRY, CHERRY

WITH
NEDA RAHMANI

"Just wonderful. No other words needed. Go."
Audience Member

"Suffused with hospitality at every level"
The Age

WATCH

WATCH

VISIT



MELBOURNE
CANBERRA
PERTH
SYDNEY
LISMORE
DERRINALLUM
NORTHCOTE
CRAWLEY
DICKSON
SILVANIA
ROSEBAY
THORNBURY
SOUTHYARRA
GLENIRIS
CASULA
SOUTHBANK
PADDINGTON
CARLTON

Born in Tehran to a Persian father and Mauritian mother, Neda Rahmani arrived in Australia a two-year-old refugee. Over twenty years, she has established herself as the quintessential self-made Aussie musician, and bedrock advocate of her community. Home-cooked in a kitchen of song, drums, dance and storytelling, 'Cherry, Cherry' is Neda's unique tale of generosity and loss, of adventure, art, and the making of home. A performance experience like no other. Come share a meal with Neda.

Stories of Neda Rahmani
Written and composed by Xan Colman
Performed by Neda Rahmani with Marrs Coiro
Food by Neda Rahmani
Costumes by Melanie Liertz
Directed by Xan Colman

Premiere: 2011

Commissioned with the support of the Dennis Osborne Clarke Charitable Trust and Multicultural Arts Victoria. Presented with the assistance of SummerSalt Outdoor Arts Festival, Darebin Homemade Food and Wine Festival, Creative Partnerships Australia through Plus1, Angior Family Foundation, St Catherine's College at University of Western Australia, and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

ANOTHER DAY OF LIFE

WITH JORGE ANDRADE

"Attendance is advisable."
Audience Member

 WATCH

 VISIT



LISBON
PORTO
BERLIN
MELBOURNE
LISMORE
VICTORIA
THORNBURY
SANTOS

Photo: Raphael Recht

When we die the atoms that made us up no longer have any reason to stay together. Right? They continue to exist, but as our body degrades, they start to drift apart and move away to shape other things. The dirt that surrounds our dead body, the plants, the insects, the birds. And while they are apart, these atoms, they suffer a kind of nostalgia for having been together. For having made us. For causing us to smile and laugh, and kiss and cry, and tell each other stories. And so all these atoms, that's trillions in each one of us, are yearning to come back to each other. Celebrate the passage of time with mala voadora's Jorge Andrade.

Performance and Food by Jorge Andrade
Concept and Direction by Xan Colman
Texts of mala voadora, embroidered by Jorge and Xan

Premiere: 2023

A co-production of A is for Atlas and mala voadora. Commissioned with the support of the Australian Government through Creative Partnerships Australia, and the Portuguese Ministry of Culture through Direção-Geral das Artes. Presented with the assistance of Hošek Contemporary and the Australian Embassy Lisbon.

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

PHOENIX

WITH
WANG ZHENG-TING

"unifying, edifying and delicious... a wonderful cultural experience merging east with west."
Audience Member

 WATCH

 WATCH

 VISIT



MELBOURNE
HAMILTON
LISMORE
COBDEN
DERRINALUM
NIRRANDA
DIXIE
SKIPTON
DARLINGTON
TEMPLESTOWE
TARRINGTON

Originally from Shanghai, Wang Zheng-Ting is a master of the traditional Chinese instrument, the Sheng. Thought to be the inspiration for the western piano accordion, this 'Chinese mouth organ' is a true musical phoenix. Join Ting for an evening of storytelling, magical music, and delicious food from Shanghai to Sichuan. A very personal look at three decades building a new life of music in Australia.

Stories, Food and Performance: Wang Zheng-Ting
Concept and Direction: Xan Colman

Premiere: 2019

Presented with the assistance of Creative Partnerships Australia through Plus1, the Hugh D. T. Williamson Foundation and Corangamite Shire.

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

CLOTH/TUCH

WITH
JÜRGEN FRITZ IN
AN INSTALLATION
BY CHRISTINE
BIEHLER

"will fascinate practitioners and admirers of
contemporary performance art"

The Age

WATCH

VISIT



Performance artist Jürgen Fritz was born in 1958 in the Black Forest in Germany. He is a founding member of the revered Black Market International, a cooperation of artists that has been performing worldwide since 1985. His performances are characterised by great concentration and precision, often using very simple materials to create very impressive images.

Jürgen's dinner bell has now been rung...

A performance by Jürgen Fritz
In an installation by Christine Biehler
Concept and Direction: Xan Colman
Bearbeitung: Christine, Jürgen u. Xan
Food: Jürgen u. Xan, mit Dank an Peter Strzoda

Premiere: 2018

Commissioned with the support of the Australian Government through the Anzac Centenary Arts & Culture Fund, Gandel Foundation, and Creative Partnerships Australia through Plus1. Presented with the assistance of Helsinki International Artist Program, Goethe Institut Australien, Atelier RaumWandDach, and Meat Market/ City of Melbourne.

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

BREATHE

WITH
YOSHIO HAMANO

"Such a wonderful performance yesterday and a pleasure to meet Yoshio. Tonight I invited family for borscht and listened to his CD!"
Audience Member

 WATCH

 WATCH

 VISIT



KANSAI
SYDNEY
YOKOHAMA
NISHINOMIYA
SURRYHILLS

Worlds and cultures collide in the kitchen and on the keys in this ninth Dining Room Tale. Russian-Japanese concert pianist Yoshio Hamano takes you on a musical journey through the many chapters of his multicultural life, sharing sounds, stories and flavours from Russia, Japan and beyond.

Stories, Food and Performance: Yoshio Hamano
Concept and Direction: Xan Colman

Premiere: 2019

Commissioned with the support of the Australian Government through the Anzac Centenary Arts & Culture Fund, Creative Partnerships Australia through Plus1, Gandel Foundation and Yokohama City for Yokohama Sound Festival. Presented with the assistance of NPO Acchi Cocchi and Japan Foundation Australia.

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

ACROBAT

WITH
DAVID CHONG
AND NATHAN
SLATER

"A wonderfully gratifying experience."
The Age

"I'm writing with tears in my eyes, so it says everything I
am feeling now. The worst part is it ended."
Audience Member

WATCH

WATCH

VISIT



HONGKONG
SÃO PAULO
MELBOURNE
BELOHORIZONTE
DIXIE
SOUTHBANK
MALVERN
QUARRYBAY
LISMORE
DERRINALUM
LOURDES
SÃO BENTO
GLENIRIS
BRUNSWICK
FAIRHAVEN

David Chong was born in Australia, the son of Chinese acrobats who were touring Australia at the time. They settled in Brazil when David was 6 years old, and David returned to his 'native' Australia as a non-English speaking 25-year-old. David finds himself in the unique situation of being Australian by birth, Chinese by heritage and Brazilian by culture. Acrobat is his personal tale of the contemporary cultural mosaic: a high-wire dance across continents on the sounds of Brazil and the aromas of the world. The song of a circus son. Featuring live music by Chong and his co-composer, jazz guitarist Nathan Slater.

Stories of David Chong
Songs by David Chong and Nathan Slater of Tatu Rei
Performed by David Chong and Nathan Slater
Food by David Chong
Concept, Direction and Text: Xan Colman
Director's attachment: Yuhui Ng-Rodriguez

Premiere: 2014

Commissioned with the support of the Dennis Osborne Clarke Charitable Trust. Presented with the assistance of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Melbourne International Jazz Festival, SummerSalt Outdoor Arts Festival, Corangamite Shire, Hugh D. T. Williamson Foundation, and the Australian Government through Department of Foreign Affairs/Australia Now Brasil 2016.

Photos: Ferné Millen

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

J.S. WITH CAMERON ROBERTS

"The orchestration of the evening was pure genius"
Audience Member

VISIT

An intimate encounter with Johann Sebastian Bach, through the practice and research of UK-based Australian pianist Cameron Roberts. Guests are drawn into the inner world of Bach—unknowable man of unfathomable genius—through keyboard originals, transcriptions for piano, and text compositions. Not to mention a Germanic meal.

Stories and Performance: Cameron Roberts
Text and Food: Xan Colman and Cameron Roberts
Concept and Direction: Xan Colman

Premiere: 2022

Commissioned with the support of City of Melbourne. Presented with the assistance of Creative Partnerships Australia through Plus1.

CAMPERDOWN
JANJUC

BACH

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

G.O.A.T.

WITH

JULIUS BRIGHT SACKEY

"Great stories, great food, and just a little bit of social change."
Audience Member

 WATCH

 VISIT



Julius Bright Sackey is an artist driven by the crashing together of inspirations ... Ghana and Australia (his home countries) ... Dance, music and visual art (his disciplines) ... People and food (his community). Join Sackey for a feast of the soul and the senses.

Stories and Food by Julius Bright Sackey
Performed by Julius Bright Sackey and Kofi Kunkpe
Concept and direction: Xan Colman

Premiere: 2016

Commissioned with the support of the Dennis Osborne Clarke Charitable Trust and City of Darebin for Darebin Homemade Food and Wine Festival.



BAKER'S DOZEN

WITH
ZIERLE & CARTER

"Deeply and delightfully nourished by Dining Room Tales tonight, tender and beautiful"

Kira O'Reilly, Artist

 WATCH

 VISIT



LONDON
SYDNEY
MELBOURNE
PIMLICO
ERSKINEVILLE
PORTMELBOURNE

What do you treasure most in your life?

What message would you give to a stranger?

What aspect of your life would you like to scrap here today?

What is it you always wanted to say, but for some reason haven't said yet?

Zierle & Carter invite you to the dinner table to unmask a life made together in images and interactions, in the small moments of intimacy and potential, from the forest to the shopping centre.

Is there anything that keeps you from dancing into the wilderness of your heart?

Stories of Alexandra Zierle and Paul Carter

Rethreaded by Xan Colman and Zierle & Carter

Actioned by Zierle & Carter

Food by Zierle & Carter and Xan Colman

Concept and Direction: Xan Colman

Premiere: 2013

Commissioned with the support of the Dennis Osborne Clarke Charitable Trust.

FOURTEEN STORIES FOR FOURTEEN YEARS

WITH
LYNDAL JONES AND
WATFORD HOUSE

"Today was wonderful because friendships are tied together through collaborative experiences."

Audience Member

 WATCH

 VISIT



Lyndal Jones is an artist who focuses on the politics of context, place and gender through very long-term projects. From 2005-18, she worked on The Avoca Project, an international art project in regional Victoria centred on Watford House. Referred to locally as 'The Swiss House', this pre-fabricated gold-rush residence was imported as numbered planks from Scandinavia via Hamburg in 1852. The house is thus itself an immigrant, and for fourteen years played host and provocateur for a series of art works addressing place, land and community amid the encroaching effects of globalisation and climate extremes in regional Australia.

Stories of Lyndal Jones and Watford House

Performed by Lyndal Jones and Watford House with Francesca Howe and Xan Colman

Food by Lyndal and Xan

Concept and Direction: Xan Colman

Premiere: 2018

Commissioned with the support of the Australian Government through the Anzac Centenary Arts & Culture Fund, Creative Partnerships Australia through Plus1, and Gandel Foundation.

NOTFOUNDTYET

WITH
LAIA FEBRE
AND THOMAS
KASEBACHER

"Gives a new meaning to 'dinner and a show'"
ArtsHub

 WATCH

 VISIT



PORTMELBOURNE
NORTHMELBOURNE

Xan Colman, Laia Fabre and Thomas Kasebacher met folk dancing.

They can all dance, after a fashion.

Thomas, Laia and Xan all like children's songs by Mozart.

They can all sing, a little at least.

Laia, Thomas and Xan all wonder whether they might've otherwise been chefs.

They can all cook, it is alleged.

The three of them say they love stories. Wild and wondrous stories. Boring everyday stories.

There is a thrill in being lost together. When everything feels scattered, a picture starts to emerge.

And then the folk music starts again.

Stories and Food by Laia Fabre and Thomas Kasebacher

Performed by Laia Fabre and Thomas Kasebacher

Concept and direction: Xan Colman

Director's attachment: Anna Nalpanitidis

Premiere: 2016

Commissioned with the support of Festival of Live Art, the Federal Chancellery of Austria, Arts House, Austrian Embassy Canberra and City of Melbourne.

11 ORIGINAL WORKS SHARED IN
 112 PERFORMANCE EVENTS WITH
 52 COMMUNITIES ACROSS
 8 COUNTRIES SINCE
 2011 WITH
 +5 NEW WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

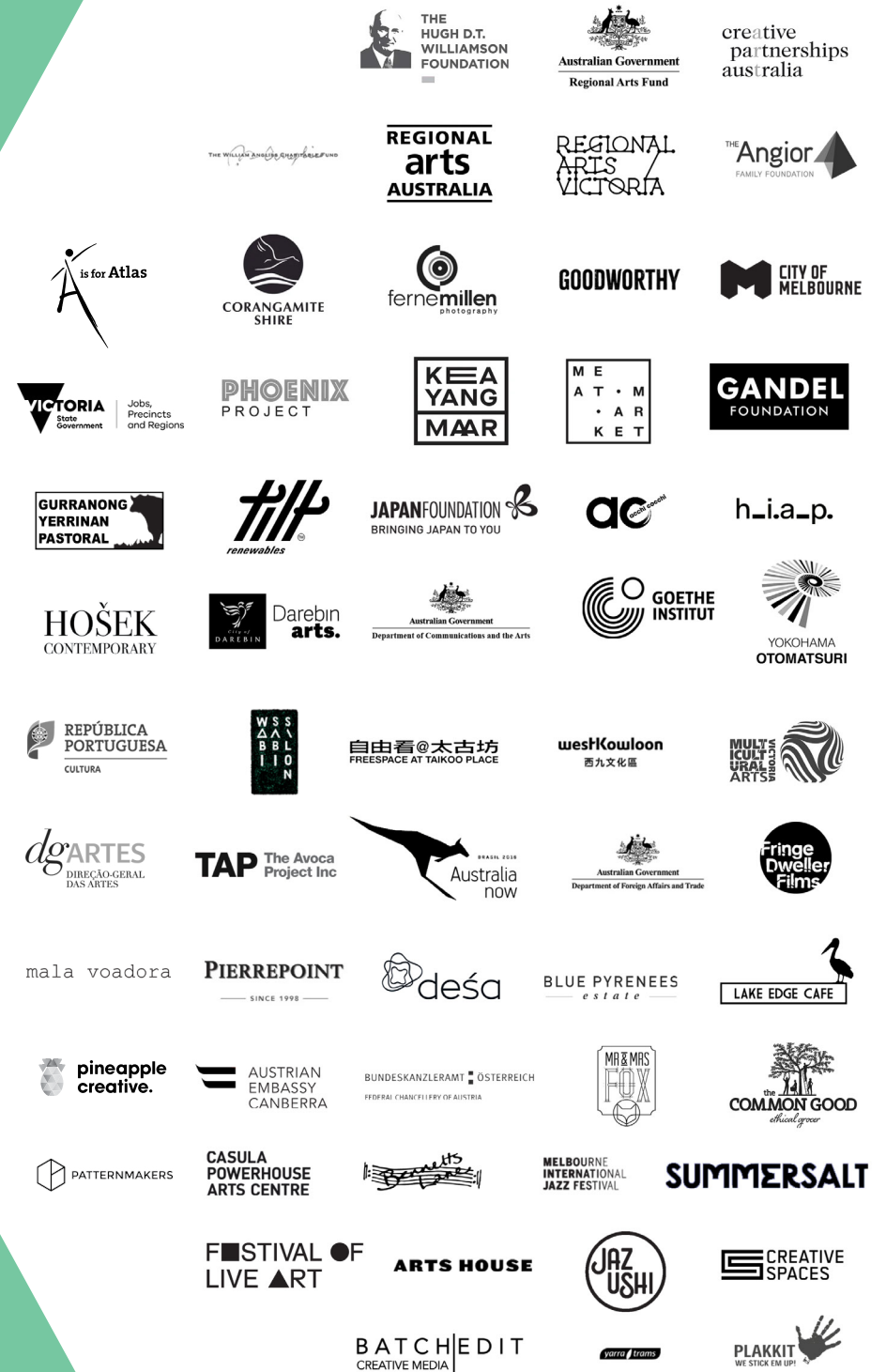
We travel light and work hyper-locally (with hosts, food producers, services), and ensure every hour one of us spends in the sky is translated into at least one new tree in the ground.



783
FLIGHT HOURS



1,129
TREES PLANTED





A is for Atlas

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diningroomtales.com
vimeo.com/album/2336547

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