



V N S M A T R I X S e l e c t e d C u r r i c u l u m v i t a e

VNS Matrix (articulated as V.N.S. a fauxcronym) was a cyberfeminist media art collective formed in Adelaide (South Australia) in 1991. From 1991 - 1997 they presented installations and public art works in Australia and overseas, working with new media, photography, sound and video. Their works include installations, events, imagery and propaganda distributed through the Internet, zines, and billboards. Taking their point of departure in a sexualised and socially provocative relationship between women and technology the works subversively questioned discourses of domination and control in the expanding cyber space.

The first of their works (a large scale billboard), inspired by such theorists as Donna Haraway and Sadie Plant, featured their seminal text "A Cyberfeminist Manifesto for the 21st Century". It was in this manifesto that the term "cyberfeminism" first appeared, and this work was widely distributed. In the manifesto, VNS Matrix stated that, "we are the modern cunt/positive anti reason/unbounded unleashed unforgiving" and that, "we are the virus of the new world disorder/rupturing the symbolic from within/saboteurs of big daddy mainframe/the clitoris is a direct line to the matrix/the VNS Matrix". The group disbanded in 1997, but occasionally work together on selected projects and presentations. Their parting manifesto "Bitch Mutant Manifesto" gave the finger to all technopatriarchies and capitalist infospheres with the words "suck my code" amongst other blasphemous exhortations.

"... cyberfeminism was a catalytic moment, a collective memetic mind-virus that mobilised geek girls everywhere and unleashed the blasphemous techno-porno code that made machines pleasurable and wet. a linguistic weapon of mass instruction, the vns manifesto struck at the mass erection of the technopatriarchal order. we loved with machines, in a most unholy alliance. as I watch pussy riot declining to be "clean and proper" bodies in a most filthy way, i feel the morphing cyberg feminist lineage stretching through time and space. vns matrix were dirty space cowboys, echoes of the abjectionable in orbit, space junk (in every way) in the stratosphere!" *Virginia Barratt, unpublished*

VNS MATRIX

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Exhibitions, Commissioned Works

Chicks on Speed, The Internet Café That Has No Name, Linz, Austria, September 2011

Kiss Kiss Bang Bang, “45 years of art and feminism”, Museo Bilbao, Spain, June 2007
Catalogue Listing: <http://museobilbao.absysnet.com/cgi-bin/abwebmb/X6953/ID864536234/G0>

VNS Matrix website, “Next Wave Down Under”, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, October 2001

Chemistry: Art in South Australia 1990 - 2000, INFILTRATE lightbox, Art Gallery of South Australia, March 2001

Bad Code, Axis Exhibition, The Old Church, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 1999

Bad Code, Aust Film Commission annual conference, Melbourne, June 1998

Limit of Worlds | Virtual Theme Parks, 4 cinema “advertisements” for Big New Sites, screened in cinemas around Australia, February 1996

All New Gen, mixed media installation, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, March-April 1995

All New Gen, mixed media installation, Artspace, Sydney, January-March 1995

All New Gen, mixed media installation, Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide, October-November 1993

Bad Code, “Cybercultures”, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney, March 1997

Bad Code, Australian Film Commission pavilion, MILIA, Cannes, France, January 1997

All New Gen, installation, YYZ Gallery, Toronto, Canada Sept 1995

All New Gen, CDROM, “utopia/dystopia: feminist activism and art” Centre of the Arts, San Francisco April 1995

All New Gen, installation, Aust Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne March 1995
<https://www.accaonline.org.au/exhibition/vns-matrix-all-new-gen>

All New Gen, installation, Artspace, Sydney, Australia Jan 1995

All New Gen, CDROM, “Cyber”, Gallerie Patrick Martin, France August 1994

All New Gen, installation, ISEA '94, Helsinki, Finland 1994

The Clitoris is a Direct Line to the Matrix, Public poster project, “Esensual Fragments”, ACCA, Melbourne August 1994

https://www.accaonline.org.au/sites/default/files/1994_VNS%20Matrix_media%20release.pdf

Infiltrate lightbox, “25 Years of Performance Art in Australia” Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney June 1994

All New Gen, installation, Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide, 1993

All New Gen, lightboxes and soundworks, FISEA, Minneapolis, USA 1993

All New Gen, lightboxes and soundworks, Fannie Bay Park, Darwin, 1993

All New Gen, lightboxes and soundworks, TISEA, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, 1993

All New Gen, lightboxes and soundworks, TISEA, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney, 1992

A Cyberfeminist Manifesto for the 21st Century, 6m x 3m Billboard, "Experimenta", Melbourne, 1992

A Cyberfeminist Manifesto for the 21st Century, 2m x 1m cibachrome, "Siggraph 92 Art Show", Chicago, USA, 1992

A Cyberfeminist Manifesto for the 21st Century, 6m x 3m Billboard, "Watch This Space", (Public Art billboard project), Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney, 1992

A Cyberfeminist Manifesto for the 21st Century, exhibition and distribution of manifesto and images, "Cy MishMash World", Elaine Gallery, Melbourne, 1992

Curatorial and conferences

Presentation of VNS Matrix artwork, "What is the Enlightenment 2" conference, Maastricht, Netherlands, May 2000

Presentation of *Bad Code*, "NXT Conference", Darwin, September 1999

Julianne Pierce & Josephine Starrs represent VNS Matrix at "Documenta X", First Cyberfeminist Internaitonal, Kassel, Germany, September 1997

Presentation of *Bad Code*, "DEAF, V2", Rotterdam, September 1996

Presentation of *Bad Code*, "Memesis: The Future of Evolution", Ars Electronica Symposium, Linz, Austria, Sept 1995

Online presentation and workshop *SpiralSpace*, YYY Gallery, Toronto, Canada, 1992

Artist's talk, New York University multimedia department, New York, 1992

Artist's talk, Studio XX, Montreal, Canada, 1992

Guest speakers, "New Media ISEA Forum", Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, December 1994

Guest speakers, "Terminal Futures" conference, Institute of Contemporary Art, London, October 1994

Guest speakers, "International Symposium on Electronic Art" (ISEA "94), Helsinki, Finland August 1994

Manifesto Event, Manifesto paste-up, soundworks and LED display, "25 years of Performance Art", The Performance Space, Sydney, June 1994

Curatorial, *Future Languages*, Forums, workshop, artists talks, online installation, video screening, 1994 Adelaide Festival Artists Week, Adelaide, March 1994

Pathogenic Vectors, Performed paper, Electronic Media Art Conference, "Video Art - Checking the Frontier", Sydney, 1993

Going Down and Biting the Code, Performed paper, Griffith University Conference "Media Futures", Gold Coast, 1993

Pathogenic Vectors, Performed paper, International Symposium on Electronic Art, Helsinki, Finland, 1993

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Davis, Juliet, "Avatar Evolution: VNS MATRIX" *Cyberfeminist Issues in Body Representation*, 2003. www.julietdavis.com/papers/cyberfeministissues.pdf last accessed 20.10.2014

Kay Schaffer. "The Game Girls of VNS Matrix: Challenging Gendered Identities in Cyberspace" in *Sexualities in History: A Reader* edited by Kim M. Phillips and Barry Reay, 434 – 452. New York: Routledge, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0415929349 ISBN-10: 0415929342

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Griffith Artworks, Griffith University, Qld
Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
Harvard University, Columbia, USA

Grants

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Australian Film Commission, Travel funding to attend ISEA 1994, Helsinki, 1994

New Work Grant, Visual Arts Craft Fund of the Australia Council, production of *All New Gen* multimedia artwork, 1992

Arts SA, Development funding for *All New Gen* project ,1991