

29 September 2024

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Woodford Folk Festival to offer our support for Memetica, led by Daniele Poidomani, in their application to Creative Australia's International Engagement Fund for the project Chéngyǔ and its reciprocal residency exchange.

The iconic Woodfordian Elders, a giant puppet performance created by Memetica, has become a signature feature of our festival. Over the past 15 years, these performances have captivated audiences of tens of thousands, creating a folklore that resonates year after year. The Elders' performances have brought immense joy to both participants and audiences, with many volunteers returning annually.

The Woodford Folk Festival is one of Australia's largest community-based multi-arts festivals. Set on a 500-acre property in Woodford, Queensland, it is a six-day event hosting over 450 acts and 2,750 performers across 35 venues, attracting 130,000 visitors annually and contributing over \$21 million to the Queensland economy.

We are excited to support Daniele's current project through our Festival's volunteer programme, and facilitate a residency for two artists from Taiwan's Puppet and Its Double. These artists will join the volunteers that Woodford Festival provides annually to Memetica, forming The Elders crew—a diverse group trained by Daniele in the art of street performance, culminating in The Elders' show.

Our volunteer program attracts over 2,000 people from around the world, fostering cross-cultural exchange through shared meals, work, and experiences. We are delighted to support Memetica in this endeavour, which aligns with our mission of nurturing creativity and cultural exchange.

We also intend to showcase the outcome from the Taiwan residency, should one arise, as part of the ongoing collaboration.

We plan to enrol the two artists from Puppet and Its Double into our volunteering program and provide: Pre-Festival meals: \$900 (10 days per 3 meals x 2 people); Festival tickets: \$672 each (\$1344 for 2 people)

Given Daniele's long history of contributing to Woodfordia's vibrant atmosphere, we are eager to support his continued creative development and look forward to the success of this international collaboration.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I encourage to panel to consider this application favourably and should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest Regards,



Courtney Wild
Programme Manager



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30/09/2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support Daniele Poidomani's application for the Creative Australia International Engagement Fund. Daniele has been an integral member of Snuff Puppets since 1998, leading various cultural projects both in Australia and internationally. His work has been crucial in the development of our People Puppet Projects (PPP), where he has collaborated with communities in Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil, Taiwan, Indonesia, Denmark, South Korea, Japan, and China. In these projects, Daniele led participants in transforming local stories and collective ideas into large-scale performances, guiding them from concept to realization over two-week intensive residencies.

Daniele is a culturally curious artist who values collaboration and meaningful cultural exchange. His ability to transform the voices of diverse communities into cohesive and engaging artistic experiences makes him a powerful collaborator in creative environments. He knows how to facilitate conversations, extract the essence of a community's stories, and translate them into compelling visual work that resonate deeply with audiences.

The proposed international engagement offers a chance for Daniele to experiment further with new forms and artistic collaborations. His work with inflatable structures and kinetic elements places him at the leading edge of large-scale design, and this residency will allow him to combine these techniques with cross-disciplinary influences. Working alongside Puppet and Its Double will create an opportunity to merge his skilled experience with Taiwanese culture, while his collaboration with conceptual artist Mithu Sen will open new possibilities for unexpected, interdisciplinary art-making that challenges his own practice.

We strongly believe that Daniele's capacity for collaboration, experimentation, and creative openness makes him an ideal candidate for this funding. Supporting Daniele means investing in a project that will bring fresh perspectives and genuine artistic growth, both in Australia and the Asia Pacific, and within the broader international arts community.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Wilson,
Co-Artistic Director

Snuff Puppets
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30th September 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Puppet and Its Double, enthusiastically support Daniele Poidomani's application to Creative Australia's International Engagement Fund. This residency continues our partnership from 2017 and provides a unique opportunity to push our artistic boundaries.

The Cross Residential Program Collaboration, scheduled for May-June 2025 at Lize Art Colony in Taiwan, will focus on developing Chéngyǔ, exploring how sense-making transcends linguistic and cultural barriers. We're excited to explore this deeply cultural concept and merge Taiwanese cultural traditions with large-scale inflatable puppetry and abstract visual performance, moving beyond our usual practice.

The project will combine inflatable puppetry, abstract choreography, and remote-controlled lighting, representing an ambitious step for both parties. This hybrid production provides fertile ground for experimenting beyond our traditional approaches.

As part of the exchange, two Lize Puppet Art Colony artists will participate in Memetica's Elders program in Australia, gaining hands-on experience with large-scale community spectacle. This residency will enhance their understanding of community-driven puppetry and add significant cultural value to our partnership.

We commit the following in-kind contributions:

- Accommodation at Lize Art Colony. (NT\$ 20 000)
- Meals throughout the residency. (NT\$ 8000)
- Workshop venue usage for development. (FOC)
- Airfares for internal travel. (To be provided by Memetica)

We look forward to showcasing the outcomes through public performances in Taiwan and later in Australia, expanding our artists' expertise and fostering intercultural innovation. Daniele's contribution will significantly elevate the impact of this project, benefiting our organizations and inspiring the broader artistic community.

Thank you for considering Daniele Poidomani's application.

Yours sincerely,

Helmi Fita
Foreign Affairs Officer
Lize Puppet Arts Colony

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to express my intent to collaborate with **Daniele Poidomani** on the proposed project, **unSENSE**, as part of his application for Creative Australia's International Engagement Fund. I am honored to join Daniele in an exciting, exploratory collaboration that resonates deeply with both our artistic practices.

Our shared curiosity about language evolution, identity, and cultural creation is the foundation for this project. We envision this endeavor as a spontaneous and evolving experiment, one that combines our respective strengths in conceptual exploration and cultural critique. I believe this exchange will be an opportunity for both of us to delve into the intricacies of culture and language, embracing an open-ended approach that allows our ideas to evolve into performative and visual art forms.

Daniele's background in creating impactful, large-scale visual experiences with community involvement aligns perfectly with my conceptual practice with language, performance, and visual art. Together, we aim to explore the space where these elements intersect, creating a truly interdisciplinary experience that challenges conventional expectations.

If the project moves forward, I am prepared to contribute through various phases, including a one-week lab in New Delhi and a series of online sessions that allow us to further develop and refine our ideas. I am also excited by the possibility of traveling to Australia to collaborate with Daniele in person, expanding this exchange beyond our initial work in India and embracing a deeper cultural connection that will undoubtedly enrich the collaboration.

I am happy with a weekly fee of \$1250 for my work, and a \$40 hourly rate for remote online meetings. During my stay in Melbourne, I will work at the Florence St Studio and have my accommodation arranged.

I look forward to the potential of this partnership to redefine our practices and open new possibilities within our respective fields. I fully support Daniele's application, and I am excited by the opportunity to see where our joint exploration will lead.

Yours sincerely,
Mithu Sen
01.10.2024



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