

## Dr. LOUISE MORRIS

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Louise is an interdisciplinary artist, community arts worker and educator who dynamically responds to place making and belonging for communities and audiences. Her community cultural development practice is concerned with creative actions in situ that reveal the stories, hidden strengths and resources of a given place in order to foster deep connections between artists of all disciplines and the multifaceted communities in which they live and work. Lecturer in Art and Performance (2004-2019) Deakin University; Company Member of Splinters Theatre of Spectacle (1992-1999); Red Cabbage Collective (2001-2010); In 2019, she moved to Yuin Country, Tanja and established Navigate Arts, an independent creative enterprise located at the Old Tanja Church, studios and surrounds as a hub for artists, run by artists [www.navigatearts.com](http://www.navigatearts.com)

Since moving to the Bega Valley Shire, as well as programming her independent venue, Louise has produced the large-scale community recovery project, the *Regeneration Roadtrip* <https://www.regenerationroadtrip.com.au>; worked as the project manager for the *Bermagui Create and Make Crew* for the BVSC, delivering three major community events including *Parklight* at Littleton Gardens (under her creative direction). <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=748792342238750>

Louise has recently been engaged with RealArtWorks (an inclusive 'post-disability' company based in Lismore) working as installation artist and providing dramaturgy on three major site-specific projects with this company; *The Trail of Light and Sound* for the Bermagui Sculpture Festival in March 2019, the *unUsual* Festival in Lismore in November 2019 and *Artstate Wagga Wagga* in 2020. In 2021, Four Winds contracted Navigate Arts to produce the live music program for Sculpture Bermagui and in 2022 Morris was commissioned by Lindy Hume to write and direct the final film in the *Homestretch* series, *Down by the Water*. Navigate Arts also produced the site-specific screening of the *Homestretch* film project for the 2022 Four Winds Festival.

### RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Extensive theoretical and practical knowledge of the performing, live music, visual and community arts sectors- as well as related academic and industry expertise in located history, archeology, indigenous studies, applied and community arts and interdisciplinary practice.
- Extensive professional experience in contemporary performance, community cultural development, public art, festivals, site-specific art and performance as well as education.
- Effective liaison and dynamic communication with cross-sector stakeholders, community groups, artists, collaborators and colleagues to ensure the successful realisation of a public event or community engagement program.
- Comprehensive research and project management skills including the creation and direction of both intimate and large-scale interdisciplinary artistic productions, facilitation of outdoor festival events, community cultural development programs and touring productions.
- Excellent leadership and communication skills demonstrated through over 30 years of successful collaborative practice, major project realisation and teaching experience.
- Proven ability to match innovative artistic vision with realistic and efficient logistical programming; demonstrated skill in project leadership, management and planning.
- Sensitive, flexible, well organised facilitation of community-based arts programs and events (with specialisation in community, youth and Indigenous engagement) which require the skill of inspiring and supporting the agency and self-determination of participants to transform their vision into action.
- The preparation and presentation of successful grant applications, sponsorship proposals, event management documents, project evaluations, WHS/OHS plans, and project budgets.
- Proficient graphic design as well as strong marketing and publicity skills as evidenced by all of Navigate Arts visual design and marketing assets.

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## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

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Qualification	Date	Name and country of awarding Institution	
PhD	May 2018	Deakin University, Australia	Thesis: <a href="https://www.academia.edu/37015737/OUT_OF_THE_RUINS_Australian_Sites_Inspired_Landscapes_and_the_Social_Sacred">https://www.academia.edu/37015737/OUT_OF_THE_RUINS_Australian_Sites_Inspired_Landscapes_and_the_Social_Sacred</a>
MA. Animateuring (Cross-Modal Performance)	June 2007	Victorian College of the Arts- University of Melbourne, Australia	Thesis: <i>The Spectre of Grief... Visualising Ontological Terror in Performance</i>
BCA (Hons)	November 2003	Deakin University, Australia	H1 Distinction

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## REFEREES

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## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Dates	Position Title	Employer	Brief synopsis of role
March 2021 > November 2022	Artistic Director and Project Producer	Regeneration Roadtrip Navigate Arts and South East Arts	<p><i>Regeneration Roadtrip</i> was a local artist led community recovery project promoting community wellbeing and social recovery in bushfire impacted areas throughout the Queanbeyan-Palerang, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shires.</p> <p><a href="https://www.regenerationroadtrip.com.au">https://www.regenerationroadtrip.com.au</a>  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/regenerationroadtrip/">https://www.instagram.com/regenerationroadtrip/</a></p> <p>Community engagement and recovery activities, workshops and events were held between Canberra and Eden in the 18 months leading up to the final project activation from the 29 September – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The <i>Regeneration Roadtrip</i> experience consisted of over 30 locations and more than 50 unique experiences to discover along the route including performances, sculptures, workshops and exhibitions created by local artists and communities, accompanied by an incredible original soundtrack featuring local established and emerging musicians.</p> <p>As Project Producer and Artistic Director my responsibilities included preparation of multiple successful funding applications, recruitment and management of lead artistic team (7 artists-including 3 lead Indigenous artists), recruitment of over 30 more local community artists and NFP groups across 3 council areas, preparation and management of overall large-scale project budget, regular financial reporting and project evaluations to South East Arts and funding bodies, preparation of comprehensive event plans, site plans and permit permissions, OH&amp;S documentation and reports, event planning and management, community workshop planning and co-ordination, as well as publicity, project marketing and communications.</p> <p><i>Regeneration Roadtrip was produced by Navigate Arts proudly supported by South East Arts (auspice body) and funded by the NSW Government via the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal as part of their Strengthening Regional Communities Program. Regeneration Roadtrip was also supported by the Bega Valley Shire Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Four Winds and Sam's Caravan.</i></p>
March 2019 > Present	Artistic Director	Navigate Arts	<p>Independent programming of local regional arts venue at the Old Tanja Church, as well as Community Cultural Development freelance engagements with Bega Valley Shire Council and Four Winds.</p> <p>Navigate Arts have provided technical, visual design and dramaturgical support for Gabriela Green Olea's <i>COPE in CONTACT</i> and Lee Pemberton's development of <i>Another Extinction</i> held at Navigate Arts in 2020. Louise has worked as the installation designer and dramaturge on three major site-specific projects for RealArtWorks (an inclusive 'post-disability' company based in Lismore). <i>The Trail of Light and Sound</i> for the Bermagui Sculpture Festival in March, <i>unUsual Festival</i> in Lismore in November 2019 and <i>ARTSTATE Wagga Wagga 2020</i>. <a href="http://www.navigatearts.com">www.navigatearts.com</a></p>
May 2019- Dec 2019	Program Director	Bega Valley Shire Council- Bermagui Create and	The Bermagui Create and Make Crew delivered two major community events <i>Bega Parklight</i> (under the creative direction of Morris) and SynthSurfers as well as their own final networking and showcase exhibition event at Navigate Arts Tanja. As

		<i>Make Crew</i>	program director, responsibilities included recruitment and retention of participants, liaison with multiple community arts groups and stakeholders including TAFE NSW, planning and delivery of major public events, budgeting and project reporting and acquittal.
January 2018- January 2019	Lecturer in Art and Performance	Deakin University	Teaching 10 undergraduate units; Unit chairing across levels 1-3; including acting, performance, site-specific and public art, vocal training, sound & choral performance, installation design and applied community art practice. Teaching & Learning activities including significant curriculum development and implementation- specifically the development of the Applied Creative Practice stream including the arts and community cultural development units. Research and professional industry engagement. Administration, committee membership, external community liaison and social media marketing. Preparation of successful research funding applications. Staff Management, Course Budgeting and OHS planning.
June 2015 June 2018	Associate Lecturer in Art and Performance (permanent)  Acting Course Director (Drama-2017).	Deakin University	Teaching 10 undergraduate units; Unit chairing across levels 1-3; as above Staff management and workload allocations Budgeting and research funding T&L activities including significant curriculum development and implementation. Research and professional industry engagement. Administration, committee membership, external liaison and marketing. Preparation of successful funding applications.
2012-2015	Associate Lecturer in Drama (contract)	Deakin University	Teaching 10 undergraduate units; Unit chairing across levels 1-3; T&L activities including significant curriculum development and implementation. Research and professional industry engagement. Administration, external liaison and marketing.
2007-2009	Community Cultural Development Officer	Shire of Yarra Ranges Council	Engagement with local government and communities to increase public participation in arts, culture and heritage across the region. Arts programming and management including large-scale community festivals, live music and performance events. Liaison and development of cultural partnerships. Preparation of successful funding applications and program evaluations.
2004-2012	Casual Academic	Deakin University	Delivery of performance and vocal/choral music content across Levels 1-3.
2001-2009	Artistic Director	Red Cabbage Collective	Direction, design and performance. Locally and Nationally funded immersive and site-specific performance company.
1997-2001	Co-Artistic Director	Culturally Innovative Arts	Direction, design and performance. Locally and Nationally funded theatre company.
1995-1998	Company Artist	Splinters Theatre of Spectacle	Performance and design. Triennially funded Australian theatre company considered to be ground-breaking in site-specific, interdisciplinary and participatory arts practice.
<b>For full career synopsis prior to 2019 please refer to <a href="http://www.louisemorris.net">www.louisemorris.net</a></b>			

## RELEVANT HIGHLIGHTS OF CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ongoing delivery of high-profile public art events (community recovery and resilience projects, public performances, site-specific events and exhibitions) which involve successful partnerships with arts industry, NFP's and local business stakeholders, local historians, indigenous artists and storytellers, community arts groups, live musicians, sound artists, local professional and emerging artists, heritage and land management and local and national government site-stakeholders.
- The successful production and realisation of the *Regeneration Roadtrip*. This large-scale community resilience and recovery project required dynamic communication skills with an ability to engage deeply and listen to the needs of a broad range of stakeholders including but not limited to

NFP community groups, local arts societies (individuals and groups), local Aboriginal Land Councils, artists and communities, local RFS, community progress associations, groups and historical societies, local businesses, Councils, Parks NSW as well as roads and infrastructure and tourism operations.

There was a strong focus built into the project design upon asset-based community development activities that tapped into the inherent and unrecognised strengths in local communities to realise the expansive project vision and build community capacity.

- Working with diverse peoples of all abilities over her academic and artistic career, Morris was instrumental in designing and implementing new academic units in applied theatre, arts in community, and inclusive interdisciplinary and participatory creative practice into the Deakin University Creative Arts program. As Producer of the *Regeneration Roadtrip* and program director of the *Bermagui Create and Make Crew*, she was able to demonstrate her skill as a sensitive, committed and engaged educator and practicing artist committed to living and working in this regional area. Participants in the *Bermi Crew* included a high representation of Indigenous youth aged 14-25 and the program was established to provide a practice-based educational experience in the visioning, planning, logistical management and production of community arts events- as well as providing skills in multi-media arts, website and social media design. Morris was deeply committed to giving these young artists full agency and ownership throughout the process. The creative direction and logistical planning of the *Parklight Bega* event (after only 4 months in the area) involved establishing and maintaining effective collaborative relationships with Bega Valley Shire Council, Bega Valley Library, Bega Regional Gallery, TAFE NSW, About Regional, Warren Foster Snr & Jnr and the Wallaga Lake Community, Campbell Page, Headspace Bega, Bega High School, Fling Physical Theatre, Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre, Four Winds (Timor Leste Belun-Malu Choir), Murrah Hall as well as a diverse range of local musicians, educators and performers.

- Examples of past projects with significant community impact include:

*Anthology* created and produced over a 3-year period for the Centenary of Canberra (winner of the Canberra Critics Circle Award) <http://www.anthologyproject.net>; *TIDE* presented at Royal Park Melbourne and developed in consultation with Senior Elders from the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council, Parks Victoria and The City of Melbourne; *Hedge-mony* produced for the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival in partnership with Next Wave Festival and Melbourne Museum, *Aviary* at the Living Museum of the West for the Victorian College of the Arts, *Comfort* designed for Canberra Youth Theatre, *Collapse* at the Old Port of Melbourne for Parks Victoria, and *Retrieval* with Canberra Youth Theatre for the National Library of Australia.

- Recipient of the *Phillip Brown History Award* 2015 as well as two APA scholarships for MA and PhD research.

## TEACHING & EDUCATION

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DEAKIN UNIVERSITY was named in the top 100 universities worldwide for performing arts (QS in 2019). Morris was instrumental in the design, implementation and delivery of this innovative, interdisciplinary and community connected performing arts program as can be qualified by former supervisor, **Dr. Yoni Prior (contact 0400 572 949)**

- As Acting Course Director of Drama in 2017, Morris undertook a comprehensive review of student learning outcomes across the new Art and Performance degree, designing and developing new interdisciplinary learning experiences and community arts engagement as part of the new course restructure. Louise was also responsible for Annual Course Reviews and Course Advisory Board meetings with community and industry stakeholders. Budgets, research funding applications, staff management, supervision and workload allocation were also essential to this role.

- Demonstrated ongoing leadership in teaching and learning as Unit Chair of all units across the Art and Performance degree program. Louise's delivery of the capstone Catalyst Festival unit included ongoing mentorship of student ensembles presenting their work at the Melbourne and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals from 2015-2018.
- Consistently, Morris was the highest ranked staff member in Drama and Performance for student evaluations of teaching quality for over 10 years at Deakin University achieving an 9.5 rank and above in all areas of teaching and program delivery as anonymously surveyed by students.
- Commendation for Excellence in Teaching 2012/2014/2017/2018.
- Morris fostered ongoing strategic partnerships with Arts Centre Melbourne, Federation Square and the City of Melbourne to ensure the successful delivery of the Deakin University site-specific public art and performance event – this involved managing over 150 students with a unified devised and collaborative vision each year within the central arts precinct of Melbourne- As part of this program- students were given the opportunity to learn about and understand all aspects of delivering such an event- including site permits, audience management, logistical and OHS planning, This popular annual event significantly impacted student experience, retention and recruitment for the Art and Performance program throughout her tenure.
- Health and Safety committee member 2017/18. Morris liaised with technical staff to develop WHS and OHS templates (currently still in use; 6 models adapted for use across the Art & Performance areas).
- Louise's external community liaison role at Deakin University (2015-2018) included the development of relationships with Arts Centre Melbourne, The City of Melbourne, Melbourne Fringe Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Melbourne Museum, Drama Victoria, Theatre Network Australia, The Victorian College of the Arts, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne Theatre Company, LaMama, Theatreworks and Hillscene Live Art Festival among many other local organisations for recruitment and community engagement purposes.
- Morris was responsible for the development and delivery of all Drama marketing materials (including visual and graphic design in collaboration with students) and establishment of new social media presence for Art and Performance degree at Deakin University from 2014-2018.

## **ACADEMIC RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS**

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### **2018**

Morris, Louise 2018, Pieces of silver, Edited by Prins, K. and Combe, N., Hillscene live festival, 2018/11/18 - 2018/11/18, Melbourne, Vic., Deakin University.

Morris, Louise 2018, Out of the ruins - Australian sites, inspired landscapes and the social sacred, Ph.D thesis, School of Communication and Creative Arts, Deakin University.

Morris, Louise 2018, TIDE and the social sacred, in Sacred Sites/Sacred Stories: Global Perspectives, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific, Canberra, A.C.T., pp. 1-35.

Morris, Louise 2018, Crossings, in Crossings, Arts Centre Melbourne, 2018/05/25 - 2018/05/25.

### **2017**

Morris, Louise 2017, Tide, in Tide, Royal Park Melbourne, 2017/04/22 - 2017/04/22.

Morris, Louise 2017, Night harbour, in Night Harbour, Arts Centre Melbourne and Southbank Vic, 2017/05/19 - 2017/05/19.

## **2016**

Morris, Louise 2016, Silent yarnning durational performance installation, Gumbi Gumbi Gardens USQ Toowoomba, 2016.

Wilson, Anne and Morris, Louise 2016, Lorne sculpture biennale: site specific performance improvisation, Lorne, Vic., 19 Mar. 2016, [Lorne, Vic.], [Lorne Sculpture Biennale].

Morris, Louise 2016, Adrift, Deakin University, Arts Centre Melbourne, Vic..

## **2015**

Morris, Louise and O'Farrell, Jof 2015, Diving horses, in Diving Horses. Performance (2015 : Arts Centre, Melbourne, Victoria), Arts Centre Melbourne, 22 May. 2015.

## **2014**

Morris, Louise and Buining, Pip 2014, ANTHOLOGY, November 2014, ArtsACT.

Morris, Louise 2014, Woven, in Circling The Brink (2014 : Emerald, Vic.), Telopea Gardens, Emerald, Vic., 12 - 13 Apr. 2014.

Morris, Louise 2014, Inspired landscapes: the anthology project, in ADSA 2014 : Restoring balance : ecology/sustainability/performance : Proceedings of the Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies 2014 conference, Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies (ADSA), Brisbane, Qld., pp. 1-8.

Morris, Louise and O'Neil, Miles 2014, Stories from the river, in Stories from the river, Hamer Hall Riverside Terraces and Southbank CBD, 21 May 2014.

## **2013**

Morris, Louise and O'Neil, Miles 2013, The Hive, in Deakin University Experimental Theatre, Federation Square, 22 May 2013.

Morris, Louise and O'Neil, Miles 2013, Australian Gothic, in Deakin University Experimental Theatre, Federation Square, 22 May 2013.

## **2012**

Morris, Louise 2012, Mapping the dislocation of a collective : site-specific practice and the impossibility of relocation (The Red Cabbage Collective 2001-2011), in ADSA 2012 : Compass Points: The Locations, Landscapes and Coordinates of Identities : Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies (ADSA) 2012 Conference Proceedings, [ADSA], [Brisbane, Qld.].

## **2011**

Morris, Louise 2011, COLLAPSE: transcendence and transgression in the creation of site-specific visual performance, in ADSA 2011: Transcultural. Transnational. Transformation. : seeing, writing and reading performance across cultures : Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies Annual Conference, [ADSA], [Melbourne, Vic.], pp. 1-2.

## **2010**

Morris, Louise 2010, Unspeakable terrain : visualising ontological terror in performance, in ADSA 2010 : Stripping Bare : Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies Annual Conference, [ADSA], [Canberra, A.C.T.], pp. 1-12.

Morris, Louise 2007, The spectre of grief...visualising ontological terror in performance, Master of Animateuring thesis, School of Drama, The University of Melbourne.

Morris, Louise and Rutter, Rebecca 2011, June ..: the place does not matter, in The Village Festival, Edinburgh Gardens, 3-6 Nov. 2011.

Conway, Karla, Woodward, Joe, Buining, Pip, Morris, Louise and Aberline, Matthew 2010,

Retrieval, National Library of Australia, 19 Nov. - 5 Dec. 2010.

**2006> 2010**

Morris, Louise, Smith, Tania, Prins, Kirsten and Hamilton, Anna 2008, Collapse, Spotswood Jetty. & unnamed location, 19-30 Nov. 2008.

Morris, Louise, Smith, Tania, Prins, Kirsten and Hamilton, Anna 2006, Hedge-mony, in Commonwealth Games (18th : 2006 : Melbourne, Vic.), Melbourne Museum, 26 March 2006.