09.09.2026

To the Creative Australia Assessment Panel

RE: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND SUPPORT - EMILY MORTON, LISTENING PORTRAITS

Dear Assessment Panel,

I am pleased to support Emily Morton's application to undertake the Creative Australia Helsinki International Artist Programme residency and to develop her project, Listening Portraits.

I am a Helsinki-based visual artist and curator, and the founder and artistic director of the International Socially Engaged Art Symposium (ISEAS). My practice and research engage with socially and environmentally engaged art, conversational processes, participation, collaboration and the ethics of working with people and communities.

Emily approached me because of the relationship between these concerns and her emerging consent-led method. Listening Portraits brings recorded life-story conversations together with original visual artworks created during and after repeated listening. The project seeks to preserve a person's voice, memories and lived experience while giving participants meaningful control over consent, access and how their story may be shared.

The proposal resonates with questions central to my own practice: how an artist can create a genuine collaborative encounter without treating another person's experience as material to be extracted, and how the integrity of that relationship can be balanced with the aesthetic integrity of the completed artwork. These are complex and productive questions for artistic research.

I have agreed to take part in an initial online conversation with Emily to discuss conversational art, consent, collaboration, authorship and non-extractive practice. If Emily is selected for the residency, I would be open, subject to availability, to continuing this artistic dialogue while she is in Finland and to sharing relevant perspectives from my practice and ISEAS. This is a non-binding expression of interest and does not involve a financial or formal partnership commitment.

I believe the HIAP context would give Emily valuable time to test and critically refine Listening Portraits in dialogue with Finland's socially engaged art community. Her intention to bring that learning back to South Australia through a pilot, public knowledge-sharing and relationships with arts, oral-history, community and older-person organisations gives the proposed exchange a clear life beyond the residency.

I support Emily's application and believe that the proposed residency could make a meaningful contribution to the ethical and artistic development of Listening Portraits, while creating a valuable exchange between Finnish and Australian socially engaged practice.

Warm regards,

Katja Juhola
Visual Artist and Curator
Founder and Artistic Director, International Socially Engaged Art Symposium (ISEAS)