September 12

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 from 16 August to 14 November 2027 and to develop her project, Listening Portraits.

I am a Helsinki-based artist whose conceptually driven participatory practice spans moving image, performance, public art and creative facilitation. Since 2002, I have worked with Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen on projects that create temporary communities and examine participation as part of the artwork.

Emily approached me because of the close 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.

Her proposal raises questions that are central to participatory practice: how an artist invites another person into a creative process, how collaboration and authorship are negotiated, and how personal experience can shape an artwork without being treated simply as material. I have shared with Emily a publication in which Oliver and I examine one of our participatory works and reflect openly on the decisions, difficulties and learning involved.

If Emily is selected and moves into detailed planning, I would be happy to meet with her online to discuss questions that could support the development of the project. I would also be happy to meet her in person in Helsinki for a collegial exchange during the residency, subject to availability. This is a non-binding expression of interest and does not involve any financial, production or formal partnership commitment.

The HIAP residency would give Emily valuable time to test and refine Listening Portraits in dialogue with Helsinki's participatory 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 exchange a clear purpose beyond the residency.

I support Emily's application and believe her proposed time in Helsinki could strengthen both the artistic method and the ethical framework of Listening Portraits. I would welcome the opportunity for professional exchange if she is selected.

Warm regards,

Tellervo Kalleinen

Artist

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