



Creative Australia

5th July 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Charles Clapshaw's application - National Arts & Disability Initiative

To the Creative Australia Assessment panel,

I am writing to support Charles Clapshaw's application as part of the 2024 National Arts and Disability Initiative.

Clapshaw has been a supporter and partner of Mimili Maku Arts since our participation in the 2020 Sydney Biennale at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. As part of an in-kind partnership, Clapshaw supported Mimili artists and artworkers to explore the possibilities of Augmented Reality (AR) and other technologies, introducing different dimensions of artwork creation and reception. Clapshaw's excitement for the creative potential offered by technology was palpable, and led to a long-term partnership between our art centre, artists and Clapshaw as a technical advisor.

Working closely with Mimili artist Robert Fielding, Clapshaw oversaw the development of Fielding's first AR sculpture in Barangaroo as part of ARt Fresco, an exhibition with Alex Seton.

Our partnership with Clapshaw has opened many new considerations and perspectives for Mimili artists. In this process, I have been impressed by the ongoing fervor with which Clapshaw continues to challenge the boundaries between technology and art, re-thinking ways in which each can enhance the other to provide new access points for people from different cultural backgrounds, or – in his case – neuro-divergent perceptions.

Whilst Clapshaw has mainly focused on opening doors and possibilities for his peers and other artists, I am hoping his proposal of the *Talking Painting* will be considered for the National Arts & Disability Initiative. I am confident that he would use this opportunity to make a very unique contribution to the Australian arts landscape.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, shall you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Anna Wattler, Art Centre Manager, Mimili Maku Arts