With the support of the Independent Arts Foundation, I was able to build up and strengthen a home workshop and studio for my Visual Art professional practice. This encouragement has allowed me to verify the sustainability of my creative portals - feeding the South Australian Visual Arts and the Australian ‘artistic economy’.

The IAF and the Small Grant for Emerging Arts has allowed the fruition of many ideas once held captive to the limitations of my home studio. Having the resources available give any artist a clearer span of their creative practice; broadening the field of experimentation and opens opportunities. I now have a hot bay for welding, soldering and annealing, power and hand tools, OH&S standard safety requirements & a range of materials for my visual practice. I now stand with the confidence in my home studio and workplace. Creative crossovers and collaborations have already started; my jewellery and visual arts practice are diversifying, broadening their reach and allowing for new concepts and ideas to be brought to the table.

The allocated funds went to purchasing:

* Ozito 2000W Heatgun (new)
* Dremel 3000 Drill & Kit (second-hand)
* Oxy flex nosel, shaft & regulator (second-hand)
* Fire Bricks
* Fire Extinguisher
* Sewing Machine (second-hand)
* Materials (base metals, textiles, wood etc)
* Cold working tools (new files, sandpapers, wire brushes and finishing tools)
* Hot working accessories (flux, cold pickle, solder wire)

Through creative portals, I was able to source reliable tools and fixtures either new or second-hand. I have a great appreciation for the South Australian arts community and their willingness to support their peers.

Since receiving the IAF Small Grant not only have I built up my workshop and studio, but participated in a self directed research project in the Atacama Desert, Chile working with the Kunza community, broadened the reach of my jewellery business internationally, and continued exploration and experimentation within my visual art practice; including markets, workshops, exhibition proposals and creative collaborations. This coming year is lined with great opportunities that I am excited to venture through and push the trajectory of my practice further. The newly developed workshop will now fully allow me to digest, review and foster creative ideas generated from my professional experiences.

It is a powerful thing to have funding bodies like the IAF present and assisting the emerging arts and artists. By supporting people early in their career, awarded funding like this can push and sustain the confidence in one's practice. This encouragement radiates through one’s career, and contributes to the conversation of the Australian Independent and Emerging Arts. Wholeheartedly, I say thank you.



Olivia Kathigitis



