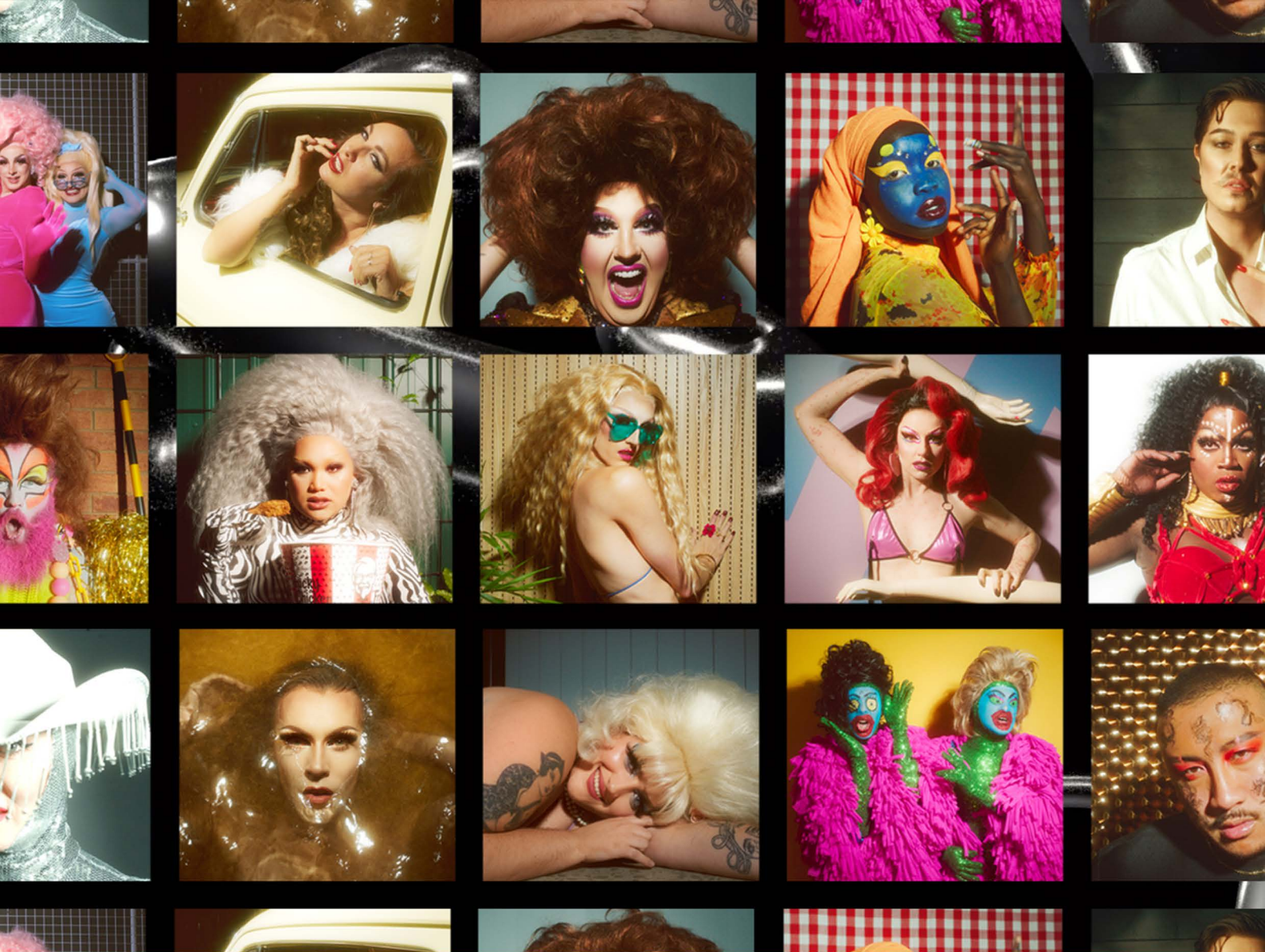




# Disco INSTAMATIC

AN INSTALLATION BY TANZER IN COLLABORATION WITH SISSY SCREENS





CREATED BY MUSICIAN AND VISUAL ARTIST TANZER IN COLLABORATION WITH QUEER SCREEN CULTURE MAGAZINE SISSY SCREENS, **DISCO INSTAMATIC** IS A LARGE-SCALE, HYPER-COLOUR PROJECTION WORK, UNDERScoreD BY AN ORIGINAL DISCO SOUNDTRACK BY TANZER AND PRODUCER BUTCH LE BUTCH.

FEATURING 20 STARS OF MELBOURNE'S DYNAMIC QUEER ARTS COMMUNITY—INCLUDING **TANZER, THE HUXLEYS, MO'JU, ATONG ATEM** AND **KAREN FROM FINANCE**—THIS IMMERSIVE INSTALLATION UNITES MUSIC, DRAG, DANCE AND VISUAL ART.

THE LOCOMOTIVE LOVE CHILD OF ANTONIO LOPEZ'S INSTAMATICS AND ANDY WARHOL'S POLAROIDs, DISCO INSTAMATIC IS AESTHETICALLY INSPIRED BY TANZER'S WORK AS A DISCO DJ, SINGER AND MUSIC VIDEO DIRECTOR WITHIN THE QUEER CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA. THE SOUNDTRACK '**DEEP FRIED DISCO**' DESCRIBES A FICTIONAL DISCO UTOPIA WHERE ALL PROBLEMS ARE FORGOTTEN AND WE CAN FIND ESCAPE, GLAMOUR AND HOPE WITHIN COMMUNITY.



TANZER COLLABORATED WITH ALL THE PARTICIPATING ARTISTS TO EXPLORE HOW **IDENTITY, CHARACTER AND COSTUME** INFORMED THEIR PRACTICES AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT. THE RESULTING VIDEO PORTRAITS, DIRECTED AND EDITED BY TANZER, NOT ONLY SHOWCASE THE DIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE'S LGBTQIA+ CREATIVE TALENT, THEY INVESTIGATE HOW MANY QUEER ARTISTS SHARE A PERSONAL JOURNEY FINDING LIBERATION IN AN ALTER-EGO, A CHARACTER, AN **ELEVATED 'TRUE SELF'**.

SISSY SCREENS PRODUCED THE MOVING-IMAGE DISCO INSTAMATIC INSTALLATION AND ENGAGED MELBOURNE-BASED QUEER FILM CREW FOR THIS PROJECT. SISSY SCREENS PROMOTES QUEER CULTURAL PRODUCTION AND AIMS TO **AMPLIFY AND CELEBRATE** THE VOICES AND WORK OF LGBTQIA+ CREATIVES.







**COLLABORATING ARTISTS:**

**ATONG ATEM**

**AYSHA BUFFET**

**BENJAMIN HANCOCK**

**BUWAN CHICO VAN KAN**

**CALLUM MCKENZIE**

**D FLOWERS**

**DANDROGYNY**

**FRANKIE VALENTINE**

**JANDRUZE**

**KAREN FROM FINANCE**

**LAURA DU VÉ**

**MANZER**

**MIKE NGUYEN**

**MO'JU**

**RUBY SLIPPERS**

**STONE MOTHERLESS COLD**

**TANZER**

**THE BEASTIE GIRLS**

**THE HUXLEYS**





#### **EXECUTION:**

**DISCO INSTAMATIC IS A THREE-SCREEN VIDEO PROJECTION WITH A DURATION OF SIX MINUTES, DESIGNED TO PLAY ON A LOOP, WITH THE AUDIO SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE IN HEADPHONES. THE SIX-MINUTE WORK FEATURES 18 CONSECUTIVE 16-PANEL PORTRAITS.**

**THERE IS A ONE-SCREEN VERSION OF THE WORK AVAILABLE, AND 16 X 16:9 INDIVIDUAL DIGITAL PORTRAITS AVAILABLE AS NFTS.**

#### **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

**3 X WHITE WALLS OR 16:9 PROJECTION SCREENS ASSEMBLED AS ABOVE**

**3 X EB7500U PROJECTORS OR EQUIVALENT**

**3 X SHORT THROW ELPLU03 LENSES OR EQUIVALENT**

**3 X PROJECTOR MOUNTS**

**HEADPHONE STATION**

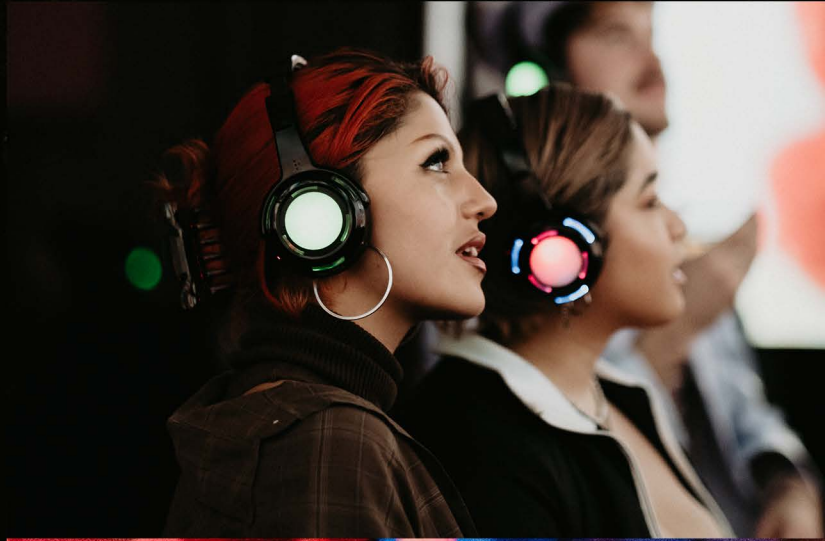


**EXHIBITION LAUNCH AT ABBOTSFORD CONVENT, MAY 2021**

**THE WORK WAS LAUNCHED AT AN EVENT INCLUDING PERFORMANCES BY SOME OF THE ARTISTS FEATURED IN THE INSTALLATION, AND A SPECIALLY CURATED DISCO DJ SET.**









## **SELECTED STATEMENTS FROM COLLABORATING ARTISTS ON THEIR 'DISCO INSTAMATIC' PORTRAIT:**

### **MIKE NGUYEN - PERFORMER, HOUSE OF DEVINE**

I AM AN OPENLY QUEER AND VISIBLE VIETNAMESE MAN, AND I FEEL LIKE PEOPLE LIKE ME ARE GREATLY UNREPRESENTED HERE IN AUSTRALIA – DUE TO HOW SOCIETY HAS PORTRAYED US AND HOW WE WERE RAISED WITHIN OUR CONSERVATIVE CULTURES. GROWING UP I FELT LIKE I HAD TO CONSTANTLY LIVE UP TO OTHER PEOPLES EXPECTATIONS AND SOON REALISED I HAD TO START LIVING FOR MYSELF – UNAPOLOGETICALLY! FIGHT FOR YOUR HAPPINESS, BE TRUE TO YOURSELF AND BE WHOEVER YOU WANT TO BE!

### **D FLOWERS - DRAG QUEEN**

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SHOOT I WATCHED 'COMING TO AMERICA 2'. DEPICTIONS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA HAVE GREATLY ENCOURAGED AND INSPIRED ME SINCE A VERY YOUNG AGE SO I WANTED TO SERVE A LOOK FOR 'DISCO INSTAMATIC' THAT PAYS HOMAGE TO THE RENAISSANCE OF AFROFUTURISM WITHIN MEDIA.

### **THE HUXLEYS - PERFORMANCE AND VISUAL ARTISTS**

GLAMOUR AND FANTASY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MEANS OF SURVIVAL FOR BOTH OF US. GROWING UP QUEER IN HOMOGENEOUS BACKWARD PLACES MEANT THAT ESCAPISM WAS A WAY OUT. ART SAVED US AND BROUGHT US TOGETHER. WE BOTH SHARE THE DELIGHT OF AMBIGUOUS SURREAL INTERLUDES AND OUR WORK ALLOWS US TO DREAM INTO LURID THEATRICAL UNIVERSES THAT BRING JOY, SILLINESS AND MAGIC. COSTUMES AND MASKS ALLOW US TO BE ANYTHING, ANYONE AND ANY BODY. IT'S A SWEET RELIEF.

### **MO'JU - MUSICIAN**

TURNING UP AND TURNING IT OUT FOR THESE THINGS IS NOT ALWAYS EASY. BUT I FEEL LIKE MASC WOC ARE OFTEN UNDERREPRESENTED, EVEN IN QUEER SPACES, SO IT FELT LIKE A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO REP FOR MY INNER BABY BUTCH.

### **MANZER - DRAG KING**

MY DRAG REPRESENTS MY MOURNFUL, REPRESSED MASCULINITY – SMOTHERED AND TRAINED OUT OF ME SINCE CHILDHOOD. GETTING BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM CONTINUES TO BE HEALING, PARTICULARLY WHEN I EXPLORE HOW TO RECONCILE HIM WITH THE WOMAN I IDENTIFY AS.

### **JANDRUZE - DRAG QUEEN**

I'VE NEVER VIEWED MY DRAG PRACTICE AS A FORM OF IMPERSONATION OR THE EMBODIMENT OF A DIFFERENT CHARACTER – INSTEAD I HAVE ALWAYS SEEN MY DRAG PERSONA AS AN AMPLIFICATION OF MY INNER WORLD WITH THE FEMME DIAL CRANKED TO 1000%. AS A NON-BINARY HUMAN TRYING TO NAVIGATE A SOCIETY THAT DIMINISHES FEMININE ENERGIES WHILE GLORIFYING THE HYPER-MASCULINE, I'VE FOUND SUPER-HEROINE STRENGTH THROUGH EMBRACING AND MAGNIFYING MY OWN FEMININE POWERS. THIS IS ME ASSUMING MY ULTIMATE FORM – STRIPPED BACK AND GILT IN GOLD.

### **TANZER - MUSICIAN AND VIDEO ARTIST**

I GREW UP IN IN ROME, ITALY, WHERE COWBOY HATS APPEARED ON RUNWAYS AND ON THE HATS OF GLAMOROUS WOMEN IN THE STREETS. I CREATED A STAGE PERSONA WHO COULD TRANSPORT ME TO THAT GLAMOROUS, HOPEFUL PLACE, NO MATTER WHAT MY PREDICAMENT IN REAL LIFE.

### **FRANKIE VALENTINE - WRITER, SEX WORKER, PERFORMANCE ARTIST**

I'VE WORKED IN THE SEX INDUSTRY FOR OVER A DECADE AND WHEN IT'S INVITED AND RESPECTED, I LOVE BEING OBJECTIFIED. PLAYING WITH SEX ENERGY, WITH FUCK ENERGY, IS DEFINITELY ONE OF MY ALL TIME FAVOURITE PASTIMES.

### **KAREN FROM FINANCE - DRAG QUEEN**

I SHOT THIS PORTRAIT A WEEK AFTER RETURNING FROM A DRAG COMPETITION WHERE I WAS CHALLENGED TO SHIFT AND SHAPE MY DRAG INTO A BILLION DIFFERENT FORMS. IT WAS NICE TO GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH THE ESSENCE OF KAREN, A CHARACTER BORN FROM THE QUEER ART WORLD OF MELBOURNE. SHE'S BOLD, BEAUTIFUL AND LOVES A DANCE – AND IS THE BOMBASTIC, PLAYFUL SIDE OF ME WHERE I CAN BE TRULY CREATIVE.





**>>LINK TO VIDEO REEL OF EXHIBITION LAUNCH EVENT <<**

**>> LINK TO ONLINE VIDEO ASSET OF 'DISCO INSTAMATIC' <<**







**TANZER** IS A MELBOURNE-BASED ARTIST WHO HAS SPENT THE LAST DECADE WORKING AS A MUSICIAN, PERFORMER AND VIDEO ARTIST.

KNOWN FOR HER CINEMATIC, HIGH-GLAMOUR, ESCAPIST WORKS THAT ARE AT ONCE INTENSELY POWERFUL, DEEPLY FRAGILE AND DARKLY HUMOROUS, HER WORK SPANS STAGES, CLUBS, GALLERIES AND FESTIVALS AND FUSES MUSICAL FORMS TO A MULTITUDE OF PERFORMATIVE AND ARTISTIC OUTCOMES.

HER MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS MOVE FLUIDLY FROM OPERA TO DISCO AND FROM THE EXPERIMENTAL TO PURE POP - EXPLORING SELF-IMAGE, GENDER, ROMANCE AND THE POWER OF THE ALTER EGO.

HER FILM AND CURATORIAL WORKS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR ELABORATE DREAMSCAPES AND METICULOUS AESTHETIC THAT TAKE STYLISTIC CUES FROM 70S RETRO-FUTURISM, EURO CAMP AND AUSTRALIAN POP CULTURE NOSTALGIA.

SHE WAS THE 2020 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT ABBOTSFORD CONVENT, AND LAUNCHED HER DEBUT VIDEO INSTALLATION 'DISCO INSTAMATIC' AS PART OF MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL IN APRIL 2021.

A TWO-TIME GREEN ROOM AWARD-WINNING PERFORMER, TANZER HAS PLAYED AT MAJOR EVENTS SUCH AS FALLS FESTIVAL, SECRET GARDEN FESTIVAL, VIVID SYDNEY, LANEWAY FESTIVAL AND THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

SHE HAS RELEASED TWO CAPSULE FASHION COLLECTIONS AS A DESIGNER, AND IS AN AWARD-WINNING MUSIC VIDEO DIRECTOR, HEADING UP HER OWN VIDEO PROJECTS AS WELL AS DIRECTING CLIPS FOR OTHER ARTISTS INCLUDING ELLA HOOPER, KIRA PURU, BEC SANDRIDGE AND SEX ON TOAST.

TANZER IS ALSO A WELL-KNOWN DJ IN AUSTRALIA, AND CURATOR OF MUSIC EVENTS FOR MELBOURNE MUSIC WEEK, CHILLOUT FESTIVAL AND BRUNSWICK MUSIC FESTIVAL.

SHE ALSO TOURED AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS AS PART OF QUEER DRAG CABARET YUMMY, TAKING PART IN MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL, SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARDI GRAS, MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL AND MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL.

TANZER IS FEATURED IN THE ACCLAIMED HER SOUND, HER STORY DOCUMENTARY AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION SHOWCASING ICONIC WOMEN IN AUSTRALIAN MUSIC, ALONGSIDE THE LIKES OF TINA ARENA, MISSY HIGGINS, CAMP COPE AND NAI PALM.

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