SHADES OF PINK - A WORK IN PROGRESS

Shades of Pink has come into being through five artists of different practices being stirred by the stories of, or contact with, Olive Pink. The New Media Arts Fund of the Australia Council has supported the artists to explore a joint language, each moving into different areas of practice. It is not always an easy or comfortable process. However, like Olive Pink, their pioneering spirits drive them to extend their boundaries. The work you see this evening is a very young work of exploration - a work in progress.

The five artists have also been developing plans for a much larger Olive Pink project, involving many artists, to be performed early in the new millennium. So don't say you were not warned, Miss Pink.

Shades of Pink is presented by Brown's Mart Community Arts for the Festival of Darwin, 1999.

Olive Muriel Pink - Brief Biographical Notes

17 March 1884	-	Born, Hobart, Tasmania. (Nominally Anglican, received Quaker school education in Tasmania.)
1915	-	Fiancee, Lt. Harold Southern, her only identified love interest, was killed at Gallipoli.
Late 20s/ Early 30s	-	Trained at Julian Ashton School of Art, Sydney. (Works as a draftswoman with the State Government of NSW, working on, amongst other things, drawing of Sydney Harbour Bridge.)
1930	-	First short visit (fortnight) to the NT. Draws wildflowers, collects plants and makes notes of Aboriginal use of them.
1932/33	-	Studies Anthropology, University of Sydney. (Is urged, arguably ill-advisedly, not to complete degree, but to undertake field research instead. Never gains 'formal' anthropological accreditation.)
1933/34	-	First major funded expedition to Central Australia. Moves to Alice Springs. Nearly dies of dysentery.
1935	-	First anthropological articles published in 'Mankind' and 'Oceania' journals. Begins her calls for Aboriginal autonomy (especially from the 'civilising' influence of the Missions). Develops her controversial notion of 'full bloods' being the only 'authentic' Aborigines. Believes miscegenation and assimilation are attempts to extinguish the Aboriginal people.
1942-44	-	Journeys to Thomson's Rockhole, The Granites, Western Tanami and lives among the Warlpiri. Galvanises her political fight against Assimilation Policy and lobbies for a 'secular sanctuary' – effectively one of the first calls for Aboriginal land rights. A Warlpiri man believes her to be a snake that has shed its skin and turned pink. Nearly dies of malnutrition & dehydration.
1944	-	Moves permanently back to Alice Springs. Devotes her energy alternately to 'full bloods' rights and to setting up an arid zone flora reserve in Alice Springs.
1956	-	The Arid Xone fFora reserve is officially gazetted. Miss Pink becomes the curator with the help of Johnny Tjambatjimba, a Warlpiri man.
1967	-	Campaigns against the building of Pine Gap facility.
1975	-	Dies in Alice Springs, aged 91. Asks to be buried in the town cemetery with her grave facing the opposite direction to everyone else. Prefers to look over her beloved MacDonnell Ranges rather than the township.

Music

Music adapted from Miss Pink's personal collection of 19th-century drawing room music, except Hardware, Journey to a Mythical Place and Landscapes by Romano Crivici.

Text

'Carried' piece from Warlpiri story, translated by Ted Egan Jangala. Other text adapted from Miss Pink's official correspondence and journals.

Production Manager Eunice de Ramos **Front of House** Sally Crawford, Mandy Carlton

Acknowledgements

Steve Jampijinpa Patrick, Abie Jangala, Jerry Jangala Patrick, Gladys Napangardi Kelly, Peggy Napaljarri Rockman, Rosie Napurrula Tasman, Molly Napurrula Tasman, Kujanarra Napangardi Granites, Bern & Aileen Kilgariff, Sid Kinsman, Darwin High School, NT Archives, Australian National Archives, Romano Crivici, Helen Haritos, Ken Conway, Department of Transport and Works, Mia Christophersen, Air North, Dennis Maher, Darwin Theatre Company, Yoris Wilson, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Marie Kilgariff, Suzy Kruhse-Mountburton, Allan Anderson, Judith Ehling, Sylvia Langford, Marina View Serviced Apartments, TIO, Green Ant Research Arts & Publishing, Merrilee Mills, Markus Meier, Scott Trenwith, Mandy Carlton.