

Profile

Cedar Roppola is a multidisciplinary artist based in Meanjin (Brisbane), working across Butoh dance, video, sound, painting, textiles, and puppetry. Their work explores embodiment, eco-feminism, post-humanism, Finnish mythologies, and the transformative connection between body and place. Cedar holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts with Honours from QUT and a Master of Professional Practice in Performing Arts (First Class) from USC.

Trained in Butoh under masters like Masaki Iwana, Akira Kasai, and Yoshito Ohno, and others, Cedar performed widely across Europe and Japan, was a resident artist at Supperclub Amsterdam, and performed with butoh group Dairakudakan and solo performance at the Kamaitachi Village Art Festival, Japan. Since returning to Australia in 2014, they have presented solo works at various ARIs, and collaborations presented at QaGOMA, Dark Mofo, Metro Arts, the Museum of Brisbane and major festivals.

Cedar founded Kimera Productions, a physical theatre company known for sculptural costumes and puppetry, featured at events like Woodford Folk Festival and Dreamworld. They have run weekly Butoh classes for many years and curate the interdisciplinary performance series POLLINATOR, which ran monthly at House Conspiracy for over a year before extending to various venues.

Roppola is a tutor and course coordinator in design courses at UniSC, is a key performer at Blueys world, and works as freelance performer, facilitator, face painter and artist model.

Artist Statement

I engage in practice-based research across various media, including performance, video, sound, painting, drawing, and performance, with a background in puppetry and sculpture. My work draws from concepts like ecological post-humanism and eco-feminism, connecting these ideas with personal experiences of queerness, violence, displacement, and neurodivergence.

Embodiment is central to my practice, developed through intensive Okido Yoga and Butoh dance training and practice, which resist fixed or traditional structures and foster personal transformation. These practices investigate the nature of being, and help me explore transitional spaces between states of being, the flux between binary states. And, to engage the body in relationship with place and environment. Whether it is through dance, drawing or video or sound, I am consistently responding to the subtle relationships, feelings and sensations between body and place.

I also examine power dynamics through a mythological lens, (particularly my ancestral Finnish folklores and traditions, such as The Kalevala as well as a general approach toward subjects) informed by eco-feminism. My work often reflects on issues like mass insect extinction, ecological destruction and violence against women and patriarchal capitalism, emphasising their interconnectedness. By situating my work in these theoretical frameworks, I explore the complexities of change and transformation. As well as seek for ways in which to over-come, heal and connect with self, place and other (both human and non-human).

Skill

Teaching and Facilitation	Versatile performance artist	Sculpture, textiles, 3D equipment and tools
Video, photography and sound production and equipment	Creative and practical problem solving and rapid learning	Interpersonal communication with people of all levels and positions
Small business management	2D media, painting, drawing	Art and Design Industry Currency

Experience

University of Sunshine Coast, QLD	Lecturer and course coordinator - School of design.	2022 - Current
Facilitating online and face to face class learning for various design subjects. Ensuring preparation and marking of assessments is carried out in timely manner. Good communication with lecturers' and other staff members and students. Creating online content for courses - Responsive Design and Wearable Technologies and Introduction to Concepts in Fashion.		
Blueys World	Key Performer	2024 - Current
Performance within a scripted and interactive environment. Puppeteer. Ensuring safe and engaging visitor experience. Facilitating children and adults in a guided experience.		
Workshop contractor	Facilitating art and movement workshops.	2018 - Current
Designing and facilitating short visual art workshops for children and adults exploring the themes and techniques of my art practice. Delivering clear instruction of technical skills while facilitating individual creative expression. Regular clients include Redland Bay eco-centre Indigiscapes and Raw Art.		
Kimera Productions	Costumes, puppets and performance business.	2012 - Current
Managing a small business, designing and building sculptural costumes and puppets, directing and performing physical theatre. Training other performers, liaising with clients and gaining repeated contracts. Selected clients include: Australia - Woodford Folk Festival, Dreamworld, Earth Frequency Festival, West End Festival, Redcliff Festival, Splendor in the Grass, Europe - Resident performer at Supperclub Amsterdam, 360° Istanbul, Studio 80 - Amsterdam, Unleashed - Amsterdam		
TAFE, Murillumbah NSW	Visual Art Teacher.	2020 - 2022
Designing and facilitating Certificate 3 Design Fundamentals, in sculpture and ceramics. Facilitating online, connected learning		
AXIS Studio	Facilitating art and movement workshops.	2018 - 2022
Designing and facilitating 8 week courses in Butoh Dance Theatre with weekly objectives and learning outcomes. Establishing ongoing student engagement and development over ongoing participation by catering to individual skill levels. Curating and facilitating monthly interdisciplinary studio events called POLLINATOR		
Okido Yoga	Teaching classes and residential seminars	2011 - 2017
Assisting to run monthly seminars of 3 - 14 days in Okido Yoga (Teacher Training) at Okido Yoga Dojo, The Netherlands Teaching weekly classes at Zen Central, Brisbane, 2014 - 2017		

Education

Masters of professional practice, Performing Arts (First Class)	University of the Sunshine Coast	2017
TAE40116 Training and Assessment	Inspire Education	2019
Bachelor with Hons Fine Art, Visual Art	Queensland university of Technology	2011
Okido Yoga teachers training, 4 years	Okido Yoga Dojo Holland	2014
Diploma Arts, Crafts and Community Art	Morningside TAFE	2001

References

Dr. Leah Barklay	University of the Sunshine Coast, discipline lead	lbarklay@usc.edu.au
Dr. Marni Stuart	University of the Sunshine Coast, lecturer	mstuart@usc.edu.au
Dr. William Platz	Queensland Collage of Art, Collaborator	bill@circada.com

Portfolio

Venue	Location	Event	Artistic Contribution	Year
Lethbridge Gallery	Brisbane	Landscape art prize	Finalist in online exhibition with AV work - I remembered who I am	2025
KEPK Gallery	Brisbane	Dualist Engine exhibition	Butoh Performance, Beyond the Unbearable Light of Day, with Orthotyp-a- sound design	2025
Anywhere Theatre Festival	Brisbane	Corpus Null	Direction and choreography and production, Butoh ensemble performance	2021
House Conspiracy	Brisbane	Group Exhibition, Tipping point	Butoh Performance, Carbon	2020
Soylent Spot AR	Brisbane	Group Exhibition, Double Decker Echo	Performance Installation, On the Brink	2020
Kamaitachi Village Festival	Japan	Cultural performance festival	Butoh Performance, Water Pot	2019
Backbone	Brisbane	Darkening of Light Concert	Performance Sculpture, Forgotten wings	2019
Burnett Lane, Art Landing	Brisbane	The Cat gets Quantum Entangled, interdisciplinary collaborative event	Performance Installation, Super Gallactica	2019
Anywhere Festival,	Brisbane	Niflhel, immersive event	Performance-sculpture, Existential worm	2019
Metro Arts	Brisbane	Death fest	Performance sculpture, Psycho Rainbow	2018
Watt Space Gallery	New Castle	This is Not Art Festival, Crack X	Performance Installation, Tender Tension	2018

Venue	Location	Event	Artistic Contribution	Year
Penny Contemporary,	Hobart	Nu: Classical exhibition event with Leonie Rhodes	Performances Carbon and Super Galactica	2018
QAGOMA: Picasso Vollard Suite	Brisbane	The Drawing Labyrinth, Event	Collaborative performance drawing event with William Platz	2018
Metro Arts, Flowstate	Brisbane	Death Fest	Collaborative Performance with Kellie O'Dempsey	2018
Pop Gallery	Brisbane	Puppet Tearing, Group Exhibition	Performance installation, Skin. Video work, Laugh	2017
Fortitude Valley, Warehouse	Brisbane	Away and Towards	Collaborative performance with Kellie O'Dempsey's PhD	2017
MONA	Hobart	Dark Mofo	Performing with Hermann Nitsch, ACTION:150	2017
Analogue Gallery	Brisbane	SxPlus, Real Live Nude, Group Exhibition	Performance, Real Live Nudes	2016
Anywhere festival	Brisbane	SxPlus, Group Exhibition	Performance-sculpture, Baba	2016
Supperclub	Amsterdam	Regular performer	Performances with sculptural costumes	2013-2015