



# CRISÁLIDA

## Visual Story

Created by



Access  
2Arts

Making disability and art work

Desert  
FESTIVAL

REDHOT  
ARTS

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Desert Festival acknowledges the Central Arrernte people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their history, their living culture, and their Elders past, present and emerging.

# Visual Story

Visual Stories are designed to help prepare you for your visit. They include information about the venue and what will happen during the performance.

Visual Stories are suitable for people who wish to be familiar with what to expect prior to attending. Please note that the information includes spoilers which may impact on your experience of the production.

This Visual Story also contains Audio Descriptions of elements of the performance to assist people who may be blind, low vision or need additional visual information to support their visit.

This Visual Story has been created by Access2Arts in consultation with Red Hot Arts and the Desert Festival.

A close-up photograph of a hand pouring a golden liquid from a glass into another glass. The scene is set on a dark, reflective surface, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the liquid's texture and the hand's movement. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing the text "Key Information".

# Key Information

# The details

## Overview

Reflective by nature, CRISÁLIDA is a moment of calm in a rapidly shifting world. This immersive installation wrestles with our relationships to time, intimacy, landscape and money through the lens of the body, entangling the artificial and natural, and the human desire to see, shift and control the future.

The first collaboration between dance artist Ashleigh Musk and video artist Ivan Trigo Miras, CRISÁLIDA blends video, sound and the body to create a space for introspection.

## Performance Length

This video runs for approximately 17 minutes in a loop.

## Ages

Parental guidance recommended for children under 12.

# The venue

The exhibition will take place during Desert Festival 2024 at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden which is Australia's only arid zone (desert) botanic garden.

It is located next to the Todd River and not far from the centre of Alice Springs.

There is an Access Guide to for the Festival site that you can access on the Desert Festival website.





# The company

Concept and creation by Ashleigh Musk and Ivan Trigo Miras

Sound design by Anna Whitaker

Mentorship / spatial design assistance by Jen Hector

Developed with the support of 2024 Project Seed Funding from Red Hot Arts Central Australia. CRISÁLIDA was made possible by the Australian Governments Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia.

# Content Warnings

The content for this show contains;

Smoke effects

Sexual references

Mild nudity





# Sensory Information

This video combines images sounds and movement.

There is a soundscape for the video, which changes with the scenes and becomes louder or quieter at times but there are no sudden noises.

There are no flashing lights, lighting will be soft and changes with the scenes, at times it will be quite dark.

The performance is in an space enclosed with curtains which may feel quite small, you can leave at any time.

# On the day



# Entering the exhibition

The exhibition of CRISÁLIDA takes place in the Olive Pink Botanic Garden Gallery Space just next to the Café and main festival space.

Exhibition viewing times:

- Friday 27 Sep: 6.30pm – 11.30pm
- Saturday 28 Sep: 2pm – 11.30pm
- Sunday 29 Sep: 4pm – 9.30pm
- Thursday 3 Oct: 11am- 3.30pm
- Friday 4 Oct: 11am – 3.30pm
- Saturday 5 Oct: 10am – 3.30pm
- Sunday 6 Oct: 10am – 3.30pm

Small groups limited to 2-3 people at a time will be able to view the exhibition.

The gallery space has limited accessibility with door widths of only 70cm and only one step-free entrance.

The exhibition is in a small, dimly lit room and may not be suitable to those with low vision, however an audio description of the video is available in this guide.

A Desert Festival volunteer will be in attendance at all times, please call upon them if you require any assistance exiting the exhibition

# Seating

There will be bench seats to sit on in the space, if you need a different type of chair you can ask the staff.

If you prefer to stand please stand at the back behind people who are seated.

If you assistance with access you can let the staff know and they can assist you to enter and exit the space.

# During the show

Only a small number of people will be able to view the exhibition at a time.

You will be shown into the space by a volunteer, and the space will be quite dark.

It is important to be quiet while people are watching the video.

During the video most people will be seated on the benches or chairs inside the space and some people may stand at the back.

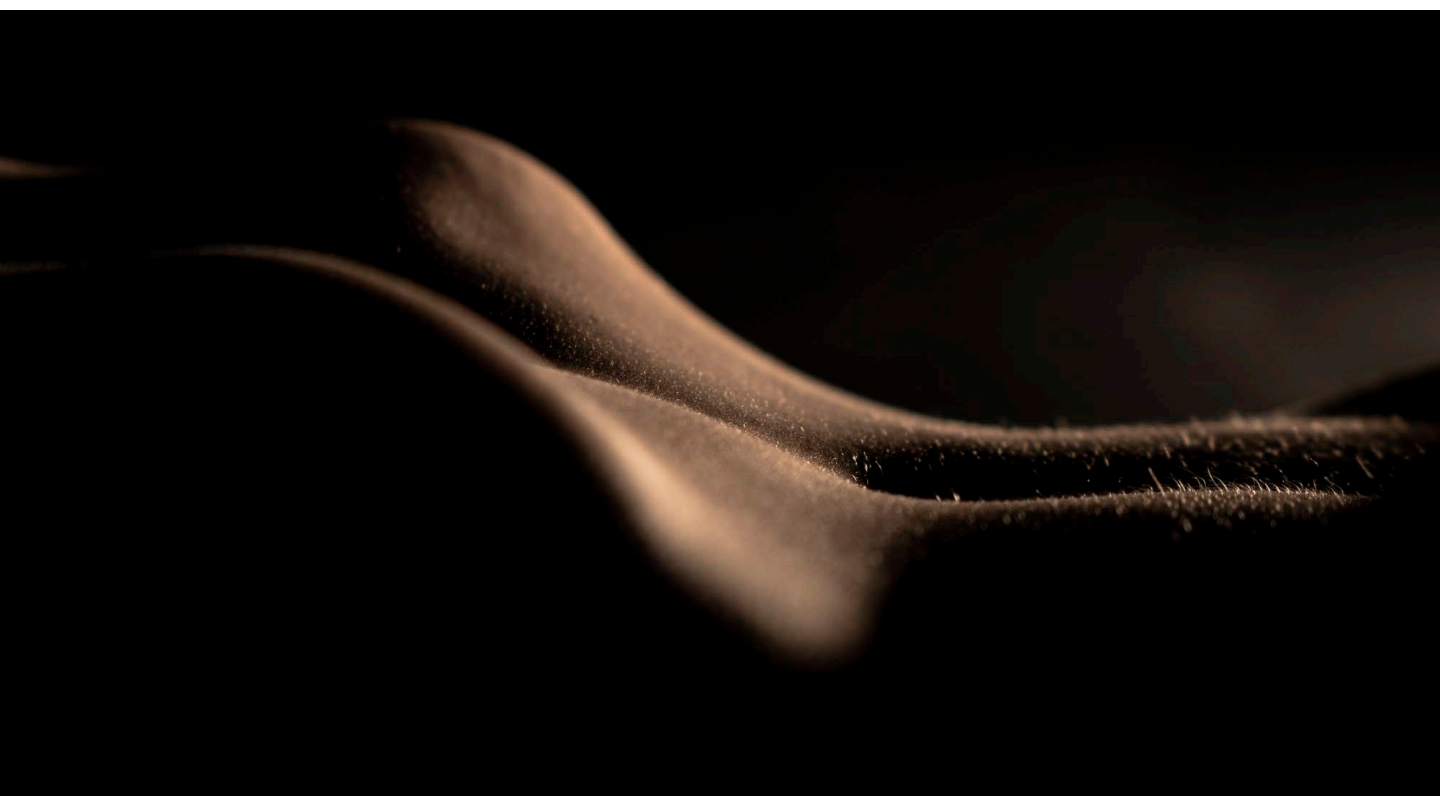
The video is on a loop but you can leave whenever you want to. If you think you might need to leave the show quickly please sit to the side or at the back.

There will be staff or volunteers that can help you if you need assistance to leave to go back to the main site, or to the toilets or quiet space.

# After the show

The video is on a loop that goes for 17 minutes, some people might stay the whole time and some people might leave before they have watched the whole video. You will only know it is finished when you see the same things again.

If you need some quiet space there is a low sensory area that staff can show you.



# The exhibition



# The set

The site is the Visitor Centre Gallery. A large screen 900 x 1500 mm is mounted on a stand in a curtained off space. This creates a small room or tunnel like viewing space in front of the upright screen which sits around waist height on the end wall (it lower edge is about 700mm above the floor of the gallery).

The floor has been covered with a plastic tarpaulin similar to the ones used to create the side walls, which hang along the left and right sides cutting down the viewing space which is limited to only a few people at one time.

On the floor of this dim space are variously shaped mirrors, arranged in a jigsaw like manner. The image on the video screen is reflected multiple times on the small mirrors which lie on the floor, like an upside-down photomontage. Showing parts of the whole.

Fragments of the images projected in the video reflect from the variously shaped mirrored pieces, adding to the mood so that when the light in the video is blue, the whole space takes on a blue hue, when the images use natural light this is also reflected, and as the images darken the space appears mainly black.



# The characters

**Ashleigh Musk** has thick black shoulder length hair with a straight fringe, dark eyes and brows, a narrow nose and a full lower lip. She has light brown skin. She wears a brown bra and pants.

**Ivan Trigo Miras** has short close-cropped dark hair and a beard that shadows his/ their face. His skin is also light brown, and a sleeve of tattoos surrounds his left arm. There is a small silver sleeper earring in his left ear, and a bright silver chain around his neck.



# The performance

The video piece features key images that revolve around extreme closeups of parts of the body. These are generally shown in a horizontal plane, lying or rolling on the floor and often interacting with a large hourglass (about 20-25 cm high).

The hourglass is made up of two clear near spherical shapes, with slightly flattened bottoms, so it can stand upright on one end. The spheres narrow towards the middle so there is a shared slender connection between the two ends.

The hourglass contains an amount of bright yellow sand that runs through the narrow join from one spherical end into the other as it is tipped or inverted.

The piece begins with an opening image black and white image that looks like a landscape of rolling hills, it is slowly revealed to be a recumbent figure wrapped in a shroud, loose threads from the muslin blown in the wind. This image is superimposed with closer images of another body lying on the floor. Light reflects off the small fine hairs covering the body, is it stomach, buttocks, legs or ankles and feet? The skin moves gently, like a breathing landscape, darkness descends.

A blue scene, of an eye staring through a triangular tear in a plastic sheet. Coins spin on a mirrored surface. Images change quickly between the two; blue eye looks, the coins spin again...more coins are added, they fall and still. A hand enters from the left holding a 50-cent coin between thumb and forefinger, a tentative tattooed arm enters from the right, and also holds the coin. A slow dance or tug-of-war ensues from left to right, and back and forth looking for balance.

The hourglass is tethered in chain, it sits on a mirrored surface, another chain lowers slowly and steadily into the image on the right, dangling like a rope, and finally pooling on the floor alongside the hourglass.

Ashleigh lies on the floor gazing at the yellow sand drifting through the hourglass/timepiece. She caresses the hourglass like a small child, or precious object, turning it in her hands until it lies flat against the floor. She rocks it, stills it and releases it to rock again. Images are closeup, it's just her head, the diamond shape of her arms, bent elbows and hands.

A large triangular shape of scrunched up black shiny fabric (or silver alfoil/ plastic) appears much like a mountainous landscape. It's surfaces crinkle and fold, creating crevices, lines and hollows. Sprayed with water droplets, they glisten on the dark surface, it is reflective, they appear pearl like, suspended on the surface. Light plays across its surface, constantly moving, bouncing and reflecting. It's like an otherworldly space populated with strange and alien light and shadows.

This segues to lumps of damp sand, that are blown away, eroded by wind and sprinkling dry grains that enter from above like rain. A giant hand enters from above and picks up some of the sand, crushing it in his hand, it pours through his fingers. The movements are slow and purposeful.

Figure of 8 coin spins, the pull and push of a kiss...

From overhead a cropped image of Ivan (the man) lying against a brown parquet wooden floor, his bare shoulders and neck with silver chain, at the top of the screen. He holds a 20-cent piece in his mouth, it lies flat across his teeth, its silver flashes between his pink lip and dark facial hair.

A collection of coins, lie flat side by side, butted up against each other. A thin stream of water dribbles down on to them, splashing the plastic surface on which they lie and pooling around them.

Upside down image of Ashleigh also lying on a wooden parquet floor, her naked shoulders at the top of the screen, her head and short dark hair at the bottom. Her sculpted face with neck, chin, lips, nose, eyes closed and dark brows, is inverted and reflected three times across the mirrors below. A 20-cent coin rests in the cavity of her right eye.

The hourglass and coins makes numerous appearances through the piece, in the final minutes there is a closeup of sand running through the hourglass, it is then suspended by the silver chain the spins, gliding across the mirrored surface.

Abstracted shapes of Ashleigh/the dancer's body behind a scrim, highlighted by two handheld torches, the lights are yellow at the centre and create a red throw of light, her body creates dark shaped silhouettes that take up the entire screen.

The video ends in a black screen.

# Contact

To discuss your access needs, please contact the Desert Festival team on 08 8952 2392 or [admin@redhotarts.com.au](mailto:admin@redhotarts.com.au).

Staff and volunteers will also be available on site to assist.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a glowing hourglass. The hourglass is filled with bright yellow sand, which is illuminated from within, creating a warm, golden glow. The hand is positioned at the bottom of the hourglass, with fingers gently gripping it. The background is dark and out of focus, with some blurred lights, suggesting an indoor setting like a stage or a dimly lit room. The overall mood is one of time passing and appreciation.

**Thank you, we  
hope you enjoy  
the show**