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LOCAL ART IN LOCKDOWN: A still from Anna White's online project 'In My Father's Garden' which was released yesterday. The film project which was conceived and created over the span of two months and took place in her father's garden in Longwood East. Ms White was able to undertake the project care of the City of Melbourne's COVID-19 arts grant initiative. More on page 9.



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Life skills at schools



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Euroa group wants ideas



Art begins in your environment

■ Renowned artist Anna White heads back to father's Longwood East garden for inspiration

By PHILIPPE PEREZ

ANNA White enjoys a stellar career as an artist - having worked, exhibited and performed in London and Malaysia.

But it was back in the flowing nature of Longwood East where she found an idea for her latest project - and she has not let the COVID-19 pandemic stop her.

"I was staying at my father's place in Longwood East - in April. It is a very beautiful location, and my father is a passionate gardener of Australian native plants," Ms White said.

"I'm an artist so I thought about what sort of project I could work on while I was there. My background is in painting, however, over the past few years I've become increasingly interested in photography and dance. I wanted to dance in the garden."

It formulated the idea of 'In My Father's Garden' an online film project created in May and June that captured this moment in time with her father.

Her lifelong relationship with her father Doug

White and with his garden has been a formative inspiration for her artistic practice and brought up memories of being spellbound by patterns formed by leaves and flowers in her parent's garden.

"My father is a compelling figure - he was happy to be involved and thought it was a good idea. The garden is his creation. As it turned out he was perfect in front of the camera - he just knew what to do," Ms White said.

"I work intuitively, and because I was at Longwood for an extended time, I could take advantage of opportunities that arose with atmospheric and light conditions and also capture footage of my father when he was active in the garden. It is a record of this time."

Doug is a passionate gardener of Australian native plants and has volunteered at the Euroa Arboretum for many years, which Ms White said was integral for much of her art.

"I love the garden, its unruly nature, surprises, beauty, and the intriguing patterns and colours. The

plants in our garden in my childhood home were a formative influence upon me."

"I loved painting flowers and plants before my work became more abstract, so I guess this project is an extension of that," Ms White said

Ms White said that while she has worked in a variety of mediums, this project was very much still a learning experience for her, as she was working with film for the first time as an art practice.

She wasn't afraid to include other members of her family in the project.

"I wanted to include the music of my brother, drummer Jim White, who was also staying at our father's place, whose music is a great inspiration to me," Ms White said.

"Video seemed to be the perfect medium for this project and all of my interests coalesced."

The online film project was able to be completed care of a City of Melbourne COVID-19 arts grant, which in total offered \$2.5 million to assist artists in creating artistic projects during the pandemic.

"There were a few grants



on offer for artists at this time, I was thrilled to be successful with the City of Melbourne COVID-19 arts grant for an online project. It was a quick response grant, so everything happened fast," Ms White said.

'In My Father's Garden' was launched on Tuesday and can be viewed via www.annawhite.com.au/video.

THE GARDEN AS ART: Artist Anna White (above) has found much inspiration in her father's Longwood East garden for her latest online film project.



PASSION FOR NATURE: Anna's father Doug White, who took part in Anna's project is a passionate volunteer at the Euroa Arboretum.