



Art Gallery
of Western Australia **Preview**

spring 08



Foreword

It is spring and the Gallery is alive with *Wonderlust*. The response from the public has been overwhelming as everyone discovers their Collection anew. Feedback locally, from the Wheatbelt, Philadelphia and beyond has been streaming in, it's all positive and very gratifying. Please visit often and keep an eye out for subtle changes of works, events and talks throughout the coming year.

Your visits to the Gallery in the months ahead will be rewarded with a rich array of remarkable exhibitions and programs. Our current exhibition, and what is a first for Australia, is *Culture Warriors: National Indigenous Art Triennial*. Bringing together outstanding contemporary work by artists from throughout Australia, the exhibition is a stunning presentation of the very best contemporary Indigenous Art. The Gallery thanks a close friend, Brenda Croft, Senior Curator, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia and is grateful for the support of BHP Billiton for bringing the exhibition to Western Australia.

The Gallery welcomes Wesfarmers Arts and thanks them for extending and enriching their relationship with the Gallery by becoming our Principal Partner for the next three years. Watch for Wesfarmers events and don't miss the free Wesfarmers Arts Walk-in Tours offered Tuesday through Sunday, generously guided by Volunteer Gallery Guides.

A much anticipated highlight in November is the inaugural *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards*. In the first year they have attracted 157 nominations of outstanding artists from across Australia. The exhibition will present a group of works by each of the sixteen finalists, which promise to delight and challenge audiences with some of Australia's best contemporary art.

In December we launch *Gordon Bennett*, a survey exhibition that reveals this artist's many extraordinary achievements over the past twenty years. It features works from your State Art Collection, including *Painting for the new Republic (The inland sea)*, 1995, a generous gift from the Friends of the Art Gallery. Bennett's work questions social complacency, art and politics with incredibly dynamic and engaging work.

I'm sure you'll agree that your Gallery is filled with wonderful experiences, and now the Collection is on-line as well. I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their support over the past year as we look forward to welcoming Dr. Stefano Carboni as the Gallery's eleventh Director since 1895.

Gary Dufour Deputy Director, Chief Curator



Cover:
Treahna Hamm
Yorta Yorta peoples
Yabby 2006
sedge grass, wire inserts
and gumnuts
76.0 (h) x 70.0 (w) cm,
84.0 cm (diam)
Purchased 2007
National Gallery of Australia
© Treahna Hamm



Mapping

***Wonderlust* is a dynamic presentation of the State Art Collection, featuring Indigenous, Australian and International art, craft and design acquired since the Gallery's inception in 1895.**

Wendy Ramshaw's *Necklace of tears for Dora Maar* is a piece of great elegance and emotional power. On display in *Wonderlust's Mapping* section, it is composed of layers of small chandelier-like crystal drops. As the title suggests these resemble hard, crystallised tears that form a loop around the windpipe of the potential wearer. They embody the sorrow of Dora Maar, Pablo Picasso's famous model, muse and lover from 1936 until 1944. Maar was the subject of many of Picasso's works in which he represented her as sad and broken. Ramshaw's piece directly relates this emotional history, becoming a moving elegy for a figure behind some of the most important art of the twentieth century.



Wendy Ramshaw

Necklace of tears for Dora Maar 1996
sterling silver, rock crystal, aquamarines

(a) 36.7 x 8.6 cm

(b) 36.3 x 8.6 cm

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Purchased 1997



Material Gesture

Robert Rooney was one of a number of young Melbourne artists who moved from figuration to hard-edged abstraction during the late 1960s, influenced by the example of contemporary American abstract painters. Rooney prefers to work from secondary sources, particularly mass-media ones, like cereal box cut-outs, rather than paint or draw from the actual subject. Interested particularly in pictures or diagrams that resembled abstract art, when he found two books on knitting, he realised that the various knitting patterns could be reduced to basic curves and straight lines as in this painting. Rooney's interest in serial repetition was influenced by its use at the time in literature and music, in the work of Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and John Cage, amongst others. The use of repetition of forms also reflected Rooney's perception of the patterned uniformity of daily suburban life, the immediate environment that has consistently inspired his work.



Robert Rooney

Superknit 2 1970

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

152.5 x 228.5 cm

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Purchased 1989

© Robert Rooney 1970



Home

German born Hans Heysen painted this impressive work from his studio at Hahndorf, a village near Adelaide where he worked for much of his life. Painted from a combination of direct observation and several studies from nature, Heysen's main consideration was the placement of the lights and darks and the structural line leading the eye out 'into the light'. The work embodies an idyllic rural state and Heysen's relentless preoccupation with light and colour. After being rejected by the National Gallery of Victoria for acquisition, Heysen made several key changes to the composition, such as enlarging the central red gum. As Heysen later wrote, this 'helped to bind the two sides and made a great improvement, materially enhancing the whole conception.' It was then purchased by a Perth local and donated to the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 1922.

Come and see this Gallery favourite before it goes on loan from 21 October 2008 to feature in an exhibition of Hans Heysen's works at the Art Gallery of South Australia.



Hans Heysen

Driving into the light 1914–21

oil on canvas

155.0 x 122.0 cm

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Gift of Mr W.H. Vincent, 1922



Presence

Shadow of the spear, an installation by Julie Gough, explores the many lies that have been told in the past, that for some will never be forgotten. Through academic research into her Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage, Gough discovered a transcript from a speech given by George Augustus Robinson, Protector of Aborigines in Tasmania from 1829 to 1839. Robinson promised a group of Tasmanian Aboriginal people safety and the right to stay on their traditional lands if they were to lay down their spears. This promise was broken and eventually all of the people who Robinson had made the promise to, along with the majority of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, were driven from their lands.



Julie Gough

Shadow of the spear 1997

ceramic, wood, text

Variable dimensions

'Spear' piece lengths: (A) 193.6cm; (B) 194.0cm; (C) 193.0cm;

(D) 192.7cm; (E) 193.7cm; (F) 194.3cm.

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Purchased 1997



Story

La robe Chinoise (*The Chinese dress*) was painted by Hilda Rix Nicholas in Paris in the heady days before the start of the First World War. Australian born and educated, Rix Nicholas had travelled overseas with her mother and sister in 1907 in order to continue her art studies. The sitter for the painting was the artist's sister, Elsie, and her depiction in fancy dress reflects the late Edwardian period's obsession with appearance, artifice, and disguise, as well as their fascination with non-European cultures. When war broke out the artist and her family were evacuated to England. Sadly Elsie contracted typhoid fever on the crossing and died soon after their arrival, just one year after this portrait was made.



Self-Guided Tours

The Gallery has produced a range of new brochures to assist you in your own self-guided and self-paced tour, according to your interests and mood.

People Watching

A quick guide to some folks to cast a salacious or coolly-regarding eye over.

Bad Hair Day

You think you've got it bad? Erase your own suffering by checking out some people with serious problems.

Only Got 5 Minutes?

Okay you made it, but by god you're in a rush! DON'T PANIC. We can get you through in no time.

Pick Me Up

Looking for inspiration? Then follow us.

Eye Tunes

Galleries as silent places of contemplation? We think not. These works are coming through loud and clear. Turn up the volume and get those dancing shoes on, 'cause we gotta get this party started.

Local Produce

Here's some home-grown, non-genetically modified goodness to fill your artistic shopping cart.

Wonderlust Water Walk

Proudly supported by the Water Corporation

Take a new journey through your Collection and discover the importance of water and how we can all play a role in protecting and conserving this precious resource.

Hilda Rix Nicholas

La robe Chinoise [*The Chinese dress*] c1913

oil on canvas

139.5 x 80.0 cm

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Purchased with funds from the Sir Claude Hotchin Art Foundation, 1994

© Hilda Rix Nicholas c1913

Culture Warriors: National Indigenous Art Triennial

20 September – 23 November 2008

A National Gallery of Australia Travelling Exhibition

Culture Warriors showcases the work of thirty-one artists from every state and territory and surveys the rich diversity of contemporary art practice across Indigenous Australia.

Presenting a variety of media including painting on bark and canvas, sculpture, textiles, weaving, new media, photo media, print making and installation, *Culture Warriors* explores the use of traditional materials and revitalises cultural practices with new technologies in works often imbued with cultural, social and political narratives.

Paying tribute to Jean Baptiste Aputimi, Phillip Gudthaykudthay, John Mawurndjul, Lofty Bardayal Nadjamarrek AO and Arthur Koo'ekka Pambegan Jr, *Culture Warriors* investigates the diverse cultures, experiences and lives of Indigenous Australians.

HJ Wedge Wiradjuri peoples

Taking the land away 2006

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

71.0 (h) x 178.0 (w) cm

Courtesy of The Big River Collection, Tasmania

© H.J. Wedge

Sunday Sessions

CULTURE WARRIORS FREE FLOOR TALKS

Sunday 21 September at 2pm

Brenda Croft

Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia

Sunday 21 September at 2.45pm

Danie Mellor

Participating Artist

Sunday 5 October at 2pm

Julie Dowling

Participating Artist

Sunday 26 October at 2pm

Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser

Participating Artists

Sunday 9 November at 2pm

Christopher Pease

Participating Artist

Sunday 16 November at 2pm

Vernon Ah Kee

Participating Artist



Gordon Bennett

20 December 2008 – 22 March 2009

A National Gallery of Victoria Touring Exhibition

Since his first major solo exhibition in 1989, Gordon Bennett has achieved international critical acclaim for the complex ways in which his work engages with historical and contemporary questions of cultural and personal identity, with a specific focus on Australia's colonial past and its postcolonial present.

Bennett's idiosyncratic art is founded on his critical enquiry into the power and effects of language to structure ideologies, and social and cultural systems. His work has been guided by a postmodernist aesthetic that has enabled him to deconstruct and represent the histories and politics that determine identities and the national and international social landscapes in which, through his work, he seeks to locate a place for himself.

Gordon Bennett presents 20 years of the artist's work and will bring together many of the *Notes to Basquiat* paintings and selected works from the *Home Décor* series. The exhibition will examine the manner in which Bennett's focus on the disenfranchisement of colonialism resonates globally beyond his specifically Australian context, and the challenge his work makes to political conservatism and social complacency.

Advisory Message

Please be advised that some artwork in this exhibition contains graphic material that may not be suitable for all audiences.

Gordon Bennett

Born Australia 1955

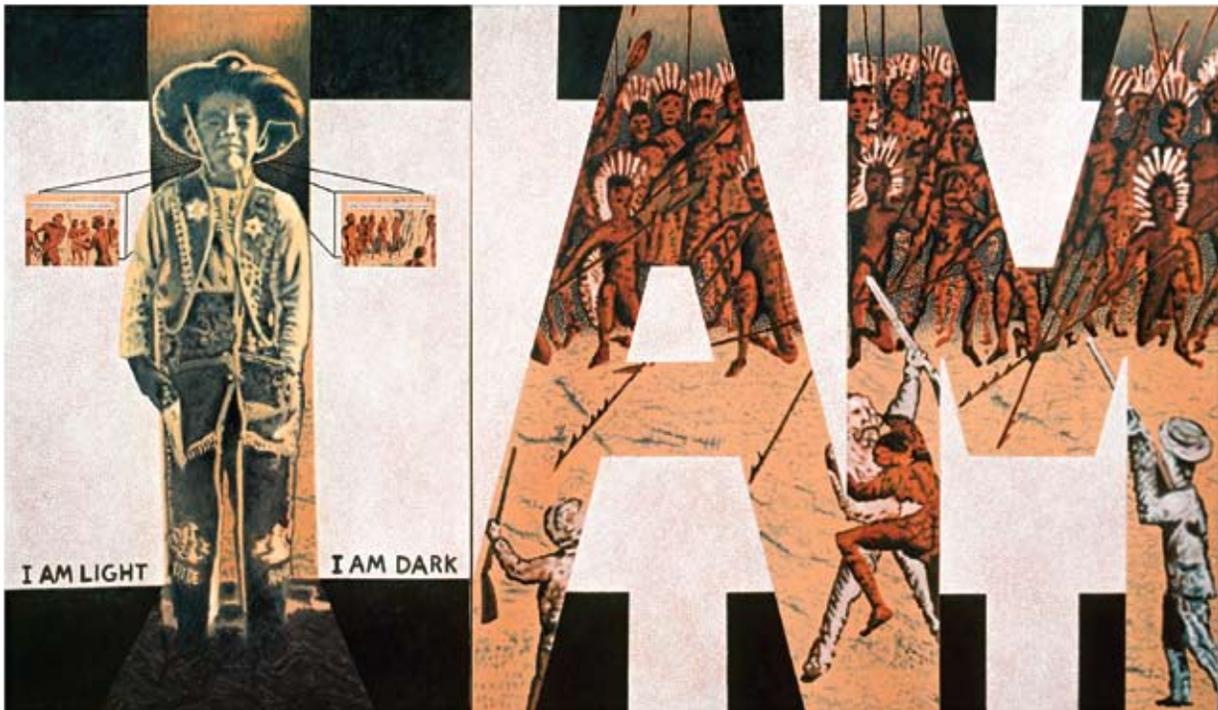
Self portrait (But I always wanted to be one of the good guys) 1990

oil on canvas, 150.0 x 260.0 cm

Private collection, Brisbane

Photography: Phillip Andrews

© Courtesy of the artist





Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2008

The inaugural *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards* is set to intrigue, impress, delight and provoke audiences when the Awards exhibition opens on Saturday 1 November 2008.

The exhibition will showcase outstanding works by sixteen Indigenous artists from across the nation. Each of the artists will bring a unique vision to the Awards and, placed together, their work will reveal the dominant and emerging mediums, subjects and experiences shaping contemporary Indigenous art today.

Each artist will be in the running to receive the richest Indigenous art award in Australia, the non-acquisitive Western Australian Indigenous Art Award, which is valued at \$50,000. One Western Australian artist will also be awarded the \$10,000 prize.

The \$5,000 People's Choice Award will be given to an artist in the Awards exhibition whose work receives the highest number of visitor votes. The People's Choice Award is highly anticipated as it will simultaneously celebrate an artist's achievements and uncover the values, tastes and interests of Western Australian art-goers.

The artists selected for the Awards exhibition are: Jean Baptiste Aputimi, Daniel Boyd, Jenny Fraser, Fiona Foley, Sally Gabori, Dinni Kunoth Kemarre, Naata Nungurrayi, Shane Pickett, Josie Kunoth Petyarre, June Richards, Rita (Muni) Simpson, Patrick Mung Mung, Spinifex Artists (Lennard Walker, Byron Brookes, Ian Rictor, Fred Grant, Ned Grant, Roy Underwood and Simon Hogan), Alick Tipoti, Patrick Tjungurrayi, Gordon Hookey.

The *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards* will be on display 1 November 2008 –11 January 2009.

The Parthenon Frieze cast – a forgotten treasure

An audio visual presentation and talk in the Art Gallery Theatre, followed by a tour to view the Parthenon Frieze cast in the WA Museum. Refreshments provided.

Sunday 19 October at 2pm FREE

Join classics scholar Kevin O'Toole to learn more about this rare Western Australian cast whose acquisition was inspired by Dr John Hackett. This year marks the centenary of the opening of the Hellenic Gallery in the WA Museum and display of the Gallery's Parthenon Frieze cast. The importance of the Perth cast continues to gain significance as the original marbles in the British Museum deteriorate. Hear the fascinating story of Perth's acquisition over 100 years ago of its cast of the Elgin marbles.

For bookings and enquiries please email:
public.programs@artgallery.wa.gov.au



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Family Day

Sunday 16 November, 10am – 1pm FREE

Come and join us for a day filled with free fun and entertainment for the whole family – all with an environmentally friendly theme! Children can get hands-on in art-making activities, hear performances by musicians who use re-cycled materials as instruments, see an ice sculptor at work, and listen to tales of native Australian animals. Follow the 'Artimals' trail through *Culture Warriors*, or take the 'Water Walk' through the *Wonderlust* exhibition. Presented in association with the *Earth from Above* display in the Perth Cultural Centre, and sponsored by BHP Billiton.

Activities can be subject to change, please check our website for current details: www.artgallery.wa.gov.au

Foundation Picture Club: The Art of Learning Your Collection

One of the many initiatives the Foundation organises and encourages is a monthly viewing of a diverse selection of art works on display at the Gallery. *Picture Club* is as much a social forum for its members, as it is an educational and insightful individual experience. The sessions, led by three of the Gallery's accomplished Volunteer Gallery Guides, Ishbelle Johnstone, Fay Thurling and Patricia Sanders, engage and develop its supporters' understanding and appreciation of the State Art Collection. Sessions are scheduled for the third Monday of each month and commence at 10.30am. Our attendees come from many different backgrounds, professions and industries, but enjoy connecting through a mutual interest in the visual arts. Together with the guides, the Foundation works to personalise the *Picture Club* experience for each of its members, and they are often encouraged to hand pick works they have a personal interest in learning more about in future sessions. With the Gallery's recent unveiling of its major calendar exhibition for 2008 *WONDERLUST: New journeys Your collection*, members of *Picture Club* have already benefited greatly through special access and tours custom built around the five new displays showcasing the State Art Collection.

Refreshments and the opportunity to further discuss the works are also offered at the conclusion of each tour. Owing to its relaxed and informative nature, *Picture Club* is one of the most popular ongoing events on the Foundation calendar.

If you would like further information regarding *Picture Club*, or as to how becoming a Foundation member might benefit you, please contact Aston Gibbs on 9492 6687 or aston.gibbs@artgallery.wa.gov.au



Foundation Picture Club August 2008

The State Art Collection Online

People can now access the State Art Collection online through the Art Gallery of Western Australia's website. 225 works, a selection of highlights from the Collection's 17,000 items, can be viewed as a result of the Gordon Darling Digitisation Project.

The launch of the Art Gallery's online project, supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation, coincides with the new displays of the State Art Collection, *WONDERLUST New journeys Your collection*. Paintings, sculpture and design objects can be seen online alongside a selection of the Gallery's renowned collection of contemporary and traditional Indigenous Art.

The project brings people and the State Art Collection together in a virtual space, and proves an invaluable free educational tool for teachers, students and researchers. It also provides art lovers access to the Collection from home, whether that is in metropolitan Perth, rural WA or overseas.

Art Gallery of Western Australia Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Gary Dufour, commented:

The Collection on the website is another new beginning and makes it available to a host of users in Perth, the region and the world. New audiences can now interact with the range of works and interpretive texts.

The online Collection can be viewed via the Art Gallery's website. Click on 'Search the Collection' on the 'Collections' page, or go to: <http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/collections/index.asp>

The online Collection is made possible by



Elise Blumann *On the Swan, Crawley* 1938
oil on cardboard, 61.3 x 74.0 cm
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia
Purchased 1976 © Elise Blumann 1938

Public Programs

School Holiday Fun in September/October

Saturday 27 September – Sunday 12 October

Animal Secrets Art Trail

10am – 4pm daily
Gold coin donation.

Find the animals hidden amongst the *Wonderlust* exhibition.
Discover new works and surprises from the State Art Collection.

Children's Art Activity

Every weekday during the holidays, 10am – 12 noon
Excludes Public Holidays.
Gold coin donation.

Create your own fantasy creature using self hardening clay.
Demonstrate your sculptural skills using Gallery artworks as inspiration.

School Holiday Fun in December/January

Friday 19 Dec 2008 – Sunday 1 Feb 2009

Children's Art Trail

10am – 4pm daily
Gold coin donation.

Explore new art works, solve puzzles and learn interesting facts.
Experience a self guided adventure tour, especially for children.

Build with Lego!

Saturday 10 – Sunday 18 January 2009

Shape the future with your own architectural creations.
Thousands of pieces of white Lego will be available for a limited time. Children can construct their own buildings and vision of the future.
See website for details of session times.

City Playground Pass

Pick up your free City Playground Pass from the Art Gallery reception for a range of fantastic activity ideas and discount offers which can be used throughout the City of Perth during the school holidays.

The Art Trail and art-making activities are suitable for primary school aged children.
No booking is required. Parents/carers must supervise their children at all times.

Activities can be subject to change, please check our website for current details: www.artgallery.wa.gov.au



wonderland

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITY SPACE

Join Karin the Kangaroo to experience this exciting new space designed especially for families visiting *Wonderlust*.

Explore different textures, build a 3D puzzle, discover secrets about colour and uncover the intriguing journey of an artwork. Copy poses and expressions from portraits, test your knowledge of art words and ideas and imagine yourself in the midst of an artwork as you experience the sights and sounds of the scene.

wonderland also features a reading area, seating for parents and a variety of hands-on activities that are suitable for a diverse age range of children whilst supervised by their guardians.

Suitable for children from 1 to 13 years of age.



OCTOBER

Seniors Week Tour Monday 27 – Friday 31 at 12pm

Memories of years gone by

Tuesday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11am and 1pm

Wonderlust: Presence

Wednesday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11am and 1pm

Culture Warriors

Thursday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11am and 1pm

Wonderlust: Material Gesture

Friday focus 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 12.30pm

Kimberley landscape by Paddy Tjamitji

Friday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 2pm

Wonderlust: Story

Saturday 4, 11, 18, 25 at 1pm

A tour of your Gallery

Sunday 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11am and 1pm

Culture Warriors

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11am and 1pm

Wonderlust: Home

Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11am and 1pm

Indigenous Art Awards

Thursday 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11am and 1pm

A fresh look at pottery in the Centenary Galleries

Friday focus 7, 14, 21, 28 at 12.30pm

The great metaphysical interior by Imants Tillers

Friday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 2pm

Treasures from the WA Collection

Saturday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 1pm

A tour of your Collection

Sunday 2, 9, 16, 23 at 11am and 1pm

Culture Warriors

Sunday 30 at 11am and 1pm

A tour of your Collection

DECEMBER

Tuesday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11am and 1pm

Wonderlust: Story

Wednesday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 11am and 1pm

Wonderlust: Presence

Thursday 4, 11, 18 at 11am and 1pm

Wonderlust: Mapping

Friday focus 5, 12, 19 at 12.30pm

Tête de Venus by Renoir

Friday 5, 12, 19 at 2pm

Wonderlust: Material Gesture

Saturday 6, 13, 20, 27 at 1pm

A tour of your Collection

Sunday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11am and 1pm

Indigenous Art Awards

* Advertised tours may be subject to change. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Calendar

OCTOBER



Wonderlust

New journeys Your collection
Ongoing

School Holiday Activities

Until 12 October



Paul Nash *Nest of the Phoenix* 1937
oil on canvas, 87.6 x 83.8 cm
State Art Collection,
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Purchased 1977

NOVEMBER

Western Australian

Indigenous Art Awards, 2008

Opens 1 November



Dinni Kemarre *Centre bounce* 2007
Image courtesy of Mossenson Galleries

Culture Warriors:

National Indigenous Art Triennial

Until 23 November

National Gallery of Australia

Travelling Exhibition

DECEMBER

Gordon Bennett

Opens 20 December

National Gallery of Victoria

Travelling Exhibition



Gordon Bennett *Born Australia* 1955
Camouflage #2 2003
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
182.5 x 182.5 cm
Collection Gene and Brian Sherman, Sydney
Photography: John O'Brien
© Courtesy of the artist

Art Gallery of Western Australia Special Acquisition Fund Lead Donors



Sponsors

Annual Gallery sponsors



Gordon Bennett



NGV Touring
Exhibition



Culture Warriors: National Indigenous Art Triennial A National Gallery of Australia Travelling Exhibition



The National Gallery of Australia is an Australian Government Agency

Water Walk



Online Collection



Art Gallery of Western Australia

Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA
Postal address: PO Box 8363, Perth Business Centre, Perth WA 6849
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Facsimile: +61 8 9492 6655
E-mail: admin@artgallery.wa.gov.au
Internet: www.artgallery.wa.gov.au Infoline: +61 8 9492 6622

Opening hours

10am – 5pm daily
Closed Christmas Day

Admission

to the Gallery is free.
An entry charge may apply to special exhibitions.

Public programs/bookings

Telephone: +61 8 9492 6644
Facsimile: +61 8 9492 6648
E-mail: educate@artgallery.wa.gov.au

Art Gallery Foundation

The Foundation provides an opportunity for private individuals and corporations to play a significant role in the development of the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Telephone: +61 8 9492 6761
E-mail: foundation@artgallery.wa.gov.au

Friends of the Art Gallery

Membership enables closer involvement with the Gallery.
Telephone: +61 8 9492 6750
E-mail: friends@artgallery.wa.gov.au

The Gallery Shop

A fabulous range of items including gifts and jewellery and an extensive selection of products for children.
30–50% off selected items during the October sale.
Telephone: +61 8 9492 6712
E-mail: shop@artgallery.wa.gov.au

Caffissimo at the Gallery

Take a break from your visit to the Gallery and enjoy a morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea. Licensed Café.
Special offers available for Friends and Foundation members.
Ask in the Friends/Foundation offices for details.
Telephone: +61 8 9228 3100

REGIONAL GALLERIES

Geraldton Regional Art Gallery

24 Chapman Road, Geraldton WA 6530
Telephone: +61 8 9964 7170/7180
E-mail: artgallery@geraldton.wa.gov.au

Bunbury Regional Art Galleries

64 Wittenoom Street, Bunbury WA 6230
Telephone: +61 8 9721 8616
E-mail: mail@brag.org.au



This is the Gallery's quarterly publication which contains all the latest information on exhibitions, events and public tours. If you would like to receive it by email, together with our electronic newsletter, please log on to <http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/publications/previewmag.htm> If you are already a subscriber please be sure to update any change of contact details.