

THE ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

JAN - DEC 2025

IMPACT REPORT

AGWA foundation

Acknowledgment of Country

**Kedela wer kalyakoorl ngalak Wadjak boodjak yaak.
Today and always, we stand on the traditional land of
the Whadjuk Noongar people.**

The Art Gallery of Western Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work, the Whadjuk Noongar people. We pay our respects to their Elders and ancestors and recognise sovereignty was never ceded.

Year in review

This report presents a snapshot of AGWA Foundation's activities and impact throughout 2025, all made possible through the tremendous generosity of our donors.

You, our AGWA Foundation supporters, continue to make a profound difference, enabling extraordinary artistic experiences for the people of Western Australia and visitors alike, and fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of art.

2025 has been another outstanding year for the Gallery, welcoming around 450,000 visitors to experience world-class exhibitions, programs and events. Thanks to your generosity, the AGWA Foundation supported significant new acquisitions for the State Art Collection, exhibition development, publications, learning and social impact initiatives and the ongoing digitisation of the Collection.

We also enjoyed a strong year of investment performance, growing Foundation funds to strengthen our capacity to support the Gallery today while safeguarding its financial future.

During 2025, the Foundation received substantial funding from various foundations and benefactors. The generosity of our donors is a driving force behind The Art Gallery of Western Australia's ability to inspire, educate, and connect communities through art.

Every contribution - large or small - helps bring world-class exhibitions to Western Australia, supports the acquisition and conservation of artworks for future generations, and ensures that programs remain accessible and inclusive for all. Our donors share in AGWA's vision of a vibrant cultural landscape and play a vital role in shaping the creative experiences that enrich the lives of visitors every day.

Thank you for being part of this vision and for the ongoing support that makes such a profound impact on your Gallery. Together, we are creating remarkable art experiences, fostering connections, and shaping moments that will be treasured for years to come.

I look forward to welcoming you at AGWA and sharing in the extraordinary experiences your generosity helps make possible.

PAUL CHAMBERLAIN
AGWA Foundation Chair




Annual Giving

Annual Giving through the AGWA Foundation is central to the Gallery's ongoing vitality. Our community of supporters help bring bold new art to life, energise the city, and directly fund the programs and areas that matter most - making a meaningful impact on Western Australia's cultural life.

Thank you to our 2025 Annual Giving Program donors who have made contributions ranging from \$1,000 - \$100,000+, supporting areas that inspire them most, including:

- Exhibition development
- Acquisitions
- AGWA Publications
- Learning, public and social impact programs
- Digitising the State Art Collection
- The Robert and Eugenie Bell Decorative Arts and Design Fund
- Greatest need

Hiroshi Suzuki *Miyabi-Fire Vase* 2022. Hammer-raised and chased fine silver 999 with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee hallmark, 29.5 x 21.5cm. The State Art Collection, The Art Gallery of Western Australia. Purchased through The Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation: Robert & Eugenie Bell Decorative Arts & Design Fund 2025. Photo: Christophe Canato.



Gifts and Funding

The Foundation is grateful to have received major gifts from the following donors:

- Janet Holmes a` Court, AC providing general support for Gallery programs
- Graeme & Lorraine Rowley supporting fortnightly *Creative Encounters: Arts & Dementia* workshops and tours
- John & Linda Bond supporting WA artist acquisitions and commissions
- Eugenie Keefer Bell LFRAIA for providing seed funding and a planned bequest to establish the *Robert and Eugenie Bell Decorative Arts and Design Fund*
- Two major gifts from an anonymous donor for the following projects:
 - Digitising the State Art Collection
 - Support to loan significant works from the State Art Collection to WA Regional galleries in Kalgoorlie and Port Hedland



Creative Encounters Workshop: Arts & Dementia. Photo: Suresh Manievvannan

Trusts and Foundations

We acknowledge the substantial funding received by the following Foundations and benefactors, and the extraordinary programs and initiatives they have enabled AGWA to offer this year:

- Simon Lee Foundation supporting AGWA's curatorial initiative the Simon Lee Foundation Institute of Contemporary Asian Art, helping AGWA dramatically increase its work across the Asian region
- Healthway supporting Gallery 09, AGWA's multigenerational participatory exhibition space
- Stan Perron Charitable Foundation supporting the extension of our Gallery 09 program throughout the Gallery and additional, general support for Gallery programs
- Department of Creative Industry, Tourism & Sport (CITS) supporting our Teaching Artist Internship Pilot Program in Gallery 09
- The Spinifex Trust supporting Gallery 10 rooftop gallery exhibition programming and additional funding for the 2026 Stormie Mills exhibition
- Prendiville Family Foundation supporting exhibition development for the upcoming immersive installation with Pip and Pop
- Gordon Darling Foundation supporting a publication to accompany AGWA's Pippin Drysdale exhibition



Taring Padi, Sharyn Egan, Yabini Kickett, Ilona McGuire and Tyrown Waigana, *Narbinj nguluk nidja doornj baarniny, moorditj dooytjdoornt/ Rakyat Bersatu tak bisa dikalahkan*, 2024, acrylic and charcoal on canvas; acrylic on cardboard, 505.5 x 691.8 cm (banner) dimensions variable (wayang kardus/ cardboard puppets). Courtesy of the artists. © Taring Padi, Sharyn Egan, Yabini Kickett, Ilona McGuire and Tyrown Waigana. Photo: Rebecca Mansell.

IMPACT CASE STUDY

Simon Lee Foundation Institute of Contemporary Asian Art

In 2025, its fifth year, the Simon Lee Foundation Institute of Contemporary Asian Art (SLFICAA) at AGWA delivered a focused program of exhibitions and notable acquisitions, extending the Gallery's engagement with contemporary Asian art locally and internationally.

Across the year, three major exhibitions were presented, featuring artists working across diverse geographies, media and perspectives.

The world premiere of 舞草舞木/ *Dance Grass Dance Tree* by Hong Kong artist Zheng Bo was presented in collaboration with OFF-Base Dance, in consultation with Noongar woman Rickeeta Walley, and with the support of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Ten live performances were staged, fostering close encounters between dancers, plants and audiences.

AGWA welcomed members of Indonesian art collective Taring Padi to collaborate with Indigenous artists Sharyn Egan, Yabini Kickett,

Ilona McGuire and Tyrown Waigana to create a large-scale banner installation, painted onsite at AGWA, reflecting shared histories and trans-local solidarity.

Pioneering Turkish artist Hale Tenger's *BORDERS/BORDERS* encouraged dialogue on challenging issues. Spanning the artist's practice from the 1990s to the present, the exhibition featured iconic multimedia installations alongside significant works in video, sculpture and sound, demonstrating the ways in which Tenger's concern with history, politics and human psychology shape narratives of belonging and exclusion.

Significant works by Yuyan Wang and Skyler Chen were also acquired for the State Art Collection.

We are deeply grateful to the Simon Lee Foundation for its principal support of this curatorial initiative.



Installation view, HALE TENGER / BORDERS / BORDERS, The Art Gallery of Western Australia, Boorloo/Perth, 16 August 2025 - 8 February 2026. Photo: Henry Whitehead.



Pippin Drysdale: Infinite Terrain Launch event.
December 2025. Photo: Rift Photography.

Next Collective

AGWA's donor community for young professionals and passionate arts supporters continued to play a vital role in shaping the future of the State Art Collection in 2025. Now in its seventh year, the group has collectively raised more than \$200,000 for AGWA.

Through exclusive opportunities to engage with AGWA's curators, Next Collective donors gain meaningful insights into contemporary practice and take part in acquiring works by innovative and socially engaged artists from Australia and beyond.

At this year's annual Next Up Pitch Night held in October, supporters voted to direct their collective funds toward the acquisition of two powerful works by renowned Tennant Creek Brio artists Rupert Betheras and Fabian Brown: *Morpheus dream / underworld (reflector)* and *Mystical creatures! Some sort of eel snake! The redbull! The yellow slimey fish!* These vibrant new additions highlight the group's commitment to supporting bold, community-driven artistic voices.

Next Collective's ongoing impact is proudly supported by Lawson Flats Positive People.

- 42 active donors
- 17 new donors welcomed this year

Supporting AGWA, the State Art Gallery, and the important cultural role it plays in WA aligns with my personal values of supporting the arts and its vital contribution to societal health and wellbeing.

- Zamia Pedro

Next Collective Donor and AGWA Board



Next Collective, Next Up Pitch Night, October 2025. Photo: Ezra Alcantra.

Bequests

In 2025, the Foundation gratefully received a bequest of \$100,000, designated for an area of greatest need. As with recent gifts of this nature, AGWA will honour the donor by directing the gift toward a single, significant acquisition that will enrich the State Art Collection.

We were also notified of three new bequests during 2025, each intended for use where the need is greatest. These future gifts will help ensure the Gallery's continued vitality and ability to deliver transformative art experiences.

Supporters who confirm they have included AGWA in their Will are welcomed into the AGWA Bequest Circle - a special community that enjoys recognition, privileges, and unique opportunities to engage with the Gallery.

Realised bequests remain a vital source of revenue, enabling several acquisitions during 2025, including two beautiful pieces by Cathy Blanchflower (pictured right).



Cathy Blanchflower *Kanok VI* 2025. Synthetic polymer paint and oil on canvas. 60 x 50 cm. The State Art Collection, The Art Gallery of Western Australia. Purchased through The Sir Claude Hotchin Art Foundation, The Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation. © Cathy Blanchflower, 2025.



Paola Pivi *love addict* 2025, 999 moulded resin trays, glycerine, food colouring, dimensions variable, AGWA Exhibition Installation courtesy of the Artist and Perrotin.
© Paola Pivi © photo Ela Bialkowska, OKNO studio.

2025 Annual Appeal

Donations to the 2025 Annual Appeal have enabled AGWA to expand its playful, inclusive and accessible learning programs for children and young people everywhere, sparking creativity and fostering lifelong learning through the transformative power of art.

Donors who made a gift of \$1,000+ during the 2025 campaign joined the Annual Giving program, a group of dedicated AGWA supporters who are passionate about art from Australia and around the world and looking to be actively involved in the future direction of their State Art Gallery.



Re-Play Installation View: April 2025. Photo: Grace Sanders.

Amazing to have a safe, interesting and interactive gallery space for a 1 year old who is keen to explore and touch everything. He was so engaged and curious to explore. Watching him in the space was a joy. Thank you.

- Gallery 09 Visitor

I booked into this workshop because I was intrigued by the name "Re-Play." We had no idea what to expect and that played into the excitement. We arrived to an abundance of colour which sparked our curiosity further. Listening to the idea and approach of the workshop built anticipation and our eagerness to get into it and begin using our own imagination and curiosity to create our own versions of the art 10/10. Such a fabulous workshop for all ages.

- Gallery 09 Visitor

IMPACT CASE STUDY

Gallery 09

Throughout 2025, Gallery 09, AGWA's multi-generational participatory exhibition space, continued to activate the Gallery through its innovative approach to meaningful engagement, arts learning, advocacy and wellbeing outcomes.

The 2025 Gallery 09 exhibition, *Re-PLAY*, was a bold interactive exhibition inviting audiences to rediscover the joy of hands-on creativity and human connection. Curated by AGWA's Head of Learning and Creativity Research, Lilly Blue, in collaboration with Western Australian artist Maxxi Minaxi May, the exhibition used playful colour, tactile installations, and participatory experiences to inspire reflection, wellbeing, and social connection. In an age dominated by screens and schedules, *Re-PLAY* offered a vibrant, unplugged space where creativity, joy, and hope come alive for all ages and abilities.

Gallery 09 is kindly supported by multi-year grants from Healthway and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism & Sport (CITS).

Re-Play has been a wonderful chance to slow down, connect and create. Taking time to notice beauty in the shapes and forms of regular, everyday 'junk' items. It's been a refreshing way to reignite playfulness and curiosity that children have an abundance of, but we lack as adults. I feel a small glimpse back into my childhood. Unrushed, curious, creative. Thank you for creating a space for us to explore and connect.

- Gallery 09 Visitor



AGWA School Holiday Activities, April 2025. Photo: Grace Sanders.

Donor Engagement

Throughout 2025, our generous AGWA Foundation donors enjoyed a year of enriching, behind-the-scenes experiences that highlighted the impact of their support and deepened their connection to AGWA's mission.



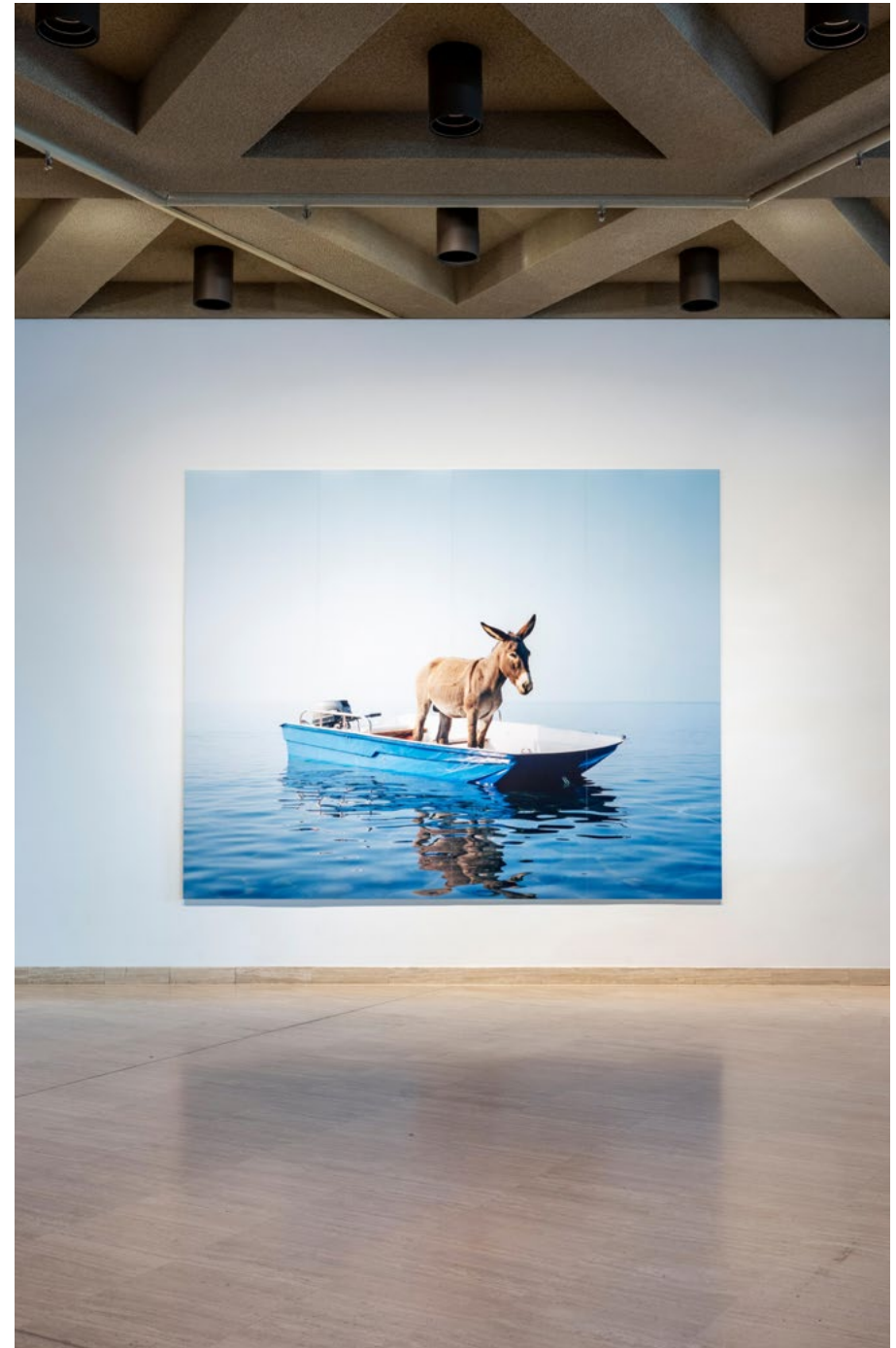
Revivification Launch event. April 2025. Photo: Rift Photography.

These experiences included intimate events with exhibiting artists, conversations with the AGWA Director Colin Walker, and special insights from our curators, including:

- Official launch of *Paola Pivi – I don't like it, I love it*
- Exhibition openings for:
 - *Sam Contis: Moving Landscape*
 - *HALE TENGER/BORDERS/BORDERS*
 - *Revivification*
 - *Pippin Drysdale: Infinite Terrain*
- An intimate evening with Archibald prize winning portrait artist Vincent Fantauzzo
- Private after hours curatorial tours of *Form & feeling: artists' studies of the twentieth century* & *Elise Blumann's Music in Motion*
- Book launch of *Howard Taylor: A Painters Journal*
- The launch of the *Robert and Eugenie Bell Decorative Arts & Design Fund*
- A 4-day, curated Singapore Art Tour
- AGM and End of Year Celebration
- Monthly Picture Club tours



Above: An intimate evening with Vincent Fantauzzo, August 2025. Photo: Rift Photography.
Below: Launch Event, *HALE TENGER/BORDERS/BORDERS*, August 2025. Photo: Tori Lill.



Paola Pivi *Untitled (donkey)* 2003-2025. Photographic print mounted on aluminium, four panels, 340 x 423cm. Installation view. Courtesy of the Artist and Perrotin. © Paola Pivi © photo Ela Bialkowska, OKNO studio. Photo: Hugo Glendinning

Singapore Art Tour

The October 2025 Art Tour saw AGWA Director Colin Walker, AGWA Foundation Chair Paul Chamberlain, and Senior Curator Rachel Ciesla host supporters on an immersive four-day journey through Singapore's dynamic contemporary art scene.

Guests enjoyed private curatorial visits to major institutions, exclusive access to leading artists' studios, early entry to the Singapore Biennale, and invites to prominent commercial galleries and private collections. Thoughtfully curated social events rounded out the experience, with participants already eagerly anticipating the 2026 AGWA Art Tour.



Singapore Art Tour, November 2025



Art tours form part of the AGWA Foundation's annual program of fundraising events designed to provide donors with the opportunity to develop a closer relationship with AGWA and connect with AGWA friends.

Supporting AGWA's Activities

Thanks to our generous donors, the AGWA Foundation supported the following Gallery priorities during 2025:

- Acquisitions:
60 acquisitions during the year aligned with AGWA's Collection Development Plan, focusing on strengthening holdings of works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Western Australian, Australian, and Contemporary Asian artists. As a result, the Collection welcomed new representations from artists including Skyler Chen, Mia Boe, Dianne Jones, Vernon Ah Kee and Tennant Creek Brio
- Publications:
One book printed with a further two books in development:
 - Howard Taylor - A Painter's Journal Delivered
 - Pippin Drysdale - Breakaway In Production
 - Paola Pivi Publication In Production
- Digitising the State Art Collection:
Digitisation of the State Art Collection is currently at the halfway mark. Thank you to an anonymous major donor and our Next Collective for supporting this important AGWA project
- Exhibition Support:
Vital funding provided for 18 local, interstate and international exhibitions
- Learning, social impact and public programs:
Over 80,000 visitors engaged with AGWA programs across 2025



Howard Taylor: A Painter's Journal Book Launch. September 2025. Photo: Rift Photography.

Selected Acquisitions



Skyler Chen *visiting the Castro* 2025. Oil on linen, 100 x 120cm. The State Art Collection, The Art Gallery of Western Australia. Purchased through The Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation: TomorrowFund. Photo: Christophe Canato.



Noel McKenna *Building with cats* 2023. Oil on canvas, 101.5 x 102cm. The State Art Collection, The Art Gallery of Western Australia. Purchased through The Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation: TomorrowFund, 2025. Photo: Christophe Canato.



Kaylene Whiskey Dolly's *Birthday* 2024. Synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 198 x 167 cm. The State Art Collection, The Art Gallery of Western Australia. Purchased through The Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation: TomorrowFund.



Julie Dowling *Warda (Far Away)* 2025. Red ochre, synthetic polymer paint, PVP, rhinestones, buttons, mother of pearl on canvas, 100 x 120 cm. The State Art Collection, The Art Gallery Western Australia. Purchased through The Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation: TomorrowFund.

IMPACT CASE STUDY

Digitisation of the State Art Collection

Digitisation of the State Art Collection took a major step forward in November 2025 with the establishment of a focused project team - a photographer and two part-time art handlers – who will work closely with AGWA’s Stores Coordinator and the Registration and Conservation teams. This dedicated unit will accelerate progress over the next 12 months, significantly advancing a transformative project that is currently at the halfway mark.

Digitisation is critical to AGWA’s mission because it ensures that the State Art Collection is accessible to everyone, everywhere. By creating high-quality digital records of artworks, AGWA can share Western Australia’s cultural treasures with regional communities, national and international audiences, and future generations. It also strengthens research and education opportunities, supports conservation by reducing handling of fragile works, and enables innovative digital experiences that connect people to art beyond the Gallery walls.

This ambitious project would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our anonymous major donor and the Next Collective for championing this initiative and helping AGWA take a bold step toward a more inclusive and connected future.



Annie Potter & Bartolome-Esteban Murillo St John and the lamb 1898. Oil on canvas. The State Art Collection, The Art Gallery of Western Australia. Purchased 1898.



FORTUNATELY, ONE
PICTURE IS WORTH
A THOUSAND OF THOSE
SUCKERS...

Paola Pivi I don't like it i love it Launch Event.
November 2025. Photo: Rift Photography.

Sustainability, beyond 2025

Despite the considerable level and breadth of support for Gallery programs, the AGWA Foundation's assets have continued to grow and are currently valued at more than \$46 million, representing a 15% increase since the end of 2024.

Foundation growth has been supported by capital invested in the markets since September 2022, professionally managed by an external wealth manager and guided by the stewardship of the AGWA Foundation Investment Committee. This strategy provides a reliable additional revenue stream and strengthens AGWA's long-term sustainability.



AGWA School Holiday Activities, April 2025. Photo: Grace Sanders.

Thank you to the following donors who made a gift in 2025:

LEAD GIFTS

\$100,000+

MM Electrical Merchandising
Simon Lee Foundation
Stan Perron Charitable
Foundation

ANNUAL GIVING

\$50,000 +

Linda and John Bond
Janet Holmes à Court AC
Graeme and Lorraine Rowley
The Spinifex Trust

\$20,000 +

Dr Eugenie Keefer Bell LFRAIA
Prendiville Family Foundation

\$10,000 +

Bruce and Charmaine Cameron
Gordon Darling Foundation
The Mack Family
Julia and Bernard Schortinghuis
The Ungar Family Foundation
Anonymous donor

\$5,000 +

Mario D'Orazio
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Lawson Flats Positive People
Adrienne and Barry Marshall
Anonymous donors

\$2,000 +

Stephanie Black
The Michele Canci Foundation
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Andrew and Judith Shearwood
Brian Stewart
Paul and Carla Sullivan
Anonymous donors

\$1,000 +

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Zamia Pedro
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Wembley Gallery
Marie and Geoff Wotzko
Anonymous donors

NEXT COLLECTIVE

\$700+

Anthony Arrigo
Hannah Bourgeois
Rachel Claire
Marcelo Davila Medrano
Sheree Dohnt
Duane du Toit
Alessio Fini
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Yannis Vrodros
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Marvin Wallin
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Tina Wang
Tish Willow
Reese Withey
Anonymous donors

2025 ANNUAL APPEAL SUPPORTERS

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Gabor Bedo
Stephanie Black
Marilyn Burton
Susan Croudace
Kevin Della Bosca
Marisa D'Orsogna
Alison Drake-Brockman
Beverley East
Billie Giles-Corti
Bob Grieve
Eric and Louise Isaachsen
Mi Jeong Kim

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Jane and Jock Morrison
Phil Murray
Walter Ong and Graeme
Marshall
Mark and Fiona Newman
Ruth Phelps
Susan Salvair
Robyn and Peter Scott
Richard Stone and Meleta Jones
Clare Thompson
Wembley Gallery
IJ and J Williams
Marie and Geoff Wotzko
Anonymous donors

GIFTS OF WORKS OF ART

Julia Mary Griffith
Andra Kins
Graeme Morgan
Steve Nasteski
Jack and Regula Pam
Tom Malone Prize
Gareth Willis and Dr Gabriela
Willis

AGWA BEQUEST CIRCLE

Dr Eugenie Keefer Bell LFRAIA
Brigitte Braun
Margot Bunning and family
Paul Chamberlain
Estate of the late Rachel Mabel
Chapman
The Leah Jane Cohen Bequest
Brett and Angelina Davies

Estate of the late Margaret
Campbell Dawbarn
The late David Englander
The Estate of Barbara and
Margaret Evans
Ella Fry Foundation
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