

ARTS
PROJECT
AUSTRALIA

**Annual
Report**
2024-25



COVER: Mark Smith works installed at *Intimate Imaginaries* Tarrawarra Museum of Art, 2024. Photo credit Andrew Curtis
RIGHT: Bronwyn Hack *Brain* 2025, mixed media

Arts Project Australia acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which we work and our artists create and exhibit their art.

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President's Report

Tiffany Lucas

It is an incredible honour to serve as President of Arts Project Australia, having stepped into the role in November 2024. This marks my first year as President, and I want to warmly thank my predecessor, Virginia Lovett, for her years of dedicated service, strong advocacy, and unwavering belief in Arts Project's vision.

The end of 2024 concluded our year-long celebrations of our 50th anniversary. This amazing milestone marked five decades of APA championing neurodivergent artists and creating meaningful and high-profile opportunities for their work to be seen, valued and collected. From the moving reception hosted by the Governor of Victoria at Government House, to the critically acclaimed *Intimate Imaginaries* exhibition at TarraWarra Museum of Art, it was a year filled with moments amplifying just how far we have come and signaling the strength of our future.

In January 2025, the APA Foundation welcomed Virginia Lovett into her new role as Chair of the Foundation. We also welcomed three new members to the Foundation Board over the past year - Shyara Fernando, Ross Collier and Fiona Evans. The Foundation plays a key role in securing long-term financial sustainability and expanding our impact for years to come.

It's a true privilege to serve an organisation as impactful and inspiring as Arts Project Australia, and I'd like to sincerely thank my fellow APA Board members for their time, dedication, and the wealth of skills they bring to the Board. We extend our thanks to Sheryl Bates who stepped down from the Board in May 2025, her thoughtful contributions have been deeply valued.

Arts Project Australia remains a creative force powered by its community – our artists, staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters. I'm incredibly proud of what we have achieved together over the past year and excited for what lies ahead.



Executive Director’s Report

Liz Nowell

It continues to be a great privilege to lead Arts Project Australia, an organisation with a proud 50-year legacy of championing neurodivergent artists and artists with intellectual disabilities. In 2025, the Board endorsed a new Strategic Plan that both honours our past and strengthens our vision for the future: that neurodivergent artists are boldly shaping the future of contemporary art. It’s a vision that has quietly underpinned our work for decades and is grounded in the belief that our artists create exceptional work, offer powerful ways of seeing the world, and deserve far greater visibility and recognition.

In 2024/25, we concluded our 50th anniversary celebrations with a series of major milestones: a landmark hardcover publication, a joyous and celebratory reception at Government House, and the exhibition *Intimate Imaginaries* at TarraWarra Museum of Art. Featuring over 160 works by 13 APA artists, *Intimate Imaginaries* stands as, to my mind, the first major museum exhibition in Australia to centre the practices of neurodivergent artists.

Our artists’ growing national and international profiles were recognised through major opportunities, including the first of many collaborations with Food For Everyone; Miles Howard-Wilks’ inclusion in the 36th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Art, curated by internationally renowned curator Chus Martinez; the Northcote Penguins being awarded the Grimwade Creative Fellowship, which culminated in the creation and presentation of new work at Buxton Contemporary; and Terry Williams being named a finalist in the prestigious Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. These achievements, among so many others, are a testament to the extraordinary talent found right here in our studio.

It has also been a delight to represent APA across the contemporary art sector and to witness the depth of connection so many people feel toward our artists and their work. As I continue to introduce colleagues and peers to the organisation, I am never surprised by the warmth and enthusiasm of their response.

As we look to the future, I remain energised by the creativity and generosity of our artists, the dedication of our team, and the continued support of our community. Each and every one of you makes APA the extraordinary organisation it is.



Year at a glance



Exhibition Program

Collingwood Yards



Caption

Bendable Realities

19

As part of APA's annual creative program, prominent curators are invited to curate an exhibition that places APA artists alongside their peers; leading national and international contemporary artists.

This initiative seeks to make broader connections with curators, artists, galleries, and museums, making visible the calibre of the work produced by APA artists, and exemplifying their place within the contemporary art landscape. Since its inception, the initiative has resulted in a long list of remarkable exhibitions that have served to generate new partnerships and develop and strengthen relationships.

Bendable Realities paid tribute to this initiative in APA's 50th year. Past curators were invited to select artworks by both APA artists and external artists, creating a dialogue between them. The exhibition celebrated the power of collaboration and meaningful connections, highlighting the gradual reimagining of the art world as a more open, adaptive, and inclusive space for diverse perspectives, experiences, and identities.

Bendable Realities featured: Tiger Yaltangki, Terry Williams, Roger Walker, Julian Martin, Jan Lucas, Rebecca Scibilia, Clare Milledge, Adrian Lazzaro, Katherine Botten and Bronwyn Hack.

Co-curated by Jo Salt in collaboration with Vince Alessi, Alex Baker, Geoff Newton, Charlotte Day and Patrice Sharkey.

Visitation: 1178

**13 July -
24 August**

2024



50 Birds

50 Birds celebrated the joint 50th anniversary of two iconic organisations, Arts Project Australia and Arts Access Victoria (AAV).

Commemorating a combined total of 100 years of advocacy in the arts, this exhibition brought together 14 artists from APA and AAV who are inspired by the beauty and brilliance of birds.

Exploring a variety of mediums including ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, embroidery and textiles, 50 Birds featured APA artists Rosie O’Brien, Miles Howard- Wilks, Simon Paredes, Robert Brown, Anne Lynch, Barbara Gibbs, Dorothy Berry and Alan Constable alongside Arts Access Victoria’s artists Lisa Pownall, Kristy Sweeney, Heather White, Leeann Preddy, Diana Kagadis and Fiona Taylor.

Curated by Rosie O’Brien and Pegs Marlow.

Visitation: 1401

31 August -
5 October
2024



BOLD

For many neurodivergent artists, merely partaking in the contemporary art world is a bold and courageous act.

Held to coincide with APA's 50th anniversary celebrations, BOLD highlighted artists who are unapologetically themselves, and whose instinctive practices manifest in powerful and confident work. Subjects are distilled to their very essence, resulting in pure unadorned form.

Mirroring the fun, colour and joyful nature of the APA studio, BOLD featured work by APA artists Adrian Lazzaro, Anna Dehm, Anthony Romagnano, Ian Gold, Jacob Cartelli, John Bates, Julian Martin, Michael Trasancos, Patrick Francis and Ruth Howard.

Curated by Shell Odgers.

Visitation: 1699

19 October
- 23 November
2024



Annual Gala

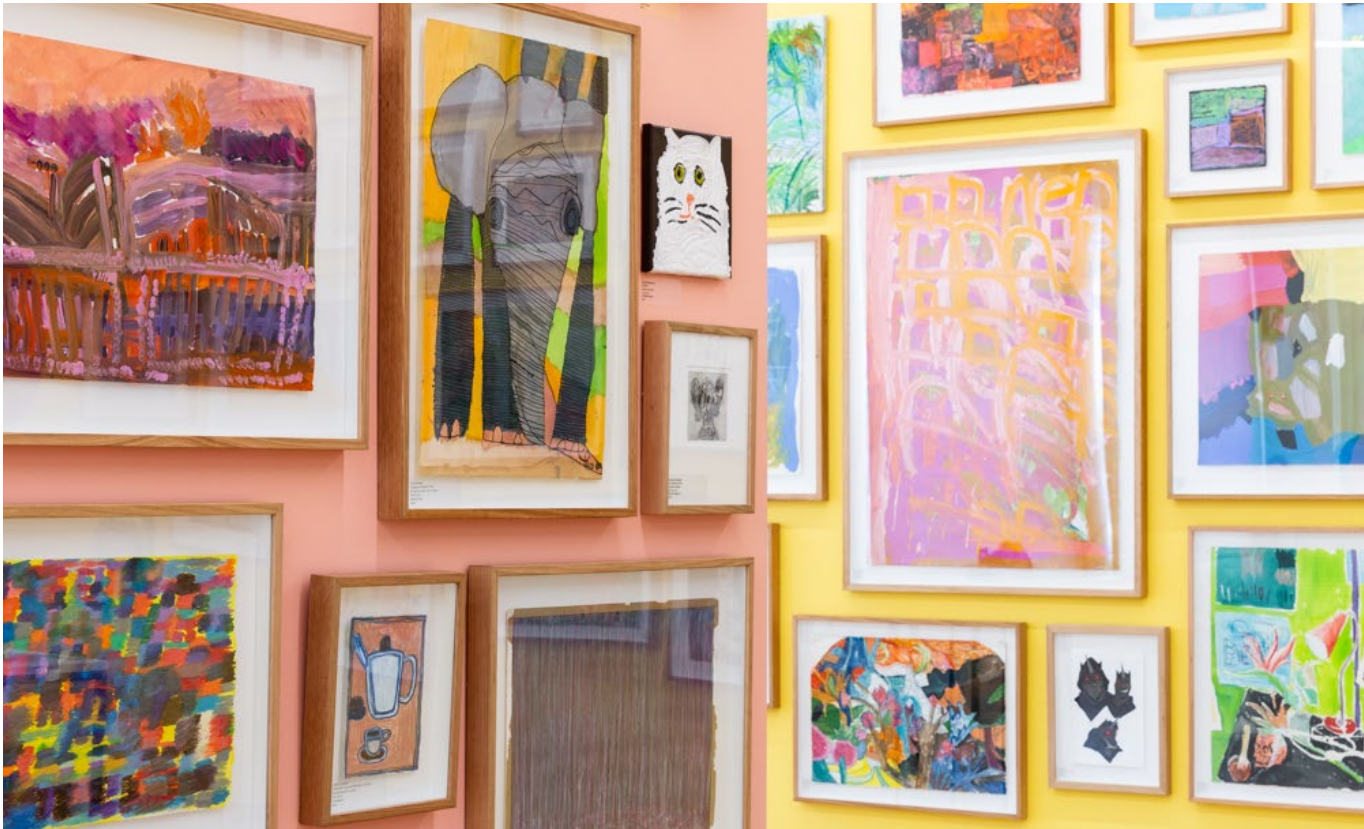
In this special 50th anniversary *Annual Gala*, the achievements of APA studio and online artists were celebrated, highlighting their unique contributions to contemporary art. Over 200 artworks, including paintings, photography, drawings, printmaking, ceramics, and textiles were on display and available for purchase. Collectors had the opportunity to purchase artwork at the opening event and take it home the same day.

The 2024 *Gala* spanned across Collingwood Yards, with an additional exhibit onsite showcasing APA's video archive, a free community BBQ in the courtyard, and a series of photographic portraits of APA artists by Penelope Hunt.

Visitation: 1440

7 December -
14 December

2024



Devoted To You

Devoted to You celebrated the musical icons that have captured the imaginations of artists at APA.

Music has always been a vital part of the studio, with artists driving the studio's playlist with special requests and well-loved tunes spanning all genres and decades. From record obsessives to dedicated superfans, impersonators and everything in between, *Devoted To You* explored the devout and passionate world of music fandom in all its feverish glory.

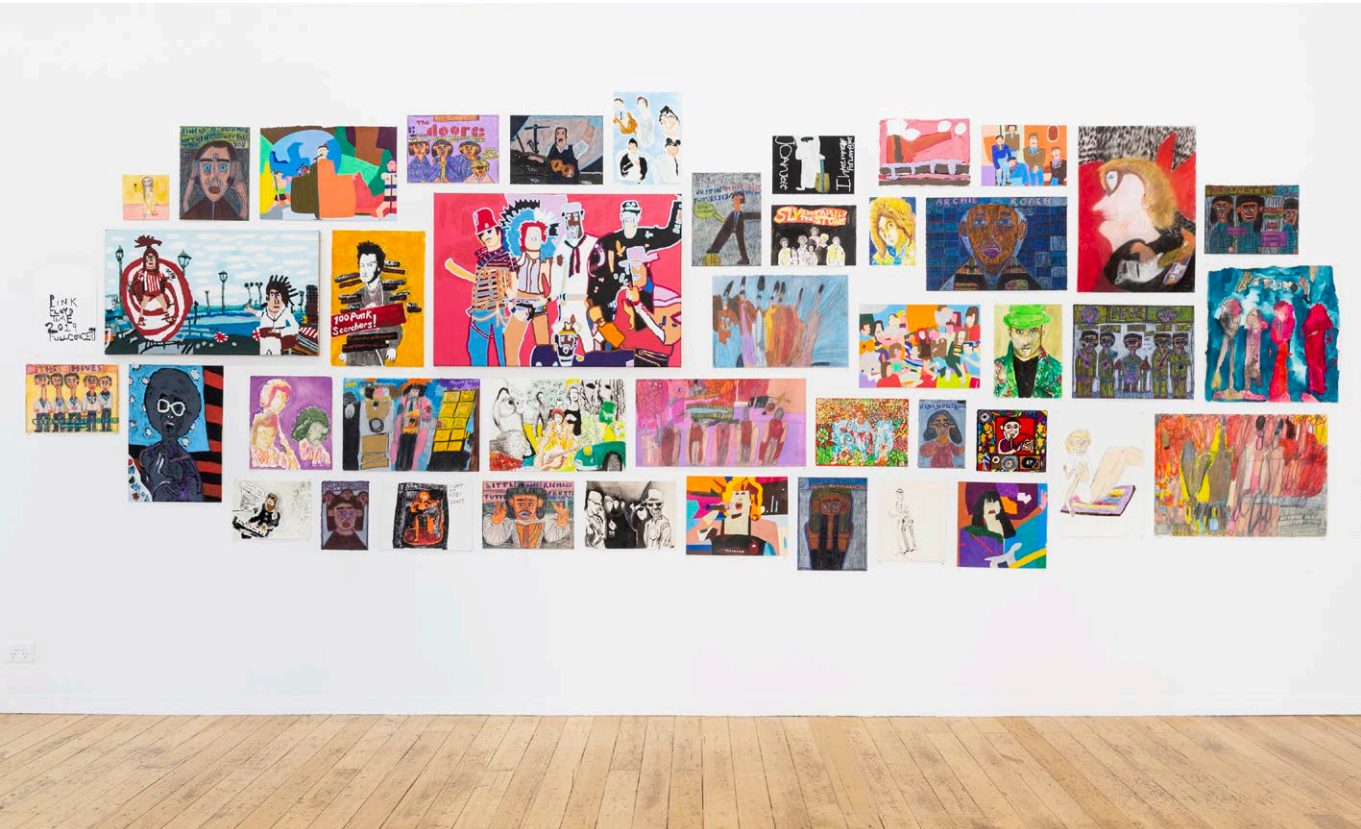
Devoted To You featured APA artists Adrian Lazzaro, Alan Constable, Amani Tia, Andrew Nicholaides, Anthony Romagnano, Bronwyn Hack, Cameron Gresswell, Cathy Staughton, Christian Semertzidis, Danny Lyons, Dionne Canzano, James Dawes, Lee Dight, Lisa Reid, Martin Forster, Nick Capaldo, Paul Quick, Peter Ben, Rakhi James, Ruth Howard, Sammi-Jo Matta, Steven Ajzenberg, Steven Perette, Timothy Noble, Tycho Dahlstrom, Valerio Ciccone and William Murray.

Curated by James Dawes, Carolyn Hawkins and Danielle Hakim.

Visitation: 1658

1 February -
8 March

2025



Metropolis

14

The future city—a speculative urban metropolis shaped by science and technology—was a widely explored theme during the twentieth century. However, very few of these megacities ever came to fruition, and even fewer of those realised models were successful. Although certain elements of the metropolis have actualised and continue into the current day, looking back upon the concept of the future city, there are numerous disconnects between what was proposed and what came to be.

The works in *Metropolis* responded to the fantasy modernist city as a multifaceted site upon which various narratives and emotions have been projected, while also exploring the relationship of those models to the present.

Metropolis featured: Michael Camakaris, Samraing Chea, Diena Georgetti (courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc, Melbourne), Jordan Halsall, Matthew Harris (courtesy of the artist and FUTURES, Melbourne), Lei Lei Kung, Sammi-Jo Matta, Steven Perrette, Gavin Porter, Cathy Staughton, Darren Sylvester (courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc, Melbourne), Mia Boe (courtesy of the artist Sutton Gallery, Melbourne), and Terry Williams.

Curated by Amelia Winata.

Visitation: 1635

22 March -
26 April

2025



The Fall of Icarus

15

The Fall of Icarus was an ambitious new solo exhibition by Michael Camakaris, exploring the cycles of power, collapse, and consequence. Drawing from cultural references such as Greek mythology, the poetry of Sylvia Plath, and Danny Boyle’s sci-fi thriller film *Sunshine*, this immersive, multi-disciplinary installation dissected the perils of excess and pride in the contemporary moment.

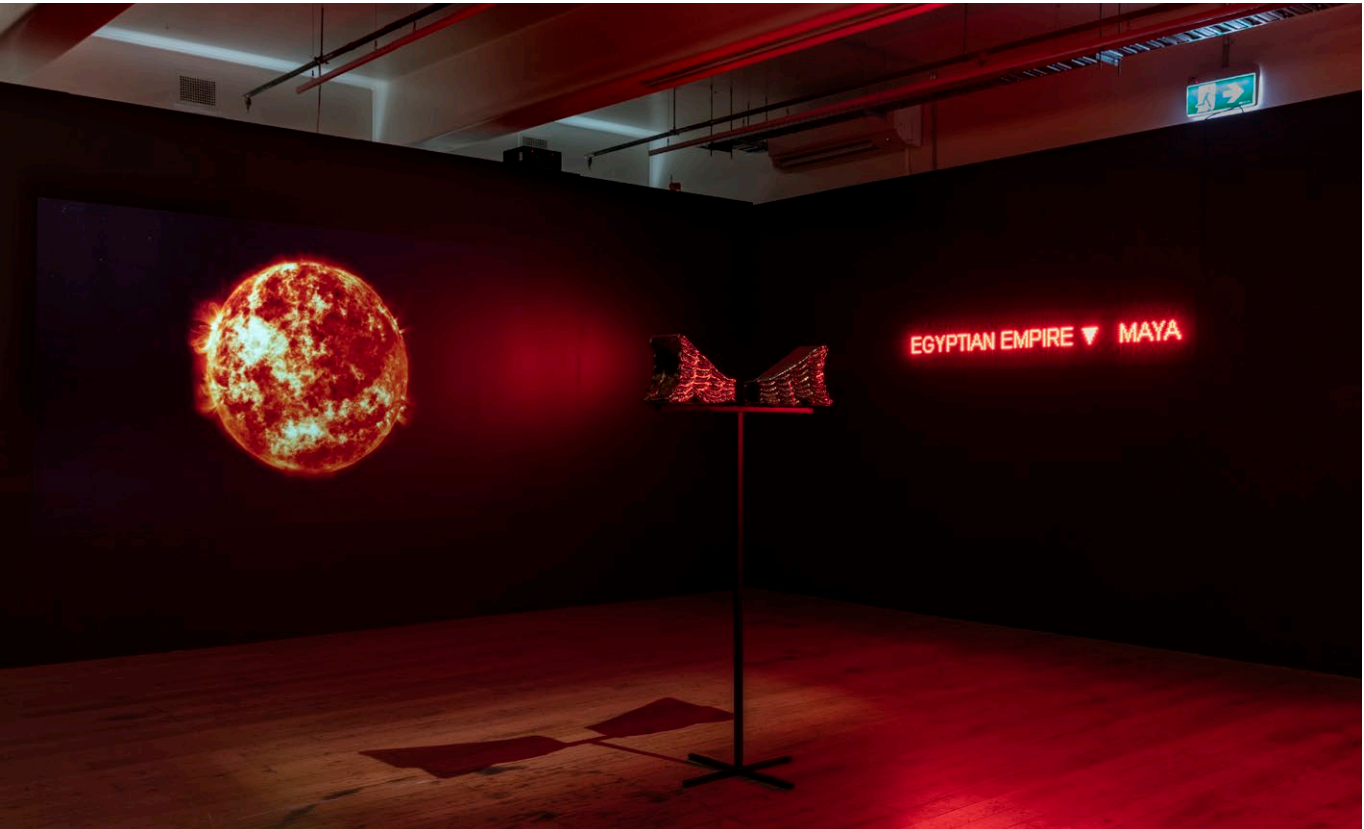
At its core, the myth of Icarus—a timeless warning against unchecked arrogance. In his reimagining, Camakaris transformed this allegory into a meditation on the rise and fall of empires, past and present. Through sound, light, video, and sculptural installation, *The Fall of Icarus* exposed the fragility of economic, environmental, and political systems, revealing the patterns of excess and decline that shape our world today.

Curated by Liz Nowell.

Visitation: 1587

10 May -
21 June

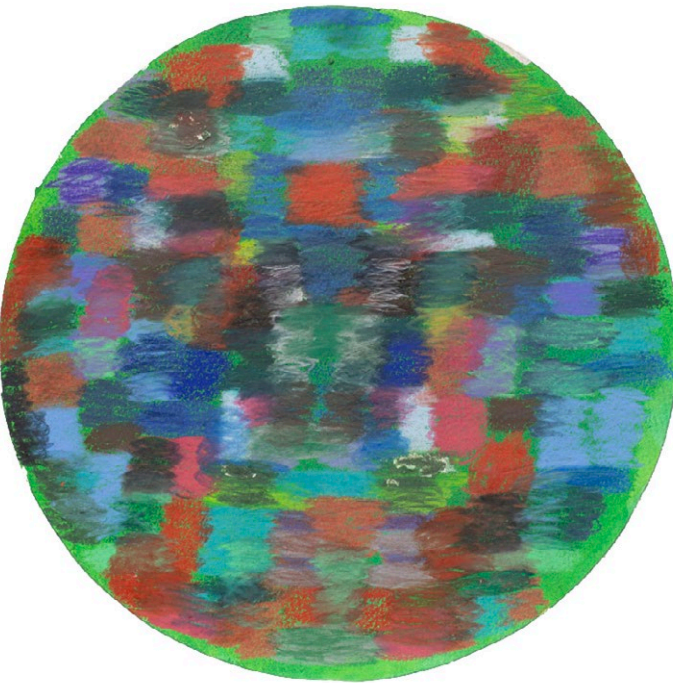
2025



Exhibition Program

Northcote Project Space

16



I'll Be Your mirror

22 July - 21 September 2024

An exhibition of works by APA's Online Studio Program participants.

Curated by Tom Pendergast, Rob McHaffie, Marcel Cooper.

Sam Forster *Untitled 2024*,
coloured pencil, pastel on paper

Joy Abounds

3 October - 20 December 2024

A solo show of Suzanne Barnes work showcasing her love of vibrant pattern, energy and spontaneity.

Curated by Suzanne Barnes and Anna-Maria O'Keefe.

Suzanne Barnes *Deborah Halpern Sydney Beginnings March 2010 2021*, coloured pencil on paper



So Fresh

5 February - 17 April 2025

An annual exhibition celebrating the dynamic and diverse voices of new and emerging artists from the APA studio.

Curated by APA staff artists.

Ally DiMattina *Untitled 2024*,
earthenware, glaze on ceramic

Figures From Life

2 May - 27 June 2025

An exhibition showcasing works created during APA's in-house life drawing sessions.

Curated by Oscar Donati and Ben Walsh.

Jordan Dymke *Untitled 2023*,
earthenware, glaze on ceramic



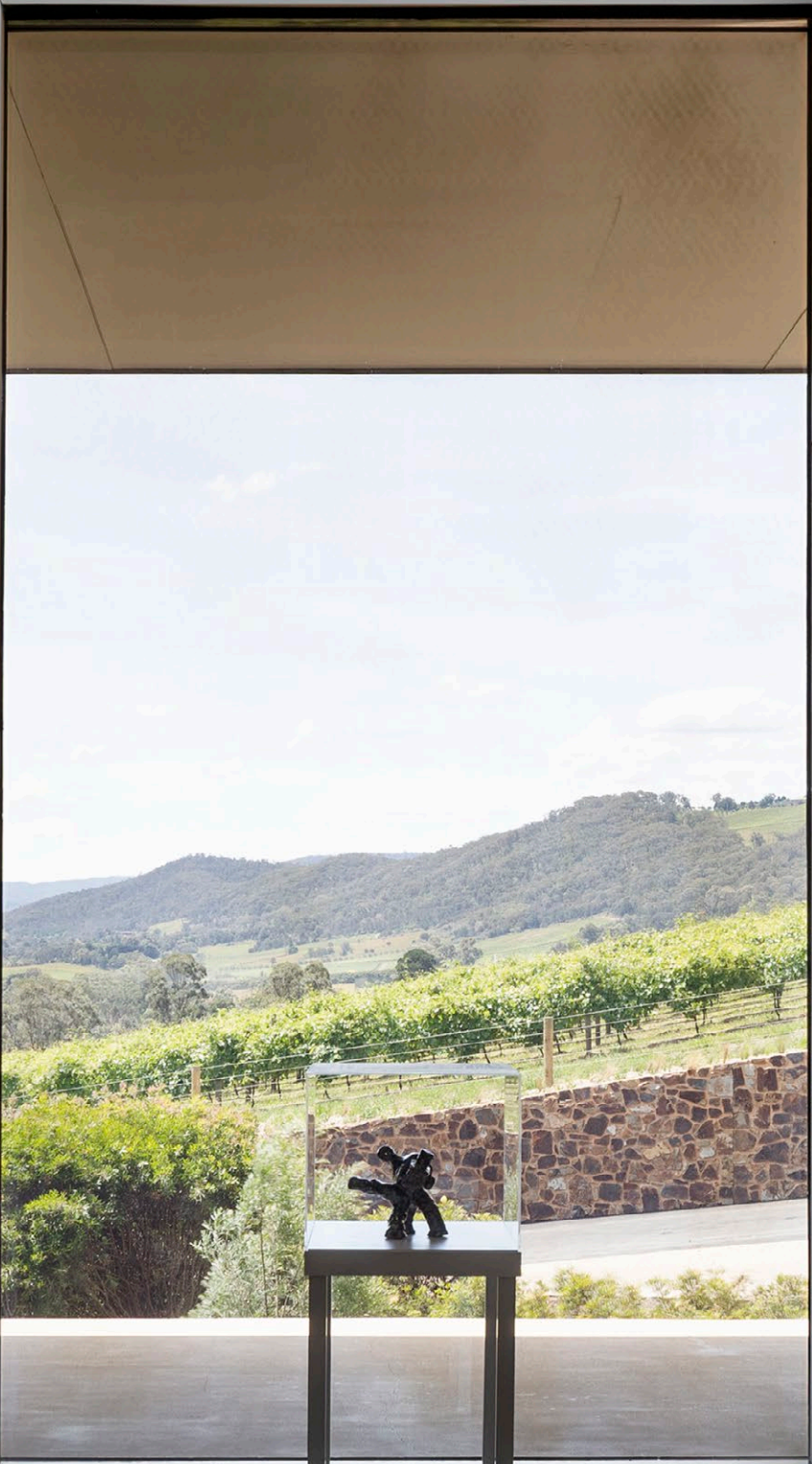
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External Exhibitions

Intimate Imaginaries

TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, VIC

30 November 2024 - 10 March 2025



Intimate Imaginaries was the first major exhibition surveying the work of APA artists in an Australian museum. This presentation highlighted thirteen vital contemporary practices that have emerged from the APA studio over the past five decades.

Exhibited artists: Fulli Andrinopoulos, Samraing Chea, Alan Constable, Wendy Dawson, Bronwyn Hack, Julian Martin, Chris O'Brien, Anthony Romagnano, Lisa Reid, Mark Smith, Cathy Staughton, Georgia Szmerling and Terry Williams.

Curated by Anthony Fitzpatrick.



Georgia Szmerling and Alan Constable works in *Intimate Imaginaries*

Caption

Symbiosis: The Northcote Penguins

Buxton Contemporary, Melbourne, VIC

20 November - 8 December 2024

Symbiosis was the culmination of the 2024 Miegunyah Creative Fellowship with Arts Project Australia. APA artists, The Northcote Penguins, were invited to investigate and respond to decorative arts, furniture and personal items in the Grimwade Collection, which was bequeathed to the University of Melbourne by Sir Russell and Mab Grimwade in 1949. The artists selected one or more objects that sparked their interest, then researched and developed their individual creative outcomes. The responses were displayed alongside the art and objects that inspired them.

Artists: Mark Smith, Christian Hansen, Jordan Dymke, Amani Tia, Aidan Sefo, Monica Lazzari, Samantha Ashdown and Michael Camakaris.

Curated by Alisa Bunbury (Museums and Collections), Coordinated by Carly Richardson (Museums and Collections) and Tom Pendergast (APA).



Michael Camakaris and Jordan Dymke works in *Symbiosis*



Gosford Art Prize

24 August - 20 October 2024
Gosford Regional Gallery, NSW

Celebrating a diversity of practice from across Australia. Featured Joanne Nethercote (finalist)

Joanne Nethercote *Untitled* 2023, acrylic on paper (detail)

Self in the Spotlight

2 September - 1 December 2024
Benalla Art Gallery, VIC

Danny Lyons solo show, in partnership with the Benalla Art Gallery shop.

Danny Lyons *Danny Lyons as Elvis Presley in Jailhouse Rock* 2019, pigment ink print



Small Pleasures

29 July - 16 August 2024
Gallery Lowe and Lee, Newtown, NSW

Featuring small ceramic works by Ruth Howard, Daniel Pace and other artists.

Curated by Sassy Park.

Daniel Pace *Evil Queen* 2022, glaze, earthenware on ceramic



Springtime

20 September - 13 October 2024
Backwoods Gallery, Collingwood, VIC

An annual exhibition celebrating women artists. Featuring Rosie O'Brien, Anne Lynch, Brigid Hanrahan, Michelle Couslon and other artists. Curated by Melissa Grisancich.

Brigid Hanrahan *Two Beautiful Flowers in the Garden Under the Sun* 2023, glaze, earthenware on ceramic

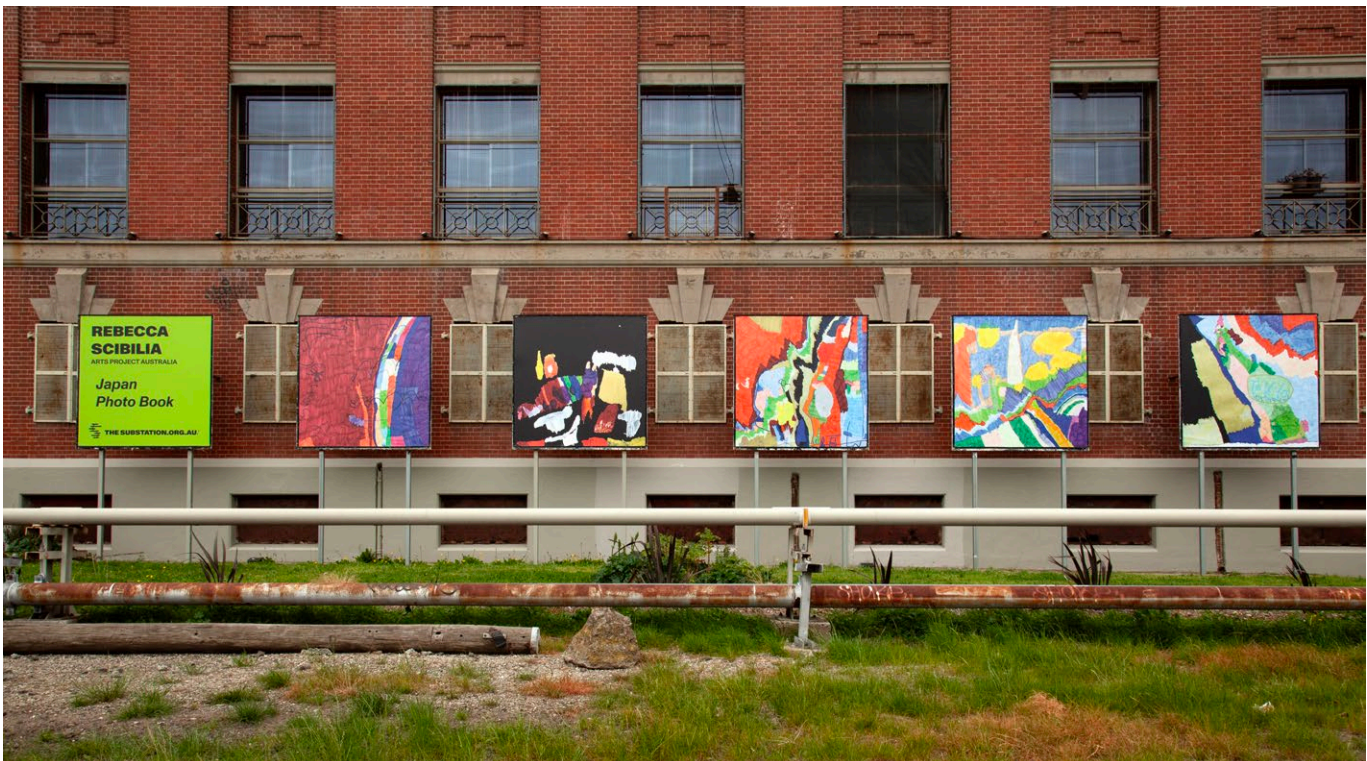


Japan photo booth

21 August 2024 - 24 February 2025
The Substation, Newport, VIC

A series of works by Rebecca Scibilia drawing on memories of her time in Japan, presented on the Substation Outdoor Billboard Gallery.

Japan Photo Booth installed at The Substation



Bindi Digital Art Prize

23 November - 7 December 2024
8 Hele Gallery, Alice Springs, NT

All-abilities art prize for excellence in digital media hosted by Bindi Enterprises. Featuring work by Anthony Romagnano and Will Murray (finalists).

Anthony Romagnano *Doreen* 2023, digital print (detail)



Ethereal Portals

1 December 2024 - 28 February 2025
Benalla Art Gallery, VIC

Fulli Andrinopoulos solo show, in partnership with the Benalla Art Gallery shop.

Fulli Andrinopoulos *Untitled* 2020, ink on paper

Linden Postcard Show 2024

7 December 2024 - 2 February 2025
Linden New Art, St Kilda, VIC

Annual exhibition and art prize for small works. Featuring Chris Mason, Fulli Andrinopoulos, Miles Howard-Wilks, Shoshanna Brott, Mark Smith, Georgia Szmerling, and Joanna Nethercote.

Miles Howard-Wilks *Untitled* 2024, glaze, earthenware on ceramic





Artists In Residence Exhibition:

Rosie O'Brien and
Sangeeta Sandrasegar

13 February – 17 April 2025
Australian Tapestry Workshop,
South Melbourne, VIC

Coinciding with O'Brien's time
as an artists in residence at ATW.

Rosie O'Brien Chinese Mountain Series 2019, mixed media



Magpie and Mates

1 March - 31 May 2025
Benalla Art Gallery, VIC

Miles Howard-Wilks solo show, in partnership
with the Benalla Art Gallery shop.

Miles Howard-Wilks Untitled 2022,
glaze, earthenware on ceramic



Wallmates

14 – 16 March 2025
On The Corner, Collingwood, VIC

A group show by art handler group
Picassos, featuring Dennis Thorpe, Chris
Mason, Lisa Reid, and other artists.

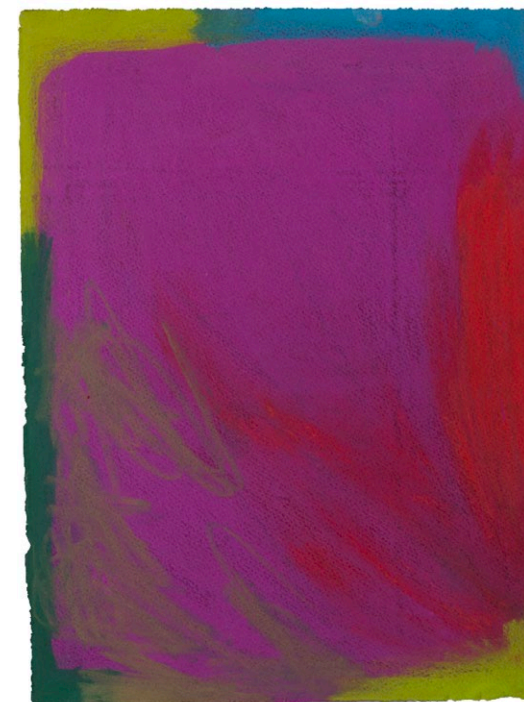
Chris Mason Untitled 2020, glaze, earthenware on ceramic

Organs

22 March - 26 April 2025
Daine Singer, Melbourne, VIC

Solo exhibition of Bronwyn Hack's
soft sculpture body parts.

Bronwyn Hack Untitled 2023, mixed media



In My Prime

13 March - 5 April 2025
Sullivan+Strumpf, Melbourne, VIC

Featuring ceramic works by Chris Mason
and works on paper by Julian Martin.

Julian Martin Untitled 2023, pastel on paper

The Enchanted Garden

1 June – 31 August 2025
Benalla Art Gallery, VIC

Brigid Hanrahan solo show, in
partnership with the Benalla Art
Gallery shop.

Brigid Hanrahan Untitled 2019,
glaze, earthenware on ceramic

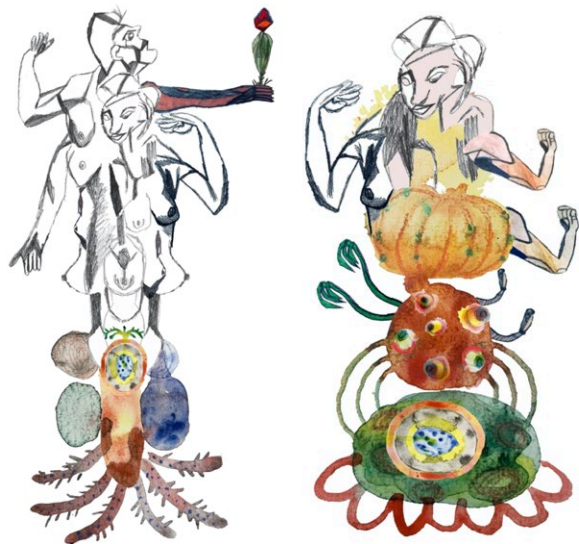


Exchange/Engage

21 June - 27 July 2025
Res Artis, Collingwood, VIC

APA and Art et. al collaborative group exhibition.

Paul Hodges and Mutia Bunga *Hybridity* 2023, video (still)



The Oracle: 36th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts

6 June - 12 October 2025
Multiple venues across Ljubljana, Slovenia

Featuring a selection of works on paper by Miles Howard-Wilks.

Miles Howard-Wilks *Untitled* 2022, gouache and pencil on paper (detail)

Wynne Art Prize

10 May – 17 August 2025
Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW

The Wynne Prize for landscape painting of Australian scenery, or figure sculpture, celebrates the diversity of representations of our country. APA artists Terry Williams was a selected finalist.

Terry Williams *Untitled* 2024, mixed media



Melbourne Sculpture Biennale

Villa Alba Museum,
Melbourne, VIC

9-13 October 2024

For the inaugural Melbourne Sculpture Biennale Terry Williams was selected amongst 19 Victorian based artists to best showcase the quality of local sculptural practice. Williams presented a selection of his soft sculpture figurative works in one of the Villa's iconic rooms. Co-directed by Laura Couttie and Adam Stone.



Ruth Howard and Julian Martin work at Melbourne Art Fair 2025

Melbourne Art Fair

Melbourne Exhibition
and Convention Centre, VIC

20 – 23 February 2025

APA presented two booths at the Melbourne Art Fair. The first featured ceramic works by Ruth Howard and monochromatic works on paper by Julian Martin. The adjacent booth hosted artist-led workshops and demonstrations and featured installations and artwork created through the studio's diverse range of programs.

Melbourne Art Book Fair

National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), VIC

16 - 18 May 2025

APA's stall at the annual fair featured a range of artist zines, publications and merchandise. Artists Daniel Pace, Jimmy Tran and Darcy Scott made cameo appearances.

Outsider Art Fair

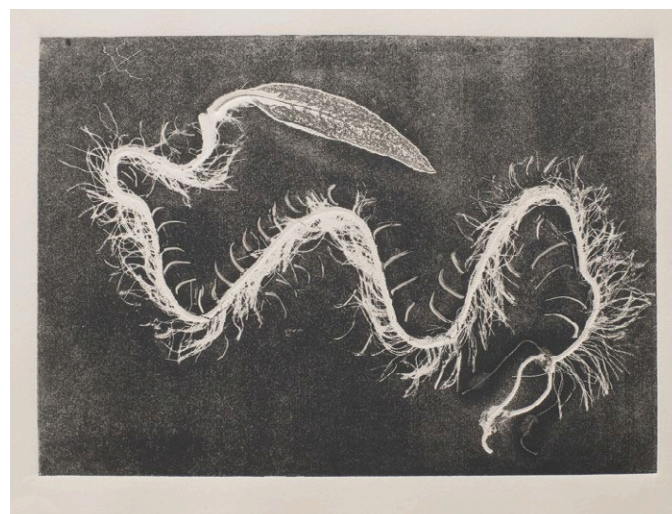
New York

27 February - 2 March 2025

APA artists Alan Constable, Alvaro Alvarez, Anthony Romagnano, Lisa Reid and Paul Hodges were represented by Sonia Dutton (Dutton Gallery).



Awards, accolades and achievements



Gosford Art Prize Finalist: Joanne Nethercote (2024)

Bindi Digital Art Prize Finalists: Anthony Romagnano and Will Murray (2024)

Linden Art Prize 2024 Finalists: Chris Mason, Fulli Andrinopoulos, Miles Howard-Wilks, Shoshanna Brott, Mark Smith, Georgia Szmerling, Joanna Nethercote (2024)

4th Biennale Australian Monoprint Prize: Aidan Sefo (2025)

Wynne Prize 2025 Finalist: Terry Williams (2025)



LEFT CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Joanne Nethercote *Untitled* 2023, acrylic on paper
Aidan Sefo *Untitled* 2024, monotype on paper
William Murray *Addicted to Love* 2023, inkjet print
Anthony Romagnano *Jasmin* 2024, inkjet print
RIGHT: Terry Williams *Untitled* 2024, mixed media



EGYPTIAN EMPIRE ▼ MAYA

Falling without a parachute

“It’s democratising, and not putting the ‘teacher’ on a pedestal and the artists lower, as in a school, where the teacher teaches the student. Instead, at Arts Project Australia, there’s more of an osmosis going on. The staff member or teacher is a resource for the artist to go to, if they require certain materials, or certain expertise, or knowledge... You do whatever you want to do.”

— Michael Camakaris, APA Artist

APA Gallery Public Programs

Banj – Weaving Workshop: with Stacey Edwards (The Torch) and Rosie O’Brien (for *50 Birds*, September 2024)

APA 50th Publication Panel Discussion: with Michael Camakaris, Monica Lazzari, James McDonald, and Bronwyn Johnson, chaired by Kelly Gellatly (for *BOLD*, October 2024)

People of Honour – Paint Pen Portraits and Badge-making: with Adrian Lazzaro, Kate Knight and Shell Odgers (for *BOLD*, November 2024)

Fan Factor – Drawing Musical Heroes: with James Dawes, Carolyn Hawkins and Danielle Hakim (for *Devoted To You*, February 2025)

Visions of Utopia – Collectively creating a megacity of dreams: with Samraing Chea and Jordan Halsall (for *Metropolis*, April 2025)

The Fall of Icarus: Michael Camakaris in Conversation with Liz Nowell (for *The Fall of Icarus*, May 2025)



Retribution Teddy Bears workshop at Melbourne Art Fair 2025

External public programs

Melbourne Art Fair 2025: Open Studio Booth
20–23 February 2025

Funky Forgeries – Procreate Workshop: with James MacSporran, Kate Knight and Rob McHaffie

Video Hits 2 – Screening and Artist Talk: with Danny Lyons and Lesley Pinder

Fan Factor – Drawing Musical Heroes: with James Dawes, Carolyn Hawkins and Danielle Hakim

Retribution Teddy Bears – Revamping Soft Toys: with Adrian Lazzaro and Kerrie Neilen

Receiver Reprise - Synesthetic Synthesis with Nortchote Penguins: Michael Camakaris, Monica Lazzari, Mark Smith and Christian Hansen

Midnight Club - It’s All About Cars and Soft Sculpture: workshop with Chris O’Brien and Nic Megchelse

Rhythms of the Handmade (for Intimate Imaginaries)
TarraWarra Museum of Art
10 March, 2025

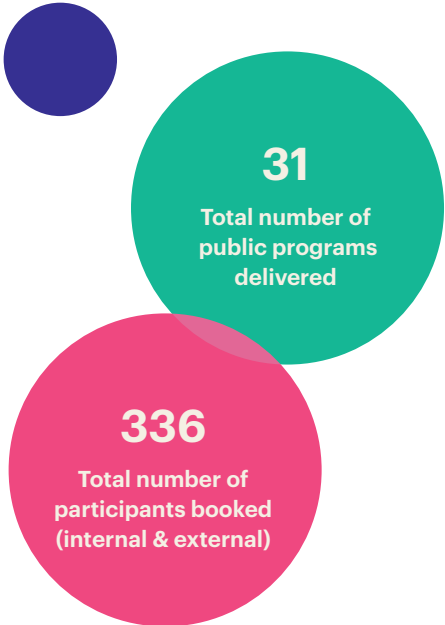
Costume Life Drawing - Styled by Cathy: with Cathy Staughton and Anna-Maria O’Keefe

Ceramics Demo and Artist Talk: with Lisa Reid, Alan Constable, Georgia Szmerling, Marcel Cooper and Jo Salt

THE COP SHOP – Behind the Scenes Screening and Panel Discussion: with Chris O’Brien, Tom Pendergast, Caroline Anderson, and Anthony Fitzpatrick

Soft Sculpture Sew-Along: with Bronwyn Hack, Terry Williams, Mark Smith, Jodie Kipps, Alysia Rees, and Nic Megchelse

APA’s Gallery Public Programs are generously supported with a three year funding grant from Bowness Family Foundation and a City of Yarra grant.



Professional Development Opportunities

There were many highlights, celebrations and opportunities for the artists during our 50th year, none more so than the landmark exhibition *Intimate Imaginaries* at TarraWarra Museum of Art. Exhibiting artists Georgia Szmerling and Lisa Reid delivered artist talks during its presentation, engaging a diverse audience that included APA donors, Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School students, and contemporary art curators.

In the Northcote Project Space two APA artists curated exhibitions. Suzanne Barnes worked with staff artist Anna-Maria O’Keeffe to present *Joy Abounds*, a solo show of Suzanne’s work. The opening event featured a boot scooting session with special guests Lu and Kitty from Disco Rodeo Boot Scooting with artists and staff joining in – and echoing Suzanne’s passion for dance that informs her practice.

Oscar Donati co-curated *Figures From Life*, which celebrated over a decade of life drawing by APA artists. The show highlighted the originality, technical skill and expressive virtuosity of this dedicated group of artists who attend the in house life drawing sessions each term. Oscar opened the exhibition with a thoughtful and moving speech, drawing a powerful connection between the study of the human body in all its wondrous diversity and the inclusive, celebratory spirit that defines our community of artists.

Oscar was also the fifth studio artist to complete a paid studio traineeship in the studio, bringing the same careful attention to detail and precision that defines their art practice.

Innovation in practice

Melbourne artist Tobias Titz began a collaboration with our artists on a unique photo project using a long-exposure Polaroid camera. Each silver tone portrait is paired with an etched response, scratched by the artist into an unexposed plate. The process has provided yet another way for the artists to explore and build their own creative practice through collaboration and interaction with the broader arts landscape.



RIGHT: APA artists Jordan Dymke, Molica Silk, Eugene Ang and Fiona Longhurst working in the studio alongside Staff Artists Marcel Cooper and Pegs Marlow





Residencies and fellowships

Lisa Reid was the seventh APA artist to complete a residency at the Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) in South Melbourne. APA began a partnership with ATW in 2017 providing APA artists with the opportunity to work alongside other creatives, including ATW's renowned weavers, in an environment that fosters excellence and innovation.

Mark Smith was invited to curate *Translations / Perspectives* for Blindside's online series MOBILE as part of the APA X Blindside Artist Mentorship. Mark invited students from Monash, RMIT, and VCA to explore the themes of "translations" and "perspectives" through varied mediums and lived experiences.

Workshops and field trips

The studio provided opportunities for artists to develop their creative practices through a variety of workshops and field trips. Artists worked with the creatives at Words Worst Wagga, whose textile workshops make the art and craft of wagga quilting accessible, inclusive, and fun, emphasising the joy of collaboration. The workshop was a perfect fit for our artists, many of whom continue to explore and express their creative voices through textile practices.

Local artist Brendan Huntley delivered two dynamic workshops, bringing his signature spirit of experimentation and play to artists working across ceramics and printmaking. His sessions encouraged bold exploration, bringing fresh creative ways of approaching ceramic processes.

Our printmaking staff artists Yoshe Gillespie and Carolyn Hawkins delivered chine collé workshops for the artists demonstrating the versatility of techniques that this process offers.

In March seven APA artists, accompanied by staff artists, Suzie Brown and Shell Odgers spent three days at an artist's retreat at The Old Hospital in Loch, South Gippsland. Amongst the activity undertaken was a pigment-making workshop led by local painter Lucy Hersey, who guided artists through the process of creating pigments from natural materials, and an En Plein Air painting session at The Gurdies Nature Reserve. The artists found the experience very rewarding and fun and we hope to incorporate this residency into our annual program, so that more APA artists have the chance to experience this incredible opportunity.

234

Professional
program studio days

235

Online program
sessions

48

Saturday recreation
program studio days

“ Art is relaxing and calming. Nature is really peaceful and relaxing ... I like the quietness – not the busyness, I get good support at Arts Project. It’s a safe place. I get to do murals – I like murals because it’s something different. You also get opportunities to exhibit in shows at the gallery and do commissions, and work with other artists.”

— Georgia Szmerling, APA Artist



Fundraising & Philanthropy

APA Foundation

In the past year the APA Foundation has continued to provide valuable guidance and input into the Development Strategy, Gift Acceptance Policy and the stewardship of donors. Virginia Lovett stepped into the role of Chair in January 2025 (to replace Tiffany Lucas, now APA Board President) and we welcomed three new members: Shyara Fernando, Ross Collier and Fiona Evans. Norman Rosenblatt and Renee Wallace both stepped down from the APA Foundation in 2024/25 and we thank them for their contribution.

APA Creatives

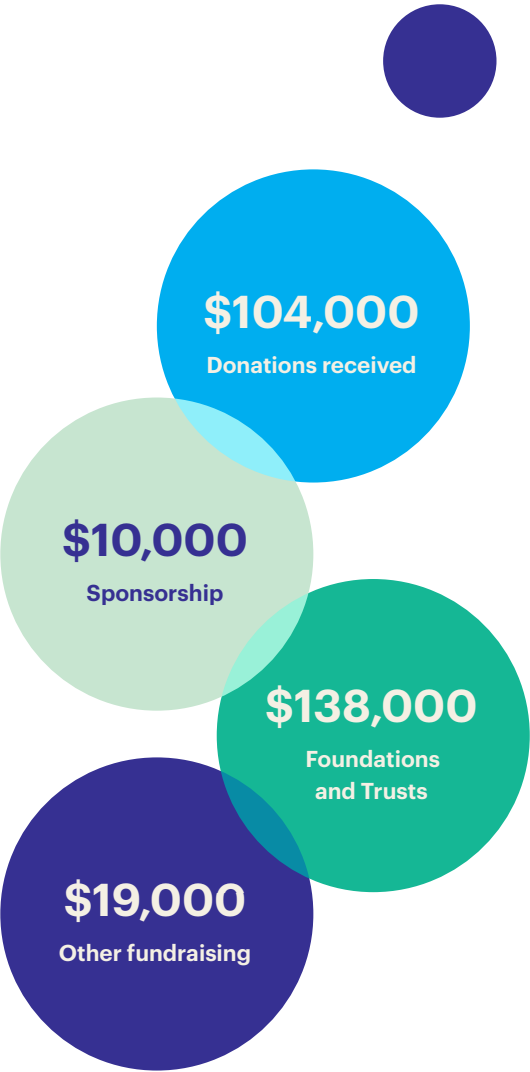
This year the APA Creatives program has continued to grow, with donors gathering regularly throughout the year to enjoy the art from our studio. Highlights have included a guided tour of *Intimate Imaginaries* with curator Anthony Fitzpatrick, followed by a long lunch at TarraWarra Estate in February. APA Creatives have also enjoyed morning teas with artists at the studio to celebrate the quarterly exhibitions in the Northcote foyer space and special curator talks before exhibition openings at our Collingwood Yards gallery. Many APA Creatives renew their annual gifts in May/June and our total gifts from individuals for 2024/25 was \$104,000.

ARTX50 Annual Fundraiser

In celebration of our 50th year, we held our annual fundraiser ARTX50 in the stunning new rooms of Leonard Joel Melbourne auction house on 16 October 2024. Long-term APA supporter and Leonard Joel Managing Director John Albrecht generously hosted us for the evening and led an exciting auction of key works from the stockroom which raised \$27,545 in artwork sales. 140 guests on the night were thrilled to see 60% of every artwork sold paid to artists, and record prices achieved for Simon Paredes, Lisa Reid and Chris O'Brien. The night generated a further \$18,100 income in ticket sales, and donations of \$13,500.

Foundations and Trusts

APA is generously supported by a number of philanthropic foundations and trusts that share our values and belief in the transformative power of art making. In this year, significant grants were provided by Rosey Kids Foundation, the Bowness Family Foundation, Joe White Bequest and Copyright Agency Cultural Fund. A full list of supporters can be found on page 50.



RIGHT: ARTX50 annual fundraiser 2024

Brand & Corporate Collaborations

Food For Everyone X APA

September 2024

A collaboration between APA and beloved Melbourne based culinary poster shop Food For Everyone.

This collection of recipe posters brought together four APA Artists and four Melbourne food icons on a new series of recipe posters. The collaborative collection created is a snapshot of Melbourne – the people that make it, the food that feeds its, and the voices that shape it.

The collection was launched at Stefanino Panino in Collingwood Yards, just below APA’s gallery. Guests enjoyed an afternoon of panini and cannoli made by Stef Condello and wine generously provided by Jamsheed.

Poster parings:

- Simon Paredes X Stefanino Panino
- Jordan Dymke X Julia Busuttil Nishimura
- Daniel Richardson X Julie Blum (Cam’s Kiosk)
- Samantha Ashdown X Queens Harvest

Eastlink billboards

May – June 2025

Promoting APA artists living along the Eastlink freeway, 4 billboards were placed along the corridor featuring the work of Monica Lazzari and Julian Martin. An accompanying promotional campaign through their website and e-news shared the story behind the artworks featured, Lazzari’s reflections on being an artist, and the positive impact APA has played in shaping her practice and arts career.

RIGHT: Jordan Dymke, Sam Ashdown, Daniel Richardson and Simon Paredes Food For Everyone posters





Media Report

Print and online media
Art Collector
Art Guide
Arts Hub
Australian Associate Press
Australian Financial Review
Beat Magazine
Broadsheet
E-Flux
Journal of Australian Ceramics
Raw Vision
Sydney Morning Herald
The Age
The Australian (Weekend Magazine)
The Design Files
The Music
Vault Art Magazine

Television

SBS World news

Radio

ABC Melbourne
ABC Radio National
JOY FM
Triple R
Vision Australia
Yarra Valley FM
3MBS Radio

Selected media coverage

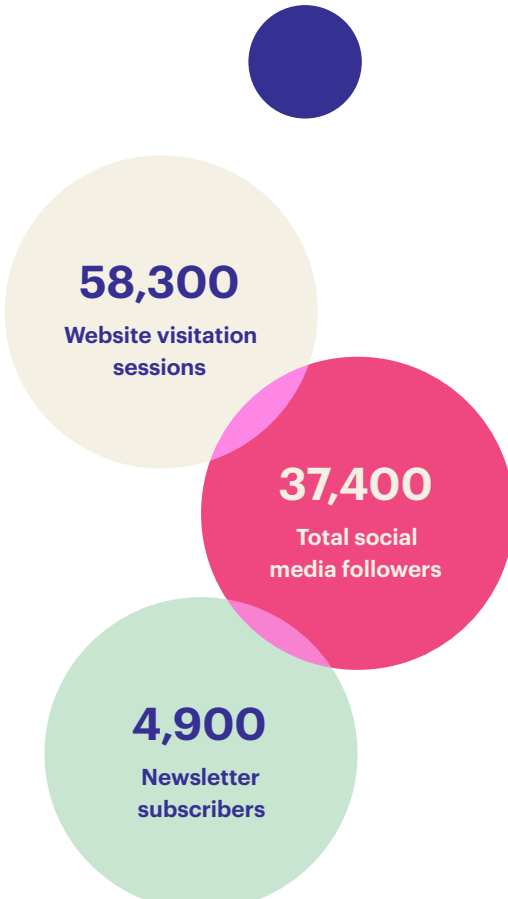
ArtsHub (April, 2025)
It's time to take neurodivergent artists and artists with intellectual disability seriously by Liz Nowell

Art Collector (July, 2025)
A Long, Hard Row to Hoe - 50 years of Arts Project Australia, by Duro Jovicic

The Conversation (December 2025)
Arts Project Australia gives us a small revolution: Review of Intimate Imaginaries by Dominic Redfern

ABC News (December, 2024)
Intimate Imaginaries feature with Georgia Szmerling, James McDonald and Anthony Fitzpatrick

Weekend Australian (November 2024)
TarraWarra Museum of Art to host major exhibition surveying 50 years of Arts Project Australia, by Ariela Bard



Steven Ajzenberg
Alvaro Alvarez
Fulli Andrinopoulos
Lygin Ang
Eugene Ang
George Aristovoulou
Samantha Ashdown
Joey Balliro
Suzanne Barnes
Heidi Beard
Ezekiel Beckley
Peter Ben
Matthew Bendix
Richard Bolton
Shoshanna Brott
Robert Brown
Monica Burns
Michael Camakaris
Dionne Canzano
Nicholas Capaldo
Rebecca Carr
Jacob Cartelli
Samraing Chea
Max Cheevers
Valerio Ciccone
Boris Cipusev
Trudi Coburn
Ashlee Cochrane
Zara Condem
Alan Constable
Spenser Coombe
Ben Coward
Tycho Dahlstrom
James Dawes
Wendy Dawson
Anna Dehm
Jakob Demirel
Michelle Destefano
Simeon Dicks
Alessandra DiMattina
Emily Dober

Alanna Dodd
Robyn Doherty
Oscar Donati
Elizabeth Dunkley
Jordan Dymke
Jessica Ebert
Stefan Farina
Christian Farinacci
Salome Felsinger
Samuele Fenech
Scott Ferguson
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Sam Forster
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Jasmin Kolodziejczyk
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Isabella Lawrence
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Ashleigh Newcombe
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Nhan Nguyen
Andrew Nicolaides
Timothy Noble
Chris O'Brien
Warren O'Brien
Rosie O'Brien
Ross O'Meara
Daniel Pace
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Mark Patterson

Maddie Pavlovic
Steven Perrette
Diego Pizarro
Gavin Porter
Josef Power
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Lisa Reid
Daniel Richardson
Bryce Robinson
Anthony Romagnano
Christine Rule
Benjamin Russell
Kristian Sandercoe
Maxwell Sbisa
Rebecca Scibilia
Darcy Scott
Aidan Sefo
Christian Semertzidis
Hugo Sierakowski
Molica Silk
Brendan Slee
Mark Smith
Scott Sortino
Cathy Staughton
Malcolm Sturrock
Lindsay Sutherland
Georgia Szmerling
Dennis Thorpe
Amani Tia
Jade Tomsic
Jimmy Tran
Michael Trasancos
Philip Truett
Jake Tynan
Michael Warburton
Terry Williams
Hao Yang Xing
Doreen Youtlen

APA artists Bronwyn Hack, Molica Silk, Diego Pizarro, Steven Ajzenberg and Jordan Dymke with Staff Artists Peter Douglas and Nic Megchelse



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Staff Artist

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Staff Artist

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Staff Artist

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Attendant Care Worker

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Lesley Pinder
Staff Artist, Digital Specialist

Marcel Cooper
Staff Artist, Online Program, Ceramic Specialist

Margaret McIntosh
Gallery Technician

Nic Megchelse
Staff Artist

Ollie Patterson
Front of House

Oscar Donati
Trainee

Patrick Pantano
Gallery Registrar

Pegs Marlow
Staff Artist

Peter Douglas
Staff Artist, Digital Specialist

Rob McHaffie
Staff Artist

Ruby Cooley
Attendant Care Worker

Sarah Lamanna
Gallery Administrator & Digital Coordinator

Sheba Sullivan
Front of House

Shell Odgers
Staff Artist, Graphic Designer

Suzanne Brown
Staff Artist

Thomas Pendergast
Staff Artist, Professional Practice Specialist, Online Program, Digital Specialist

Yoshe Gillespie
Staff Artist, Printmaking Specialist

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Nadia Bearzatto
Esther Kuan
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Michael Schwartz
Joseph Argenzio

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Verity Kimpton (MIECAT)
Katherine Maher (MIECAT)
Matthew Mclean (RMIT)
RS (Sydney Road Community School)



Staff Artist Anna-Maria O'Keeffe and Trainee Oscar Donati

Financial highlights



Profit & Loss

Statement of surplus of deficit for the year ended 30/6/2025

	2024/25 (\$000)	2023/24 (\$000)
Income		
Government	158	223
Artist Fees	3008	2423
Gallery sales and other income	392	353
Other	149	62
Total Income	3707	3060
Expenses		
Staff and related	2,526	2170
Gallery	342	232
Depreciation	96	114
Other	908	801
Total Expenses	3873	3317
Surplus for the year	-166	-257
Foundation Income	273	221
Foundation Expenses	110	81
Foundation Surplus for the year	163	140
Total comprehensive income for the year	-3	-117

Balance Sheet

Statement of financial position as at 30/6/2025

	2024/25 (\$000)	2023/24 (\$000)
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	683	420
Trade and other receivables CA	335	131
Financial assets	1436	1654
Other Assets	31	31
Total current assets	2,485	2236
Non-current assets		
Trade and other receivables NCA	22	0
Right of use asset	63	88
Property, plant and equipment	1808	1803
Total non-current assets	1,893	1890
Total Assets	4,378	4127
Current Liabilities		
Trade creditors and other payables	181	138
Employee benefits CL	368	308
Deferred income	183	93
Lease Liability Current	28	
Total current liabilities	759	539
Non-current Liabilities		
Employee benefits NCL	25	-72
Other liabilities	50	102
Total non-current liabilities	75	30
Total Liabilities	834	569
Funds		
Foundation Reserve	827	664
Retained Earnings	2717	2883
Total Funds	3544	3547

Thank you

Thank you to all of our donors for building a more inclusive art world!

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Bowness Family Foundation

Copyright Agency

Cultural Fund

Davies Family Foundation

Inner North Community Foundation – Terry Brian

Kenny Fund

Joe White Bequest

Rosey Kids Foundation

Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund

BELOW: Michael Camakaris *The Fall of Icarus* #2
2025, earthenware, glaze on ceramic



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12-4pm Sat

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