

ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

Inside the Inside of a Wave: Opening event speeches

Executive Director, Liz Nowell:

Good afternoon everyone,

I'm Liz Nowell and I'm the Executive Director at Arts Project Australia.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that we are gathered on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

At Arts Project Australia, we strive to create an inclusive and welcoming space where everyone is free to be themselves. This is a space that embraces diversity and the power of self expression. So, I invite you all to enjoy this afternoon in whatever way makes you feel most comfortable, whether that be adjustments, sounds, or movements. Please do whatever feels right for you.

Welcome to Inside the Inside of a Wave.

It's a pleasure to introduce this exciting and energetic exhibition, featuring an incredible line-up of APA artists.

Aidan Sefo, Alessandra DiMattina, Andrew Nicolaides, Darcy Scott, David Mendelsohn, Jimmy Tran, Chelle Destefano, Molica Silk, Salome Felsinger, and Spenser Coombe.

Congratulations to all of you, and, of course, I congratulate the exhibitions collaborative curatorial group, Spenser Coombe APA artist, and Gallery team Anna Miller Yeaman, Caroline Anderson, Jack Cannon, Patrick Pantano, Margaret McIntosh, and Sarah Lamanna.

Inside the Inside of a Wave runs until the 21 November 2026, and I encourage you all to encourage your friends and family to visit, to buy a work or attend a public program.

This exhibition really captures some of the best things about APA. It started with one of our brilliant studio artists, Spenser, and grew through collaboration between artists and staff. That's where we really shine—as a collective. We're stronger when we create together.

The idea for the exhibition grew out of Spenser's Lunch Time Meeting, which everyone at APA loves. Spenser asks questions that can be fun, sporty and sometimes a little thorny—perhaps the most awkward was, “Who is your least favourite family member?”

Featuring emerging artists from APA, this exhibition is also a wonderful chance to celebrate the next generation of APA artists.

It is an honour to have exhibition co-curator, APA studio artist, the brain behind Inside the Inside of a Wave Spenser Coombe.

Spenser Coombe is an emerging artist who works primarily with gouache and pencil on paper. His artworks often feature maze-like grids and clever visual puns, with compositions that guide the viewer's eye through the image like a map. Coombe uses both complementary and contrasting colours to enhance the structured, grid-like nature of his work, adding vibrancy and depth to each piece. Humour is a key element in his practice, often reflected in the nuanced titles he gives his works.

Please join me in welcoming Spenser.

Co-curator and exhibiting artist Spenser Coombe speech:

Thank you for coming here today.

Hopefully before you were on your way to get here you checked you were redy greeny or orangey to come.

My name is Spenser Coombe and I work for Arts Project Australia.

I often do drawing and colouring in pictures and I often use watercolour pencils.

I helped curate the show.

I also thought of the questions to ask these artists in the video so you would get to know them.

I got inspired to ask these questions because on Wednesdays at lunch time in the studio I would often ask people different questions to get to know people and help with there social life communication.

I hope you will have a browse through the Art Pictures and Enjoy them!

Closing remarks from Executive Director Liz Nowell:

Thank you, Spencer

I also want to again extend my gratitude to all the artists involved, for their creativity and vision, and to the entire APA team for their dedication in bringing this project to life. To the Gallery team who curated this exhibition, I have seen the heart and soul you have put into it. And to the entire team who work with our artists day in day out. My thanks also to the Board, committees who volunteer so much of their time and expertise to this organisation.

A special thanks to Delatite Wines for keeping us refreshed today, and to everyone who has made this exhibition possible.