

**ARTS
PROJECT
AUSTRALIA**

**Annual
Report
2023-24**



**We believe in making a mark that matters.
We believe in art as it should be.
Original.
Unapologetic.
True.
And joyful in the making.**

Contents

5	President's Report
6	Executive Director's Report
7	Year at a Glance
8	Exhibition Program
19	External Exhibitions
26	Art Fairs
38	Public Programs
30	Studio Open Day
32	Awards, Accolades & Achievements
34	From the Studio
38	Development
40	Media Report
44	Artists
46	Board & Staff
48	Financial Highlights
50	Thank You



COVER Ruth Howard works at *Strange Planet*
RIGHT Michael Camakaris *The Wise Minotaur, Untitled (Minotaur), Untitled (Minotaur) 2021*

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.



President's Report

Virginia Lovett



2024 marks a significant milestone with Arts Project Australia celebrating its 50th anniversary. With the celebration of this milestone anniversary in full swing, we are reminded of the strong foundation that has been built over the past five decades. As we look to the future, we remain committed to empowering our artists, expanding our programs, and furthering our impact in the contemporary art world.

The end of 2023 marked a significant shift for Arts Project as we bid a fond farewell to Executive Director of 14 years, Sue Roff. Sue's unwavering leadership and dedication have been instrumental in guiding the organisation through a period of growth and innovation. Her commitment to championing artists with intellectual disabilities and her vision for inclusivity in the arts has left an indelible mark on Arts Project. We sincerely thank Sue for her outstanding contribution, and we wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

As Arts Project said goodbye to Sue, we were excited to welcome new Executive Director, Liz Nowell. Liz brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles as CEO of the Institute of Modern Art in Brisbane and Executive Director of Adelaide Contemporary Experimental. Her leadership in the contemporary arts sector and her dedication to fostering diversity and inclusivity make her an exceptional choice to lead Arts Project into its next chapter. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and energy Liz will bring as we embark on this journey under her new exciting vision.

In addition to this important leadership transition, we also acknowledge and welcome new members to our Board including Fiona Hiscock, Rick Hemphill, and Mary Parker whose expertise and passion will be invaluable to Arts Project. We also extend our gratitude to outgoing Board member Rami Eltchelebi whose contributions have been vital to the success and sustainability of the organisation.

This year also marks my final year as President of the Board. It has been an honour to serve this organisation; an organisation nationally and internationally recognised as one of the very best in its field for championing the creativity of artists with intellectual disabilities. It has been a wonderful six years and I want to acknowledge my Board colleagues and extraordinary staff who worked with me over some very challenging times. We successfully navigated Covid and continued to keep our strategic eye in the horizon, securing funding from both the State and federal governments, establishing a Foundation, working on ensuring Northcote remains the heart of operations and opening the successful gallery in Collingwood Yards. I am confident that Arts Project will continue to thrive and evolve in the years to come, thanks to the unwavering dedication of the team and passionate community.

Arts Project's 50th anniversary promises to be a year of reflection, celebration, and continued progress. We continue to celebrate the exceptional work of our artists, staff, and community, while also embracing important changes that will positively shape the organisation's future.

Executive Director's Report

Liz Nowell

It has been my great privilege to take up the role as Executive Director at Arts Project Australia in December 2023, an organisation renowned for its commitment to fostering creativity and inclusivity. From the outset, I have been warmly welcomed by our exceptionally talented artists, dedicated staff, and extended community. The collaborative spirit and creative energy that defines Arts Project Australia is truly inspiring, and I look forward to building upon its prolific legacy while advancing new initiatives and opportunities.

In this reporting period the organisation has seen numerous remarkable achievements and growth for the organisation. Arts Project had remarkable impact at Melbourne Art Fair 2024, where we showcased the extraordinary talent of our artists on a national stage, attracting new avid collectors and interest from renowned curators. Additionally, our Studio Open Day in March 2024 was an overwhelming success, providing the public with a rare opportunity to see inside our world-renown studio while connecting and creating with our artists. Furthermore, the launch of our new website marks a significant step forward, enabling us to better share our vision, programs, and artists' work with with a diverse national and international audience.

This year has also been marked by notable professional development achievements for our artists. The Northcote Penguins were joint recipients of the prestigious 2024 Miegunyah Creative Fellowship through Melbourne University, further acknowledging the distinctiveness and collaborative nature of their work, while Lisa Reid was awarded a residency at the Australian Tapestry Workshop, a significant opportunity that highlights her exceptional talent and dedication to her practice.

These accomplishments, amongst many, underscore the strength and vibrancy of Arts Project Australia and its community. I look forward with great anticipation to the future, confident that we will continue to foster an environment of creativity, inclusivity, and artistic excellence.



Year at a glance

\$276,479

Total artwork sales

28

Number of public programs delivered by APA artists

\$221,000

Total donations and fundraising

10,451

Total audience visitation to APA Gallery

38

Total number of exhibitions featuring APA artists

466,038

Total audience reached by APA artists across national and international exhibitions



2 x 2

Ross O'Meara | Jacob Cartelli

2 x 2 presented solo exhibitions by Ross O'Meara and Jacob Cartelli, each artist exploring the parameters of colour and form through contrasting lenses.

Ross O'Meara's translucent brushwork appears to float on the surface of the paper, the elegant, whimsical compositions possessing a soft energy that speaks to slow, meditative movement.

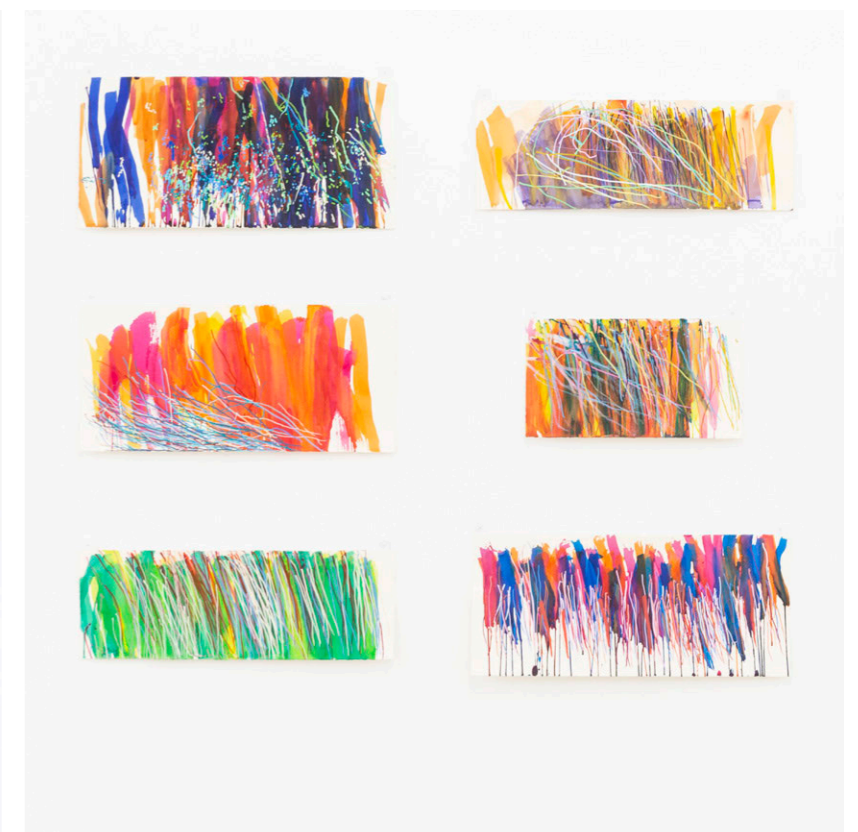
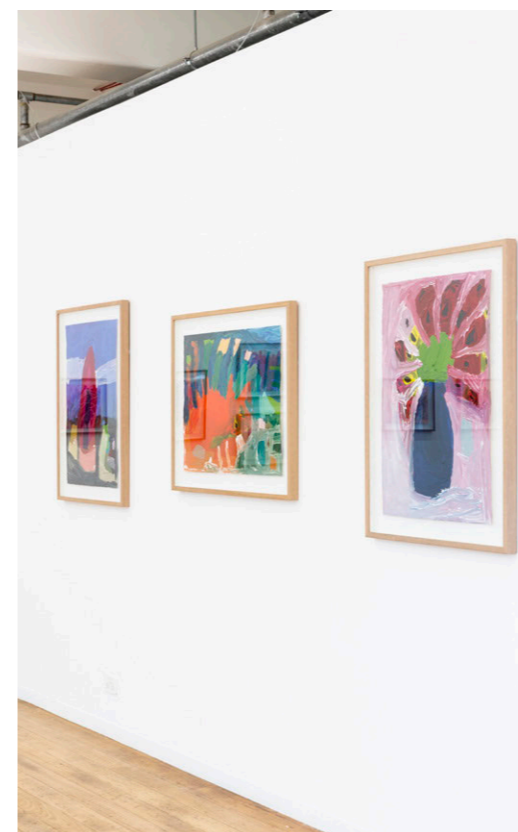
Jacob Cartelli's works are characterised by formations of dense juxtaposed colour, the formal elements fusing together in dynamic fashion to create thick, rich, saturated surfaces. For these artists, colour is an essential expressive tool, capable of evoking a range of responses.

Visitation: 818

**3 June
- 8 July**

2023

LEFT Jacob Cartelli, RIGHT Ross O'Meara



Exhibition Program

Bronwyn Hack soft sculptures for *Within my Skin*



Sensitive Antennae

Curated by Jo Salt

10

Sensitive Antennae was a group exhibition exploring the magnetism of works where the artist appears to tap into inexplicable energy. Emotive, abstracted and minimal, the artists are released from the structures of fixed, coherent form, speaking to the transcendent beauty and elegance found in nature while avoiding unnecessary noise.

Sensitive Antennae included ceramics, painting, drawing and textiles and examined pivotal periods of pure abstraction in the practice of the exhibiting artists.

Sensitive Antennae featured works by Bronwyn Hack, Ruth Howard, Julian Martin, Fulli Andrinopoulos, Ian Gold, Kaye McDonald, Salome Felsing, and Wendy Dawson.

Visitation: 1052

22 July
- 22 August

2023

Fulli Andrinopoulos and Bronwyn Hack



Within My Skin

Curated by Jodie Kipps & Alysia Rees

11

Within My Skin explored the bodily connection and presence of the female figure within a contemporary landscape.

Arts Project Australia artists Emily Dober, Bronwyn Hack, Sammi-Jo Matta and Lisa Reid in collaboration with Ema Shin, explored themes of sexuality, fragility and identity through an alluring and interactive symposium of textiles, installation, collage, photography and the drawn line.

Visitation: 1036

2 September
- 7 October

2023

Bronwyn Hack and Lisa Reid alongside Ema Shin



Tones of Home

Curated by Eric Nash

Tones of Home drew together artists from APA, Melbourne, regional Victoria, and north Queensland to present works inspired by domestic and urban spaces.

The exhibition extended beyond these settings to consider 'what makes a place, a home?', touching on notions of family, community, belonging, connection, love, comfort, safety, and personal histories.

Featuring APA artists Steven Ajzenberg, Miles Howard-Wilks, Chris Mason, Chris O'Brien, Lisa Reid, Anthony Romagnano, Georgia Szmerling and Amani Tia alongside Atong Atem, Susie Buykx, Cooper+Spowart, Erub Arts Torres Strait and Ghost Net Collective, Aishah Kenton and Ron McBurnie.

Visitation: 897

**21 October
- 25 November**

2023

Chris Mason, Chris O'Brien and Lisa Reid alongside Atong Atem



Annual Gala 2023

Arts Project Australia's *Annual Gala* exhibition is an end of year celebration of the achievement of the studio and satellite artists and acknowledges their unique contribution to contemporary art.

Over 200 artworks spanning painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, ceramics and textiles were on display and available to purchase. Also available were calendars, cards and merchandise.

Visitation: 1051

**9 December
2023**

Annual Gala installed at APA Collingwood Yards Gallery



The little things we fight for

Eden Menta for PHOTO2024

14

In *The little things we fight for*, Eden Menta addressed the PHOTO 2024 thematic strand of Social Futures, exploring the intersections of queerness and neurodiversity through ideas around a sense of self and place in the contemporary landscape.

Drawing from deeply personal experiences, Menta unpacked the past and contemplated the present, teasing out what it means to belong – or not – as the case may be. By addressing these realities, Menta fights for a future that recognises the intersectionality of different identities and fosters safe, inclusive spaces to feel valued and supported.

Presented as a solo exhibition, *The little things we fight for* addressed universal tensions and ideas through Menta's intimate lens.

Visitation: 1756

10 February
- 23 March

2024

Eden Menta digital works on fabric



Colour is Enough

Curated by David Sequeira

15

Colour is Enough presented recent bodies of work by APA artists Wendy Dawson, Ruth Howard and Julian Martin within a broader context of Australian monochrome painting and sculpture.

In monochrome works of art there is no single focal point. Unlike the process of reading words on a page, there is no direction for where to start or finish. Viewers are not called to progress from one section to another, but rather to engage with the totality of a single colour. More specifically, understanding and experience is based on 'consuming' the whole work of art at once. In monochromes, colour is its own entity that is distinct and independent. Related to (but not beholden to) form, colour is enough. Nothing else is needed for it to challenge, move, evoke and energise.

Colour is Enough featured Eleanor Louise Butt, Nancy Constandelia, Renee Cosgrave, Rox De Luca, A.D.S Donaldson, Mikala Dwyer, Louise Gresswell, Aaron Martin, Jackson McLaren, John Nixon, Ron Robertson-Swann, David Serisier, Madeline Simm, Lachlan Stonehouse, David Thomas, Sam George & Lisa Radford, Barbara Puruntatameri, Hayden Stuart and Hootan Heydari alongside APA artists Julian Martin, Wendy Dawson and Ruth Howard.

Visitation: 1522

6 April
- 18 May

2024

Ruth Howard ceramics



Strange Planet

Curated by Miles Howard-Wilks,
Sarah Lamanna & Sandy Fernee

Strange Planet invited visitors to move towards the creatures from whom they usually recoil; to examine their glittering intricacies, behold their hairy thoraxes, to bat their eyelids at their slithery scales and razor-sharp fangs. Visitors were invited to find solace in the uncanny beauty of these inhabitants for within their otherworldly forms a symphony of colours, textures, and shapes awaits.

Strange Planet featured Anna Dehm, Anne Lynch, Bronwyn Hack, Chris Mason, Dorothy Berry, Dionne Canzano, Eden Menta, Julian Martin, Katherine Foster, Lygin Ang, Matthew Gove, Miles Howard-Wilks, Michael Camakaris, Michael Trasancos, Nhan Nguyen, Patrick Francis, Ruth Howard, Samraing Chea, Shoshanna Brott, Terry Williams and Valerio Ciccone.

Visitation: 1302



Ruth Howard works on paper

25 May
- 6 July

2024

Northcote Studio Project Space

Māpura Zines

Curated by Tim Danko

25 July - 14 August 2023

Collaboration with Māpura
Studios, Auckland.



Still Moving

Curated by the Northcote Penguins

11 October - 15 December 2023

An exhibition based around movement, and the different ways movement can be described by static artwork.

Daniel Pace *Untitled 2020*



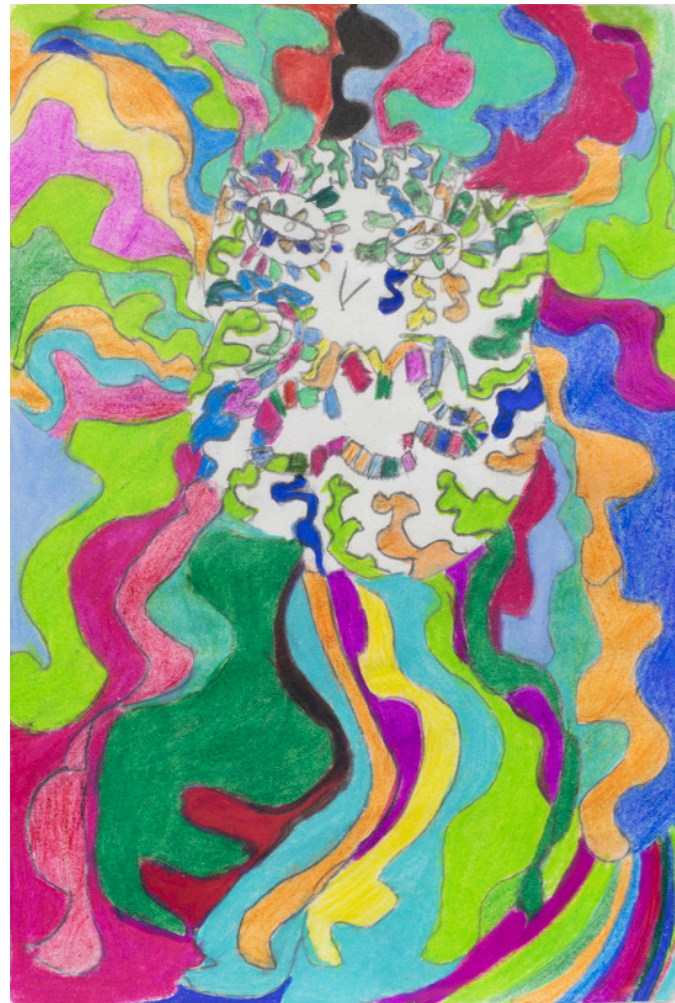
So Fresh

Co-curated by Spenser
Coombe and APA team

6 February - 1 April 2024

Group show featuring emerging APA studio artists.

Iain Gordon *Untitled 2023*



I'll be Your Mirror

Curated by Tom Pendergast, Rob McHaffie and Marcel Cooper

22 July – 21 September 2024
Group show featuring APA artists from the Online Program.

Diego Pizarro *Untitled 2024*

Puppy Love Plethora

Co-curated by Jenny Ngo and Anna-Maria O'Keeffe

16 April - 15 June 2024
A Jenny Ngo solo exhibition.
Jenny Ngo *Lax Kitty 2021*



External Exhibitions



SOFT LANDINGS

30 MAY - 19 JULY 2024

- FULLI ANDRINOPOULOS
- MATTHEW GOVE
- BRONWYN HACK
- PAUL HODGES
- ADRIAN LAZZARO
- ANNE LYNCH
- JOANNE NETHERCOTE
- CHRIS O'BRIEN
- ROSIE O'BRIEN
- LISA REID
- MARK SMITH
- TERRY WILLIAMS

CURATED BY BETTY MUSGROVE

Textiles surround us, comfort us, allow us expression of identity. As Kassia St Clair states in her book *The Golden Thread* 'We live surrounded by cloth. We are swaddled in it at birth and shrouds are drawn over our faces in death. We sleep enclosed by layer upon layer of it...and, when we wake, we clothe ourselves in yet more of it to face the world and let it know who we shall be that day.'

Often relegated to the realm of 'craft', textiles can be an underappreciated and overlooked artform. The artists of *Soft Landings*, however, evident the extensive capacity of textiles - using the medium as a raw expression and interpretation of the world, confirming textiles' place in contemporary art. Subjects such as body, home, identity, desire, and more are explored through embroidery, 2D mixed media textiles, and soft sculpture.

This exhibition celebrates the ongoing collaborative partnership between the Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) and Arts Project Australia (APA). Each year the ATW offers a Artist in Residence place to an APA artist. This is an important professional development opportunity for APA artists to create work in an inspiring studio environment and forge new connections in the Melbourne contemporary art community.

Arts Project Australia is a supported studio and gallery that represents artists with intellectual disabilities, promotes their work and advocates for their inclusion in contemporary art practice. In 2024 Arts Project Australia celebrates its 50th anniversary.



ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA 50 CREATIVE TORONTO

Soft Landings at Australian Tapestry Workshop

Melbourne Now

National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)
Ian Potter Centre, Federation Square

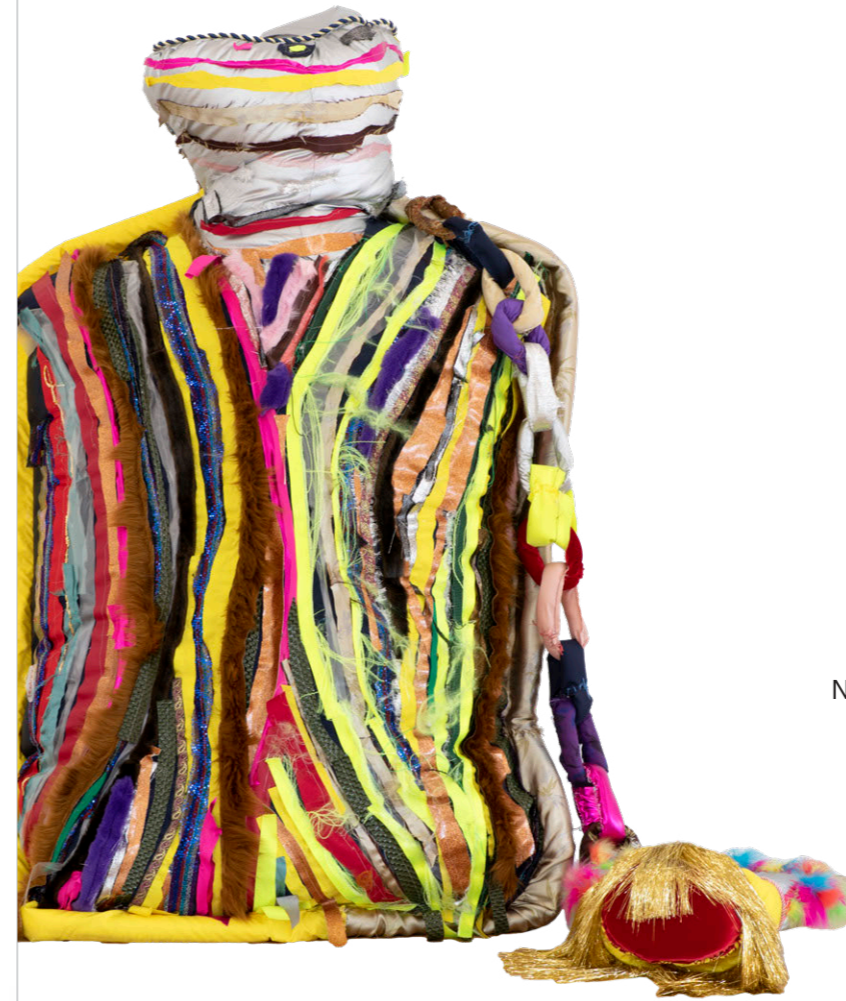
24 March - 24 August 2023

APA artists Lisa Reid and Mark Smith featured new and commissioned works in the second iteration of NGV's *Melbourne Now*, a major exhibition which celebrates the latest art, architecture, design and cultural practices from local creatives shaping Melbourne.

Melbourne Now was displayed throughout all levels of The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, including permanent collection galleries, showcasing new works and commissions by emerging, mid-career and senior practitioners as well as local creatives.

APA also presented a day of artist talks, live demonstrations and screenings as part of *Melbourne Now* public programming, *Community Hall*. The day showcased the artwork and creative ideas of APA artists Bronwyn Hack, Alan Constable, Christian Hansen, Lisa Reid and Mark Smith.

Lisa Reid 1950s vintage
Sunbeam electrical hairdryer 2023



Conflated Touring

Logan Art Gallery
29 July - 03 September 2023

Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery
07 October - 03 December 2023

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
15 December - 11 February 2024

NETS Victoria group exhibition featuring Bronwyn Hack

Bronwyn Hack *Alfred* 2021

From Here to Space Connors Connors Gallery

10 August - 9 September 2023

Terry Williams solo exhibition

Terry Williams *Untitled* 2015





Adult Human Being

Res Artis

12 October - 11 November 2023
Paul Quick solo exhibition

Paul Quick 9 Paul Quicks 2022

Everyone's heard of a Dragon

Craft Victoria

16 November 2023- 27 January 2024
Curated by James Lemon and Bobby Corica
Group exhibition featuring Terry Williams

Terry Williams Untitled 2020, Man 2017



Oh, the places I've seen!

Benalla Art Gallery

1 December 2023 - 29 February 2024
Chris O'Brien solo exhibition

Chris O'Brien Mr Grumpy's House
(he is blue and he has a green hat) 2018



Dog Robot Space Star

Faux Mo, MONA FOMA

23-25 February 2024
Cathy Staughton & Catherine Bell exhibition

Cathy Staughton Sport Dog Robot Wolf Wolf Football 2022

Emerging from the Mist

Benalla Art Gallery

1 March - 31 May 2024
James MacSporran solo exhibition

James MacSporran Untitled 2024





Recent Work

Darren Knight Gallery

9 March - 13 April 2024
Alan Constable solo exhibition
Alan Constable *Untitled* 2022



The Enchanted Garden

Benalla Art Gallery

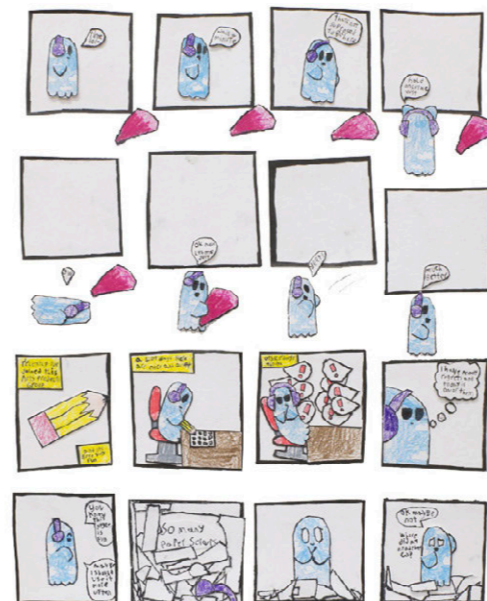
1 June - 31 August 2024
Brigid Hanrahan solo exhibition
Brigid Hanrahan *Pretty Bird looking at some Pretty Flowers in a Pretty Garden* 2019



Exchange/Engage

Art et al. at Res Artis

21 June - 27 July 2024
Group exhibition including Paul Hodges in collaboration with Mutia Bunga, Indonesia
Paul Hodges & Mutia Bunga *Hybridity* 2023



Pleased to meet you, hope you guess my name

ACU Melbourne Gallery

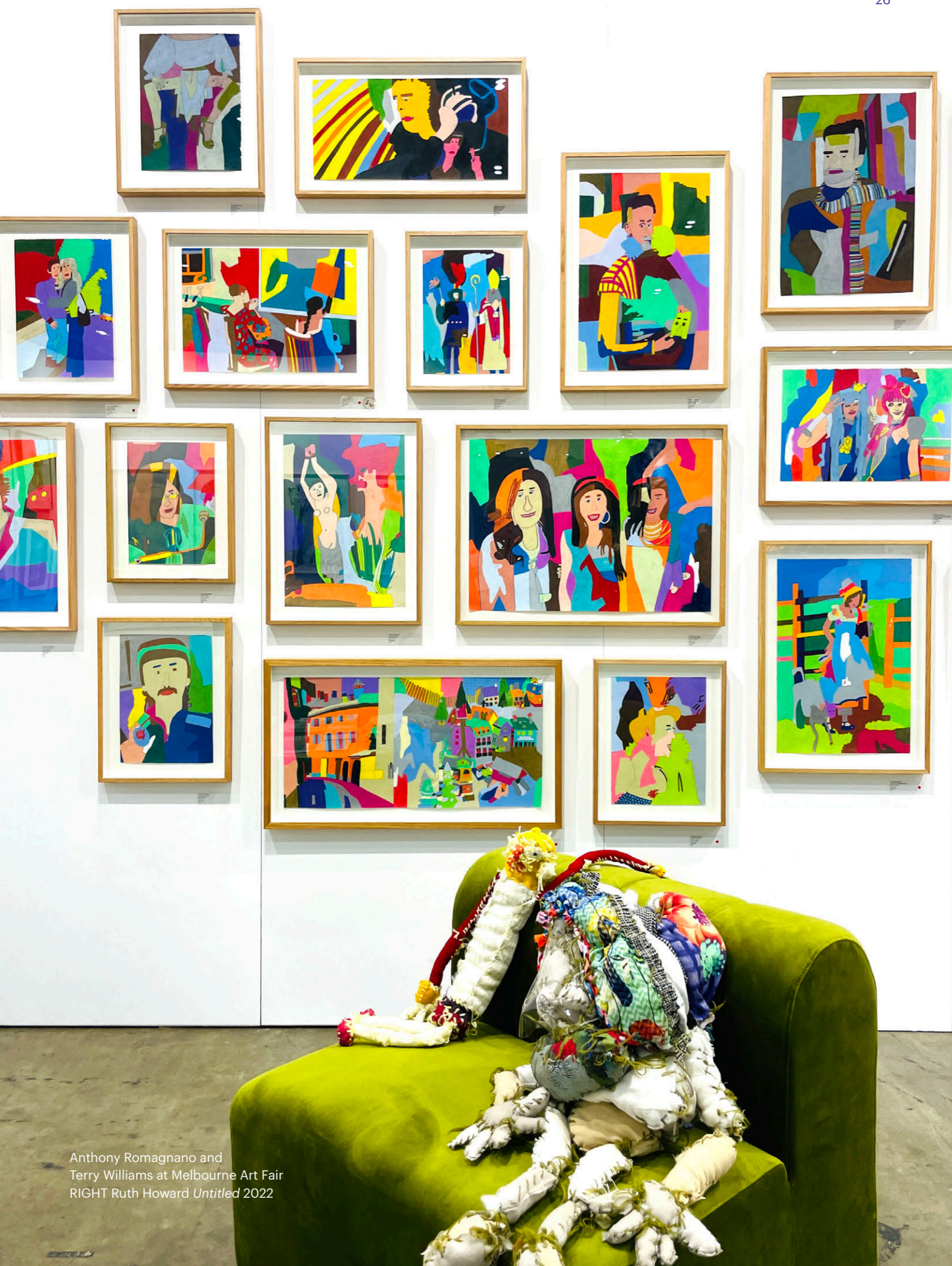
15 June - 29 June 2024
APA Group exhibition featuring Alessandra DiMattina, Anna Dehm, Christian Semertzidis, David Mendelsohn, Heidi Beard, Iain Gordon, Maddie Pavlovic and Oscar Donati.
Heidi Beard *Untitled* 2024

Soft Landings

Australian Tapestry Workshop

30 May - 19 July 2024
APA group exhibition featuring Fulli Andrinopoulos, Matthew Gove, Bronwyn Hack, Paul Hodges, Adrian Lazzaro, Anne Lynch, Joanne Nethercote, Chris O'Brien, Rosie O'Brien, Lisa Reid, Mark Smith, and Terry Williams. Curated by Betty Musgrove.
Bronwyn Hack *Eye Heart* 2023





Anthony Romagnano and
Terry Williams at Melbourne Art Fair
RIGHT Ruth Howard *Untitled* 2022

Spring 1883

The Hotel Windsor, Melbourne

9-12 August 2023

APA presented *Objects of Affection*, a collection of works exploring the bonds made in life with objects, both animate and inanimate, and the spirited connection that lingers long after, and transformative force in our lives. Featured Artists were Alan Constable, Katherine Foster, Lionel Grijalva, Cemeron Gresswell, Bronwyn Hack, Adrian Lazzaro, Joanne Nethercote, Chris O'Brien, Daniel Pace, Simon Paredes, Georgia Szmerling, Rebecca Scibilia, Mark Smith and Terry Williams.

Melbourne Art Fair

Anthony Romagnano & Curated Shop

22-25 February 2024

Arts Project Australia returned to Melbourne Art Fair in 2024 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. APA presented a solo booth showcasing Anthony Romagnano's works of vibrant mosaic-like compositions, alongside a curated 'shop' in a second booth featuring merchandise and select recent works by Alan Constable, Terry Williams, Chris O'Brien, Bronwyn Hack, Lisa Reid, Michael Camakaris, Ruth Howard, Jacob Cartelli, Georgia Szmerling, Mark Smith, Julian Martin, Chris Mason and Fulli Andrinopoulos.

Melbourne Art Book Fair

National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

24 May - 26 May 2024

Arts Project Australia's stall at the annual Melbourne Art Book Fair featured a range of artist zines, publications and merchandise. Artists Lisa Reid, Matthew Gove, Daniel Richardson and Chris O'Brien all made cameo appearances.

Outsider Art Fair

New York

29 February - 3 March 2024

APA artists Alan Constable, Anthony Romagnano, Alvaro Alvarez, Paul Hodges and Ruth Howard were represented by Sonia Dutton (Dutton Gallery) at the Metropolitan Pavilion, New York.

Art Fairs



Public Programs

Arts Project Australia's diverse range of public programs offer community engagement at our Collingwood Yards Gallery, our Northcote studio, and partnering organisations. These programs, hosted by APA artists, offer participants a wide range of activities and foster meaningful participation and connection.

APA Gallery Public Programs

Receiver: An exploration of creative responses with APA's Northcote Penguins (for *Sensitive Antennae*, August 2023)

Body Love: A life drawing and embroidery workshop with APA artist Lisa Reid and guest artist Ema Shin (for *Within My Skin*, September 2023)

Drawing with Chris: An afternoon of drawing exploring the theme of "home" with APA artist Chris O'Brien (for *Tones of Home*, November 2023)

Cut + Paste: A collage workshop reimagining social futures, co-hosted by APA artists Eden Menta and Adrian Lazzaro, with guest artist Kieran Madden (for *The Little Things We Fight for*, March 2024)

Choose Your Hue: An egg tempera workshop with APA artist Christian Hansen (for *Colour Is Enough*, May 2024)

Strange Creature Creations: A soft sculpture and badge-making workshop with APA artists Miles Howard-Wilks and Terry Williams (for *Strange Planet*, June 2024)

External Public Programs

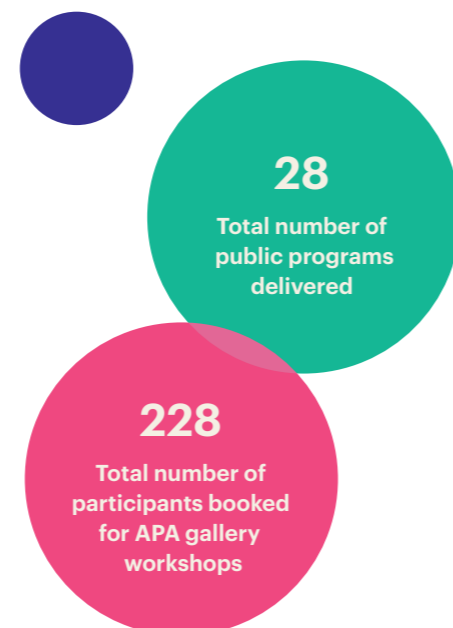
Composite Video: 'Video Hits - Danny Lyons'. Screening of videos + Q&A with APA artist Danny Lyons (November 2023)

West Gippsland Art Centre: *Drypoint and Monotype Printmaking Workshop* with APA artist Lisa Reid (November 2023)

Scope: A series of workshops, including ceramic tile-making with APA artists Mark Smith. *Retribution Teddy Bears* with APA artist Adrian Lazzaro, two pastel and egg tempera workshops with APA artist Christian Hansen, and two monoprint workshops with APA artist Georgia Szmerling (July 2023 - June 2024).

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

TOP Terry Williams,
Strange Creature Creations
BOTTOM LEFT
Eden Menta, Cut + Paste
BOTTOM RIGHT
Retribution Teddy Bears





Amani Tia En Plain Air

Studio Open Day

In celebration of APA's 50th anniversary, we held an Open Studio day for the first time in our history, on 24 March 2024. We closed the street, set up tables and umbrellas, and presented a day of live music, demonstrations, workshops, creative activities, and art for sale. It was a unique opportunity to explore our world-renowned studio, meet artists, and experience inclusive, contemporary art firsthand.

- Drypoint line & tone printmaking: with APA artists Adrian Lazzaro and Thomas Iacono
- Kids workshop - make your own ceramic camera: with APA artist Alan Constable
- En plein air: live mural painting by APA artist Amani Tai
- Zine atall and badge-making: with APA artist Chris O'Brien
- Costume life drawing: with APA artists Samantha Ashdown, Cathy Staughton, and Will Murray
- Kids drawing table: with APA artist Kate Knight
- Performances: DJ Jordan Dymke and Jon Campbell and Band

Supported by City of Darebin.

Kate Knight, Chris O'Brien and Peter Douglas

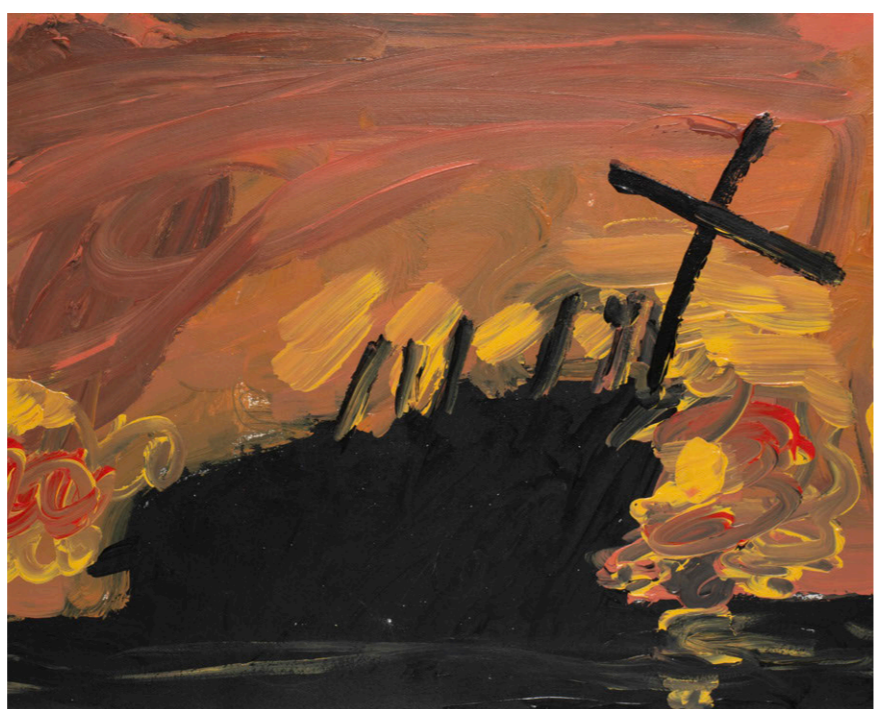
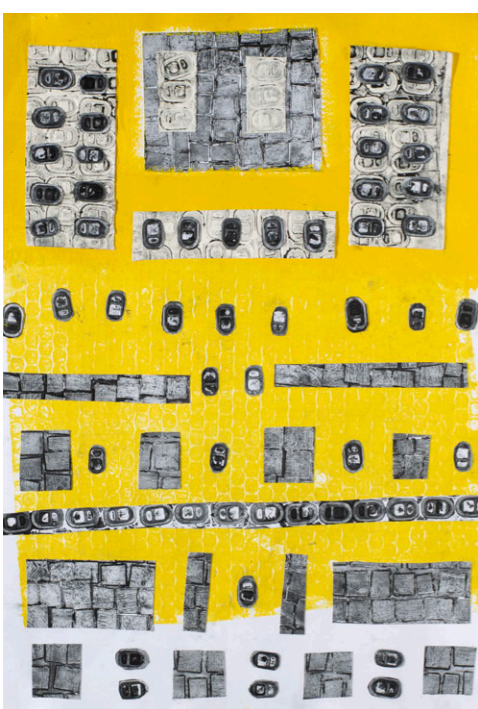


\$16,556
Total artwork sales

300+
Visitation



Awards, accolades and achievements



Darebin Northern Business Achievement Award 2023:
Arts Project Australia

Centre for Contemporary Photography Salon 2023:
Georgia Szmerling, Miles Howard-Wilks, Samantha Ashdown (selected artists)

Linden Postcard Show 2023:
Joanne Nethercote (Award winner), Ruth Howard, Rosie O'Brien, Rebecca Scibilia, Miles Howard-Wilks, Michael Camakaris, Elizabeth Dunkley, Chris Mason, Brigid Hanrahan, Alvaro Alvarez (finalists)

Incinerator Awards 2023:
Eden Menta (finalist)

Gosford Art Prize 2023:
Georgia Szmerling (finalist)

Calleen Art Prize 2023:
Wendy Dawson (finalist)

Mission to Seafarers Maritime Art Prize 2023:
Alan Constable (finalist)

Gippsland Print Award 2023:
Jimmy Tran, Lygin Ang (finalists)

Castlemaine Experimental Print Award 2023:
Monica Lazzari (finalist)

Wyndham Art Prize 2023:
Cathy Staughton, Mark Smith (finalists)

Australian Tapestry Workshop 2024:
Lisa Reid (residency recipient)

Darebin Art Prize 2024:
Miles Howard-Wilks, Alvaro Alvarez (finalists)

Miegunyah Creative Fellowship (University of Melbourne) 2024: APA's Northcote Penguins (joint recipients)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Joanne Nethercote *Untitled* 2023
Eden Menta & Janelle Lowe
Eden And The Gorge 2019
Georgia Szmerling *Landscape* 2022
Alan Constable
Shipwreck Capella 1961 2023
Monica Lazzari *Untitled* 2022

BELOW
Mark Smith *Microscope* 2021



Professional development opportunities

Over the past year, APA artists have taken centre stage both inside and outside the studio, engaging in exciting opportunities including presenting workshops, curating exhibitions, and judging art prizes.

This year, our collaboration with Scope continued to thrive, with several printmaking and ceramics workshops led by APA artists Georgia Szmerling, Mark Smith and Michael Camakaris. These workshops provide APA artists with invaluable opportunities, offering paid work and the chance to share their skills with artists who might not usually have access to these art forms. As an extension of this partnership, APA artists Michael Camakaris was the judge of the Scope Kaleidoscope exhibition.

Several APA artists took up curatorial roles at APA this past year. Miles Howard-Wilks' co-curation of *Strange Planet* at APA's Collingwood Yards Gallery demonstrated his deep passion for his subjects and sound eye for works by fellow APA artists.

In our Northcote studio project space, emerging artist Jenny Ngo had her first solo show and experience curating with *Puppy Plethora*, a vibrant exploration of her affinity with furry animals. Spenser Coombe's exceptional organisational skills and keen eye for composition were perfectly suited to *So Fresh*, a vibrant showcase of APA's new and emerging talent.

APA emerging artist Sam Forster delivered a speech at the opening celebration of the Online Program's *I'll be Your Mirror* exhibition in June. Sam is a man of few words, and so his short speech of welcome and thanks to everyone in attendance was a highlight of the year. The Northcote Penguins (artists in the professional practice program) also stepped into curatorial roles with their exhibition *Still Moving*, featuring works by each Penguin alongside twelve other artists.

Tycho Dahlstrom became the fourth artist to complete a paid studio traineeship with us, quickly applying the same meticulous and detail-oriented approach he takes to producing artwork. Meanwhile Rosie O'Brien underwent a six-month gallery traineeship gaining operational experience and being a valuable contributor to the gallery team.



Alan Constable, Bronwyn Hack and George Aristovoulou





Innovation in practice

Our 2D, specialist, and recreational programs continue to thrive, with active individual goal-setting driving creative growth and development. Through APA's video program, many artists have discovered their voices through innovative projects. Artists like Aidan Sefo and Max Cheevers have elevated their work to a professional level, thanks in part to the addition of much-needed equipment.

Through APA's video program, artists such as Danny Lyons and Chris O'Brien have refined their technical skills, supported by new resources such as green screen, enhanced lighting and sound recording equipment.

We have also expanded our digital offerings with the purchase of six new iPads, providing artists the tools to explore and extend their work into digital spaces. APA artist Joey Balliro delivered a Procreate digital workshop for fellow artists in the studio, creating a professional development opportunity for Joey, as well as expanding the skills of APA artists working in digital.

Residencies and fellowships

In a first, the Northcote Penguins (APA's professional development program) were the joint recipients of the prestigious 2024 Miegunyah Creative Fellowship, awarded through the University of Melbourne. The Penguins will undertake a creative response project as part of this fellowship, inspired by decorative arts items from the Russell and Mab Grimwade Collection. The artists received a generous grant to research and develop major and significant new work in response to the collection, with an exhibition to be held at Buxton Contemporary at the end of the year.

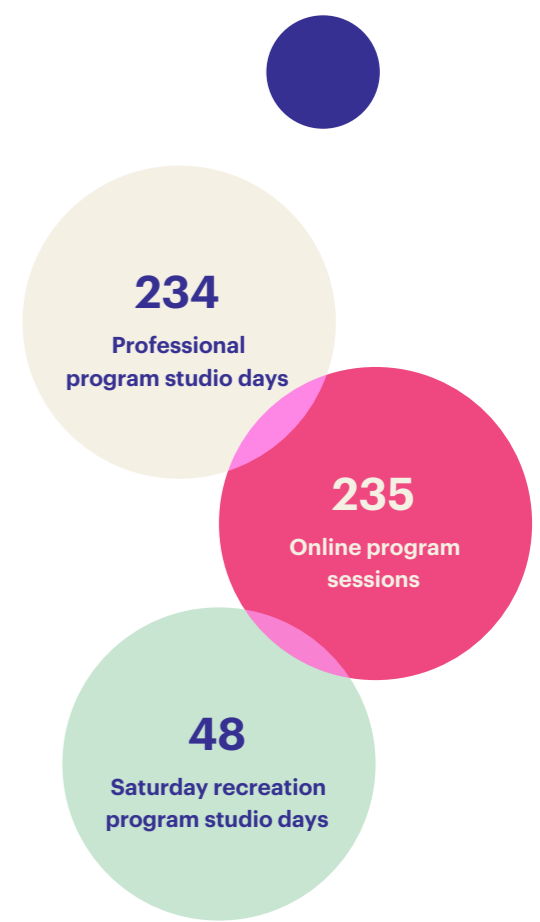
Lisa Reid was our seventh APA artist to complete an Artist in Residency at the much-lauded Australian Tapestry Workshop in South Melbourne. This partnership that began in 2017, and continues to provide APA artists with the chance to work alongside other creatives in an environment that fosters excellence and innovation.

Workshops and field trips

The studio has continued to provide opportunities for artists to develop their creative practices through a variety of workshops and field trips. Visits to sound artist Dale Gorfinkel's studio allowed artists to explore new creative avenues and enhance their practices. Photography and printmaking artists participated in screen-printing through Troppo Studio and cyanotype workshops through Fire Station tailored to their interests.

Of the 90+ field trips, highlights included *Shadow Spirit* at Flinders Street Station's abandoned rooms and the Torch's annual *Confined 15* exhibition at Glen Eira Gallery. Multiple visits to these exhibitions provided valuable insights, opportunities to meet artists, and hear their stories firsthand. This connection with the Torch also led to APA artists requesting to learn weaving from First Nations artist Stacey Edwards, who visited the studio to deliver a workshop to APA's extended practice artists.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Jamie Dawes, Simeon Dicks,
Fulli Andrinopolous, Brendan
Slee, Julian Martin, Fiona
Longhurst, Ruth Howard, Eric
Huang, Sammi-Jo Matta





Annual Fundraising Dinner 2023

Fundraising & Philanthropy

APA Foundation

In November 2023 the APA Foundation was launched. Led by the Chair, Tiffany Lucas, the role of the Foundation is to raise funds to deliver on our purpose and to grow our financial base over time. A committed group of nine Foundation members are now actively involved in supporting APA to build the culture of philanthropy and strengthen our fundraising. Within months of launching the Foundation we received a generous gift from long term donors who wished to bring forward their annual contribution.

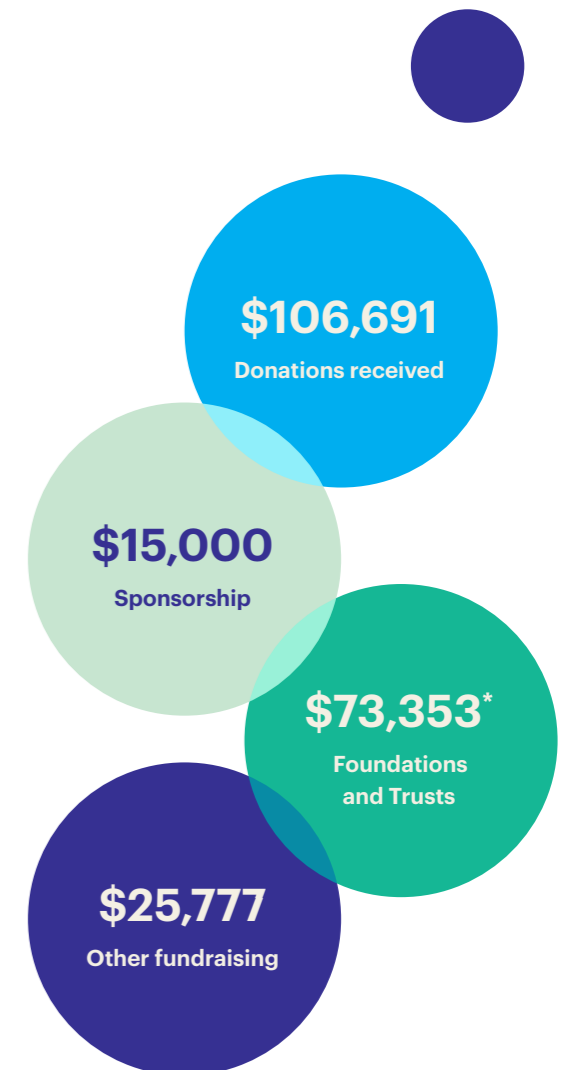
APA Creatives

This year the APA Creatives program has continued to grow, with donors gathering regularly throughout the year to enjoy great art and conversation. Highlights have included tours of the private collections of Mandy Hall and Nick Edwards (October 2023) and Catherine and Bruce Easton (June 2024). The Easton's commissioned a 6m mural by APA artist Georgia Szmerling for the hallway of their house in 2024 and the tour was a wonderful opportunity to gather with Georgia to celebrate her work, and explore a superb and diverse private collection of contemporary art. The mural also featured in ABC coverage in May 2024.

Annual Fundraising Dinner

On 16 November 2023 we held one of our famous annual fundraising dinners at the Studio, the first since the Covid lock-downs. Dining With Art would not have been possible without the support of Delatite, The Recreation, all of our event sponsors and the spectacular Moira Finucane and the Finucane & Smith superstars. The night generated \$9,550 income for APA artists and \$25,000 in profit to support our studio and gallery programs. In 2024 these funds have helped us make upgrades to the studio, exhibit at Melbourne Art Fair and continue advocating for the inclusion of artists with an intellectual disability in national art prizes, exhibitions and festivals.

*For financial purposes some grants will be recognised in 2024/25 financials.



Media Report

56,000

Website visitation sessions

30,800

Total social media followers

4,500

Newsletter subscribers

Print and online media:

- ABC News
- The Age
- The Monthly
- Art Collector
- Australian Associate Press
- Artlink
- Sydney Morning Herald
- Art Guide
- Journal Of Australian Ceramics
- Arts Hub
- Leonard Joel Magazine
- Raw Vision

Radio:

- ABC Melbourne
- Triple R
- Joy FM
- 3CR radio
- Vision Australia radio

Selected media coverage:

Artlink (November 2023):

Star: A Two Cathies Collaboration by Jane Tengrove

Journal of Australian Ceramics (November 2023):

Interview: Lisa Reid by Betty Musgrove and Marcel Cooper

Art Collector, Melbourne Art Fair

Special Edition (February 2024):

Expanding the Field by Laura Coultie

The Age (March 2024):

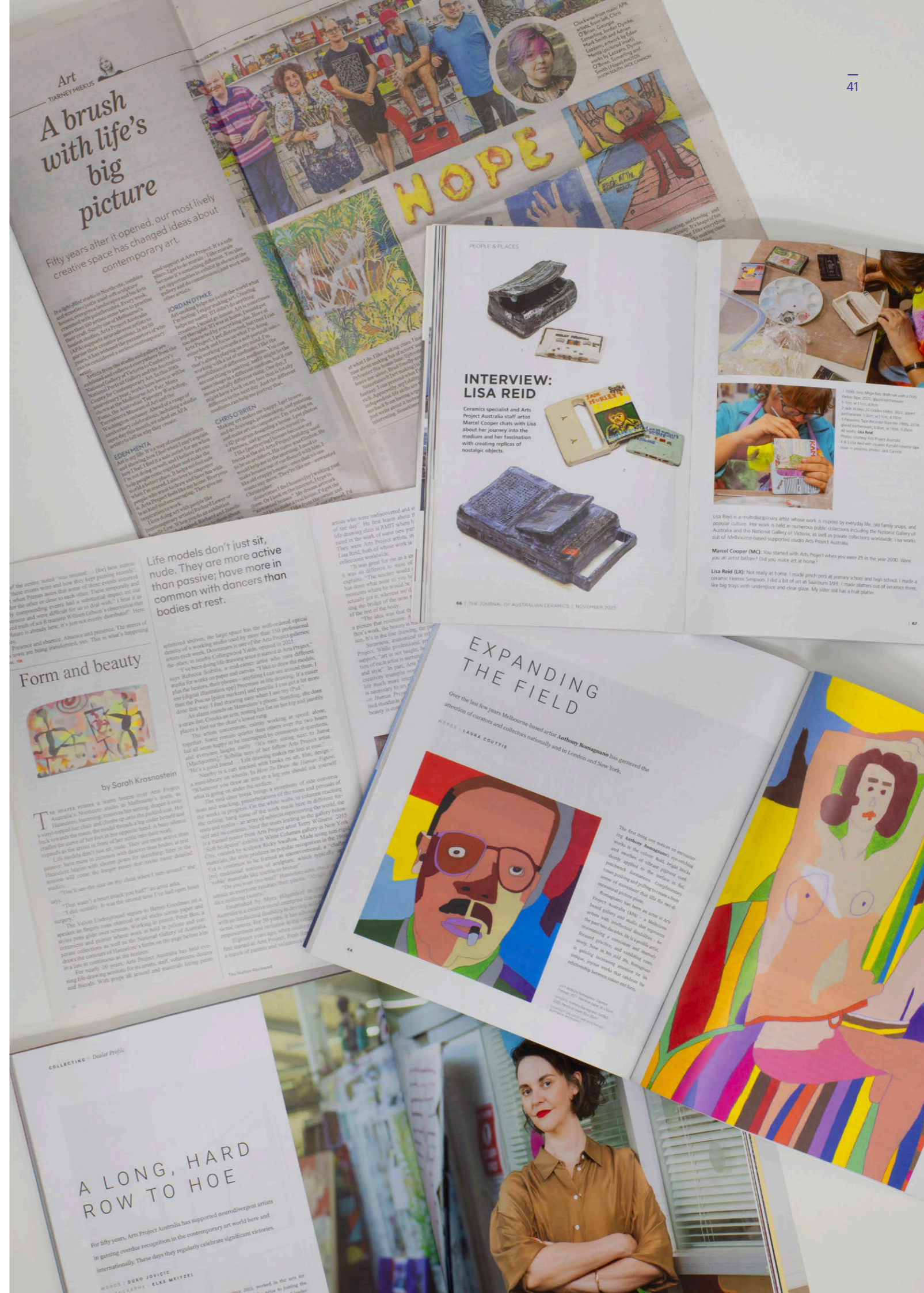
A Brush With Life's Big Picture by Tiarney Meikus

ABC News (May 2024):

50th anniversary feature on APA artist Georgia Szmernling by Nas Campanella (TV and online)

The Monthly (May 2024):

Form and Beauty by Sarah Krasnostein





“Arts Project is very accommodating to different abilities. You never feel like you have to do this or that. Everyone is practising their own thing, but all under one roof.”

— Monica Lazzari



Steven Ajzenberg
 Alvaro Alvarez
 Fulli Andrinopoulos
 Lygin Ang
 George Aristovoulou
 Samantha Ashdown
 Michelle Baker
 Joey Balliro
 Suzanne Barnes
 Heidi Beard
 Ezekiel Beckley
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 Keely (Kaymay) Hallas
 Nouha Hamra
 Toufic Hamra
 Brigid Hanrahan
 Christian Hansen
 Stephen Harvie
 Travis Hendrick
 Paul Hodges
 Ruth Howard
 Miles Howard-Wilks
 Eric Huang
 Thomas Iacono
 Rakhi James
 Michael Keen
 Joanne Kelly
 Raelee Kennedy

Mark Smith, Nouha Hamra, Steven Ajzenberg



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Opening event of *Within my Skin*



Profit & Loss

Statement of surplus of deficit for the year ended 30/6/2024

	2023/24 (\$000)	2022/23 (\$000)
Income		
Government	223	139
Artist Fees	2423	2336
Gallery sales and other income	353	311
Other	62	36
Total Income	3,060	2822
Expenses		
Staff and related	2,170	1974
Gallery	240	223
Depreciation	114	75
Other	793	598
Total Expenses	3317	2870
Surplus for the year	-257	-48
Foundation Income	221	257
Foundation Expenses	81	62
Foundation Surplus for the year	140	195
Total comprehensive income for the year	-117	147

Balance Sheet

Statement of financial position as at 30/6/2024

	2023/24 (\$000)	2022/23 (\$000)
Cash and cash equivalents	415	650
Financial assets	1685	1590
Trade and other receivables	216	252
Total current assets	2,315	2492
Property, plant and equipment	1,803	1802
Right of use asset	88	40
Trade and other receivables	10	20
Total non-current assets	1,900	1862
Total Assets	4,216	4354
Trade creditors and other payables	144	162
Provisions	318	332
Other liabilities	118	43
Total current liabilities	580	537
Provisions	12	40
Other	77	18
Total non-current liabilities	89	58
Total Liabilities	669	594
Funds		
Retained Funds	2883	3140
Bequest Reserve	664	524
Total Funds	3547	3663

Thank you

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

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