



# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES**





Cowra Regional Art Gallery acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, work and live. We recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters, culture and community and pay our deepest respects to Elders past, present and future. Cowra Regional Art Gallery is dedicated to honouring the culture and traditions of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through the visual arts.





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# EXHIBITION

18 December 2022 to 5 February 2023

## CONNECTIONS: The Artist/Master Printer Basil Hall, Michael Kempson and Ron McBurnie

*Connections* featured the works of three master printmakers, Basil Hall, Michael Kempson and Ron McBurnie and a selection of works by artists they have been working with over the years.

The collaboration between an artist and master-printer can create some of the most exciting, innovative and unconventional ideas to the medium, not only breaking down barriers between various media and raising the profile of prints in contemporary art but also expanding the boundaries of printmaking.

Curated by Akky van Ogtrop, Independent Curator, Writer, Art Historian.

### Opening event: 39 visitors

**Saturday, 17 December 2022 at 2pm**

Exhibition opening and discussion with Basil Hall (ACT), Michael Kempson (NSW) and Ron McBurnie (QLD), along with curator, Akky van Ogtrop. The event was ticketed through Eventbrite and included light refreshments.

### Attendance: 524 (including 96 children & 2 groups)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (4 Facebook, 3 Instagram ):

- Facebook audience reach: **6,010**
- Instagram audience reach: **497**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery





**Top:** Curator Akky van Ogtrop with the three artists walks visitors through the exhibition during the opening event.

**Middle:** Basil Hall artist talk.

**Bottom:** Michael Kempson artist talk.



# WORKSHOPS

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 January 2023

## Summer Art Workshops for Children

The 2023 Summer Art Workshops were designed for children from 7 to 9 years and 10 to 12 years, by tutors with professional art and teaching experience over two fun packed days. This unique program consisted of a range of art activities for children to explore in a fun environment, as well as developing individual skills.

This summer we welcomed local artists, Libby Murray and Catherine Bennett as workshop tutors. The Thursday workshop activities focussed on **Creative Collage** with Libby Murray, using natural and man-made materials, including recycled textiles and magazine cut-outs. On Friday, Catherine Bennett lead two classes exploring **Creative Printmaking**.

**Attendance: 25 children across 4 workshops**



**Above (l-r):** Creative Collage in progress. Children with their finished artworks.





**Top and above left:** Creative Printmaking workshop in progress in The Nguluway Room.  
**Bottom right:** Children with their finished prints.



# OUTREACH PROJECT

31 January to 4 March

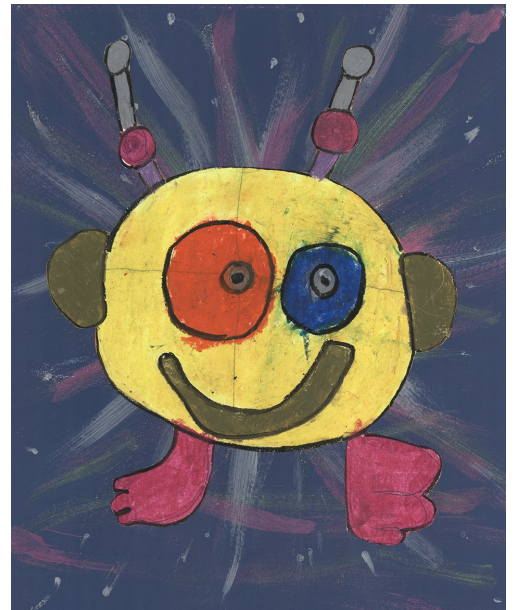
## Operation Art Touring 50 Exhibition (Cowra Library)

In association with the NSW Department of Education, Cowra Regional Art Gallery hosted the 2023 touring exhibition of *Operation Art*, displayed in the Cowra Library.

Celebrating its 28th Anniversary, the exhibition consisted of 50 artworks created by students from Kindergarten to Year 10, from across New South Wales.

These works will tour the state, before finding their home at The Children's Hospital, Westmead where they will help make sick children feel better through the power of art.

**Attendance: 2,283**



**Top (left to right):** Isabella Broomfield, *Dinner Party*, Dubbo School of Distance Education.

Nida Frazer, *Mr Grumpy—The Lorax*, Mullian Creek Public School.

Eli Lingier, *Alien Monster*, Mullion Creek Public School.

**Right:** Robert Fulton, *Mombassa Landscape*, Millthorpe Public School.



**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**



# OUTREACH PROJECT

## Operation Art Handover of Artworks

21 February 2023

Tuesday afternoon, 21 February 2023, saw staff from both The Arts Unit and The Children's Hospital at Westmead, present a handover of six artworks created by students from St Joachim's Catholic Primary School Lidcombe, Concord West Public School, Oberon Public School, Mullion Creek Public School and St Joseph's Primary School, Boorowa to Cowra Health Service.

An artist from the Carenne School, Bathurst attended the Outreach Project in Cowra Library to personally present their artwork to Health Services Manager Pauline Rowston. Cr Nikki Kiss represented Cowra Council.

**ATTENDANCE: 12 adults & 6 children**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery



# OPERATION ART TOURING 50

31 January to 4 March 2023

## Public Program

23 February 2023

### Professional Learning Workshop Day

The NSW Department of Education - Arts Unit conducted a workshop on 23 February 2023, in The Nguluway Room, which saw twelve (12) teachers from the region attend. These workshops offered excellence in professional learning to support art educators.



Cowra Regional Art Gallery



# EXHIBITION

12 February to 19 March 2023

## SIXTY: The Journal of Australian Ceramics (JAC) 60th Anniversary 1962-2022

The Journal of Australian Ceramics (JAC) has over its sixty years of print publication, presented the history of ceramics, in Australia. It has acknowledged the achievements of so many in that time, as well as educating readers on the importance and position of ceramics within Australian art.

The exhibition brought together works by twenty-two Australian ceramic artists to celebrate the significant anniversary in the history of the Journal of Australian Ceramics (JAC). *SIXTY* was an exciting opportunity to experience an exhibition of works by some of Australia's finest and most awarded ceramic artists (including local potter Greg Daly) who have played a major role in shaping the history and future directions of ceramic arts practice in Australia.

For sixty years, the JAC has documented the achievements of many artists, writers and practitioners, while educating readers on the positioning of ceramics within the context of Australian art. Contributors have predominantly been artists who variously have taken on roles as collaborator, contributor, curator, educator, mentor, pioneer, scientist, and speaker, in order to present a balanced viewpoint while passing on skills and knowledge to future generations of ceramicists. *SIXTY* is an Australian Design Centre *On Tour* exhibition project that is presented in partnership with The Australian Ceramics Association and Visions Australia.

## Public Program: 59 visitors (including 8 children)

Saturday 11 February 2023 at 2.30pm

### Exhibition opening

The Gallery held a special exhibition preview and opening on Saturday 11 February with Guest Speaker, Co-Curator and CEO Australian Design Centre (ADC), Lisa Cahill. The event was ticketed through Eventbrite with over 50 people in attendance.

## Attendance: 683 (including 52 children & 11 groups)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (11 Facebook/10 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **2,298**
- Instagram audience reach: **903**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery



**Top:** Visitors arriving to the exhibition opening.

**Middle (L to R):** Dr Tracey Callinan, Director Regional Arts NSW, Lisa Cahill, Co-Curator *SIXTY* and CEO Australian Design Centre (ADC) with Gallery Director, Brian Langer. Ceramic artwork by internationally renowned Cowra artist Greg Daly

**Bottom:** Guest speaker, ADC CEO Lisa Cahill addresses the audience with her exhibition opening speech







**Above:** Group members of the Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre (CINC), who visited “SIXTY” on three occasions.

# EXHIBITION

26 March to 30 April 2023

## RED HEART OF AUSTRALIA

*Red Heart of Australia* was an exhibition that showcased eight paintings of national importance created by Aboriginal artists from across Central Australia united by the colour red.

These precious works from the National Museum of Australia's collection show how the colour red expresses relationships to Country, family, ritual and spirituality. It's the colour of the desert, the giant rock Uluru in central Australia, and the colour of a blazing sunset over the water.

The exhibition was also presented as part of a cultural exchange program by the National Museum of Australia with the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC), Beijing in 2021.

## Opening event: 21 visitors

**Saturday 25 March 2023 at 2pm**

Guest speaker Rauny Worm, Head of Visitor Experience, National Museum of Australia, opened the exhibition. Free ticketed event through Eventbrite. Light refreshments provided.

## Attendance: 654 (including 45 children & 4 groups)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (9 Facebook, 6 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **1,946**
- Instagram audience reach: **669**





# Audience Engagement

The Gallery stays connected with audiences through social media engagement with community groups and guests as well as promotion on local broadcast media.

## Local Media Interview

- Radio 2BS Bathurst - Live radio interview Friday 28 April 2023, with the Gallery Director.

**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**  
Published by Jacque Perry · 4d ·

A shout out to U3A (University of the Third Age) who visited the Gallery today to view two exhibitions of Aboriginal art from Central Australia, Red Heart of Australia from the National Museum of Australia and Utopia Batiks from Tamworth Regional Art Gallery.

We hope you enjoyed a stimulating visit to the Gallery today! 🌟

#cowraregionalartgallery #U3A #lifelonglearning #lovelearning #education #community #aboriginalart #redheartexhibition #nationalmuseumofaustralia #nma #utopiabats #utopiaartists #tamworthregionalgallery #cowracouncil #visitcowra #itshappeningincowra



**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**  
Published by Jacque Perry · 3d ·

NOW SHOWING: RED HEART OF AUSTRALIA

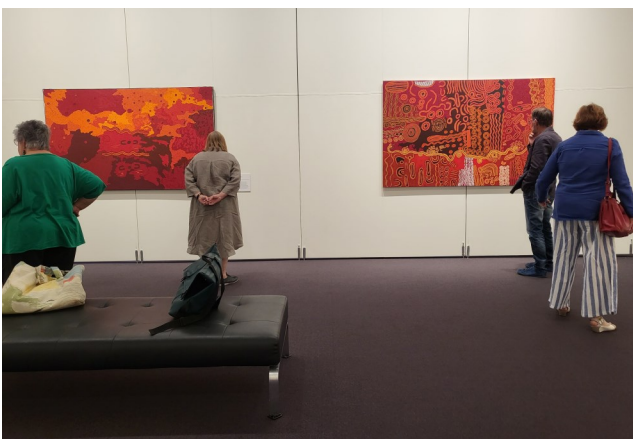
Thank you to everyone who came of the recent launch of Red Heart of Australia touring from the National Museum of Australia including Guest Speaker from the NMA Rauny Worm (pictured with a posy of natives from Jill Allen (thank you Jill)).

RED HEART Red Heart of Australia is an exhibition of eight paintings on canvas of national importance from the National Museum of Australia's (NMA) collection, created by Aboriginal artists from across Central Australia.

The selection of artworks, curated by Adjunct Professor Margo Neale, Senior Indigenous Curator NMA demonstrate how the colour red is used to express the artists' relationship to Country, to family and their spirituality. The exhibition includes a five-minute video presentation by the curator.

Artists include Anatjari Tjakamarra, Ronnie Tjampitjinpa, Charlie Wallabi, Keith Stevens, David Miller, Yanjimi Peter Rowlands, Pukarli Milly Kelly and Hayley Atkins, and, Kunmanara (Nellie) Stewart.

#cowraregionalartgallery #redheartofaustralia #nationalmuseumofaustralia #nma #regionalartsaustralia #regionalartsnsw #artsoutwest #cowracouncil #visitcowra #itshappeningincowra



**Top (L):** Gallery visitors viewing some of the works in *Red Heart of Australia*

**Bottom:** Gallery visitors mingling at the Red Heart of Australia exhibition opening.



# EXHIBITION

26 March to 30 April 2023

## UTOPIA BATIKS: Textile Artworks from the Utopia Collection Bequest

The Utopia Batik Collection is an archive of assembled pieces by some of Australia's most prominent artists of the Eastern Anmatyerre and Alyawarre people, centred at the remote community of Utopia, 270 kms north east of Alice Springs.

First introduced into the Utopia community in the 1970s, Batik was largely adopted by women in the community who used the wax resist technique to depict the layered nature of Tjukurrpa stories – surface and hidden knowledge. Over time the batik technique of layering, was adopted by artists in their painting to create artworks distinctive to the Utopia community of artists.

The Utopia Batik Collection Bequest housed at the Tamworth Regional Gallery has developed since 1998 as a cultural collaboration between Utopia batik artists and the Gallery culminating in the bequest of a significant body of archival artwork including batiks, prints, paintings, and sculpture known as the Utopia Collection Bequest. A Tamworth Regional Gallery touring exhibition.

## Opening event: 21 visitors

Saturday 25 March 2023 at 2pm

Free ticketed event through Eventbrite.

### Local Media Interview

- Radio 2BS Bathurst - Live radio interview Friday 28 April 2023 with the Gallery Director.

## Attendance: 654 (including 45 children & 4 groups)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (9 Facebook, 6 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **1,946**
- Instagram audience reach: **669**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery





**Top & bottom:** Gallery visitors viewing works from the Utopia Batik Collection at the exhibition opening.

**Middle:** CRAG Director Brian Langer speaking at the opening.



# EXHIBITION

6 May to 28 May 2023

## LACHLAN VALLEY BIENNIAL ART AWARDS 2023

The *Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards 2023* is non-acquisitive and celebrates two dimensional artworks in any style or subject from artists living within 100km from Cowra. This includes Young, Boorowa, Grenfell, Parkes, Forbes, Bathurst, Orange and Canowindra. The *Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Awards 2023* was hosted by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery in association with the Cowra Art Group.

- **Major Prize \$4000**
- **Barbara Bennett Memorial People's Choice Award \$1000**
- **2023 Award Judge Lisa McKimmie**

## Opening event: 80 visitors (including 3 children)

**Saturday 6 May 2023 at 2pm**

It was fantastic to see over 80 guests attend the opening event, including many of the exhibiting artists from the region. Gallery Director Brian Langer welcomed the exhibiting artists and guests and introduced speakers Cowra Mayor, Cr Bill West, President of the Cowra Art Group, Martina Lindsay and Judith Pugh, Patron of the Cowra Art Group. The opening was ticketed through Eventbrite.

A delighted Isabel Harnden from Cowra, was announced the winner of the 2023 Lachlan Valley Biennial Art Award by the Award Judge Sydney Artist Lisa McKimmie. Harnden received prize money of \$4,000 for her outstanding artwork '*Ruby in Red*'. Orange based artist Amanda Holman received a Highly Commended for her painting '*Hillside Near Cowra Japanese Garden*'.

## Attendance: 659 (including 6 groups & 53 children)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (10 Facebook, 7 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **4,837**
- Instagram audience reach: **1,115**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery





**Top:** Winner Isabel Harnden, *Ruby in Red* & Judge Lisa McKimmie.

**Middle:** President Cowra Art Group Martina Lindsay and Cowra Mayor, Cr Bill West.

**Bottom:** Cowra Art Group Inc. Patron, Judith Pugh & Isabel Harnden with her winning portrait, *Ruby in Red*.





**Top:** WINNER Major Prize, Isabel Harnden (Cowra), *Ruby in Red*, oil.

**Above:** Highly Commended, Amanda Holman (Orange), *Hillside Near Cowra Japanese Garden*, acrylic.

# CALLEEN ART AWARD 2023

## Entries Call-Out

10 May to 21 July 2023

Entry call-outs for the **Calleen Art Award 2023** commenced on the Gallery's social media platforms, mail-outs, email and advertisements in art journals.



**Cowra Regional Art  
Gallery**

10 May · 🌐

📢🎨 CALL FOR ENTRIES 🎨📢

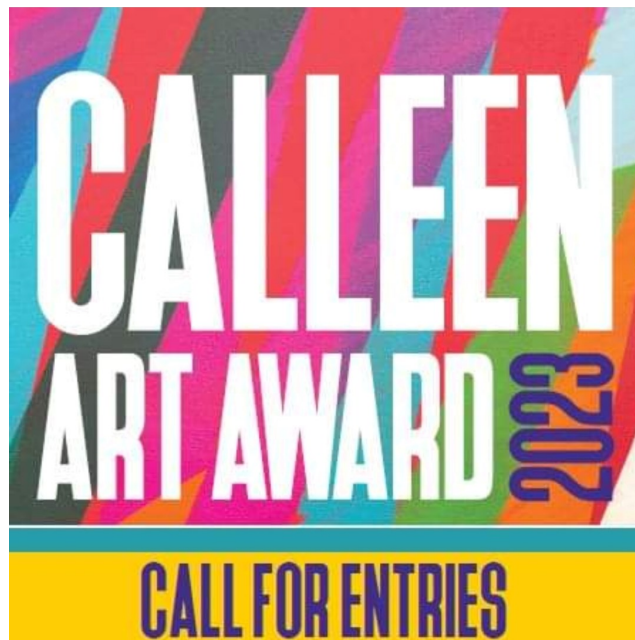
Entries are now open for the prestigious Calleen Art Award 2023. The \$25,000 acquisitive painting prize is open to artists Australia-wide. Entries close 21 July 2023.

👉 Enter online:  
[cowraartgallery.com.au](http://cowraartgallery.com.au)  
(or contact the Cowra Regional Art Gallery for an entry form)

📌 Entries close: Friday 21 July 2023 at 11.59pm (AEST)

📌 Exhibition Opening: Saturday 7 October 2023

🖼️ Exhibition of finalists: 8 October to 19 November 2023





# EXHIBITION

4 June to 9 July 2023

## while the world waits

*while the world waits* was a special exhibition project organised as a response to COVID 19 by Arts OutWest ('AOW'), showcasing a diverse range of contemporary artworks by 20 leading artists, from the Central West, created during the impact of the global pandemic on the creative, visual and performing arts.

Curated by Steven Cavanagh, AOW, this unique touring exhibition showcased regional artists, including Shani Nottingham from Cowra.

Works included painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, sculpture, video/animation, glass and textiles.

## Public program: 46 visitors (including 3 children)

Saturday 3 June 2023 at 2pm

Guest speaker, Steven Cavanagh, Curator, opened the exhibition. Free ticketed event via Eventbrite. Light refreshments were provided.

## Attendance: 838 (including 4 groups & 101 children)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (12 Facebook, 3 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **4,902**
- Instagram audience reach: **621**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery



**Top:** Steven Cavanagh, AOW & exhibition curator, at the lectern, speaking at the opening of *while the world waits*.

**Middle:** Visitors at the opening.

**Bottom (l-r): Artists and guest speakers:** Helen Carpenter, Nerida Cuddy, musician, Skye Manson, Stephen Cavanagh, exhibition curator, and Shani Nottingham.





# EXHIBITION

4 June to 9 July 2023

## LITTLE NOTHINGS: Shani Nottingham

*LITTLE NOTHINGS: Shani Nottingham* was an exhibition of mixed media works by multi-disciplinary Cowra artist Shani Nottingham, highlighting the environmental impact of the prevalence of single-use plastics. Nottingham collects, reclaims and transforms bread-tags which bloom to become something 'other' and states:

*"As small mundane and usually overlooked pieces of single-use plastic, bread-tags are an abundant waste material. I reclaim and transform this product, moving past their initial purpose and life span to become something 'other' that has value and meaning, provoking response and creating a space for dialogue about plastic pollution. These bread-tags (over one million seen at the exhibition) have been saved and sent to me from people all over Australia and the world, as part of my ongoing work for 'The Breadtag Project'."*

### Public program: 46 visitors (including 3 children)

**Saturday 3 June 2023 at 2pm**

Free ticketed event via Eventbrite. The exhibition was opened by Skye Manson, writer and podcaster, former ABC Country Hour reporter. Light refreshments were provided.

### Attendance: 838 (including 101 children & 4 groups)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (12 Facebook, 3 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **4,902**
- Instagram audience reach: **621**





**Top:** Guest speaker Skye Manson.

**Middle:** Skye Manson & visitors at the opening.

**Bottom (l-r):** Shani Nottingham and Tilly Nottingham.









Students from Cowra Public School DEC 'Little Committee' visited the Gallery to view the *LITTLE NOTHINGS: Shani Nottingham* exhibition, with a special guided tour conducted by the artist.



# COMMUNITY EVENT

25 June 2023

## World Peace Suite - World Premiere

On a glorious winter's day, Cowra Arts Precinct hosted the world premiere of Nicholas Gentiles' World Peace Suite. The three movements are inspired by Cowra's extensive history and its role in peace.

World Peace Suite, conducted by James Pansini and performed brilliantly by the Sydney Youth Orchestra and the Cowra Vocal Ensemble.



Cowra Regional Art Gallery



# ARTS OUTWEST

25 June 2023

## Annual General Meeting

Sunday 25 June 2023, saw Cowra host the Arts OutWest AGM at the Cowra arts precinct. It was a full day of networking and hearing local arts stories.

A floor talk was also held in the Gallery, with artists and musicians from the region.

**Attendees: 121 (including 26 children)**



**Top (l-r):** Artist & musician, Nerida Cuddy discussing her work and artist, Heather Vallance speaking about her work. **Middle (l-r):** Steven Cavanagh, AOW & Co-curator, while *the world waits* and local artist Shani Nottingham, discusses her exhibit. **Bottom:** artist talks, Steven Cavanagh and visitors.

**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**

# EXHIBITION

16 July to 20 August 2023

## Nationalism in the Wake of COVID

The exhibition explored, in the context of the global pandemic, the dialectic between nationalism, localism and internationalism pertaining to contemporary art practices.

Artists works on display included: Sidney Nolan, James Doolin, Naata Nungurrayi, Rosalie Gascoigne, James Gleeson, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Tracey Moffatt & Margaret Preston.

## Opening Event: 25 visitors

**Saturday 8 July 2023 at 2.30pm**

The exhibition was opened by co-curator, Leonard Janiszewski, with talks by artists, NOT & NC Qin. Light refreshments were provided. This was a free event ticketed through Eventbrite.

**Attendance: 555 (including 33 children & 5 groups)**

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across two platforms (9 Facebook, 8 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **3,225**
- Instagram audience reach: **785**







**Top:** Guest speaker & co-curator, Leonard Janiszewski.

**Middle:** exhibition artist NOT discussing his work in the exhibition with visitors

**Bottom:** Guest speaker & Co-curator Leonard Janiszewski with visitors viewing works.

**Previous page:** exhibition view and visitors

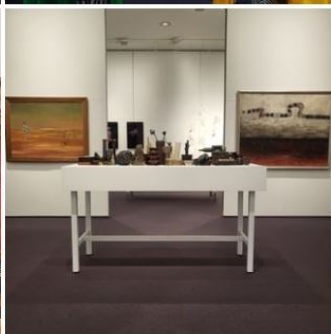




# SOCIAL MEDIA SHAPSHOT



*Nationalism in the Wake of COVID* was promoted on social media throughout the exhibition including pre and post opening, visitors, groups, exhibition views, individual artworks, Calleen Call-For Entries and along with the rest of Australia (and Cowra), Matilda's fever!





# CALLEEN ART AWARD 2023

28 July 2023

## Finalists Selection



The annual Calleen Art Award is an exciting and stimulating art award and one of the most respected and richest regional art prizes in New South Wales, worth \$25,000 in 2023. The Calleen Art Award was founded in 1977 by Cowra art patron and collector Mrs Patricia Fagan, OAM. The Calleen Art Award is an acquisitive art prize with the winning work joining the Calleen Collection - the Gallery's foundation collection - a unique collection celebrating previous winners of contemporary art works of high-quality and of regional and national significance.

This year the Gallery received 278 entries and 57 works were selected as finalists by the selection panel of art professionals. The selected artworks comprised a diverse range of visually compelling, thoughtful and challenging paintings.

The *Calleen Art Award 2023* selection panel was the Award Judge Kon Gouriotis OAM, Curator, Writer and Editor of Artist Profile Magazine, Alexandra Pedley, Gallery Director (Acting), Bathurst Regional Art Gallery and Brian Langer, panel chair and Gallery Director, Cowra Regional Art Gallery. The panel selection of finalists took place on 28 July.

The winner was announced by the Award Judge Kon Gouriotis OAM at the Calleen Art Award 2023 opening, Saturday 7 October 2023



**Photo:** *Calleen Art Award 2023 opening and winner announcement, 7 October 2023.*

# EXHIBITION

26 August to 1 October 2023

## Robyn Stacey: as still as life

*Robyn Stacey: as still as life* was an exhibition of photography that explored the tantalising world of the still-life tradition. The main focus of the exhibition consisted of a series of large scale monumental and magnificent photographs by the renowned Australian artist Robyn Stacey drawn from the Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh) Collection.

Still life is one of the most enduring genres that flourished during the 17th-century Baroque period in Europe. Inanimate objects took on symbolic meaning, creating a type of code through which status and narrative could be communicated. Still life reflected, responded to and shaped society, changing and democratising the art market into what it is today.

Still life was the perfect subject matter for photographers to focus on during the medium's infancy. Inanimate, unmoving objects could be composed in elaborate and dynamic compositions within a controlled environment, allowing for the long exposures that photography demanded. Still life through photography has continued to evolve, from compositions that mimicked Baroque paintings, through to highly conceptual and experimental works that reflect, respond and speak to contemporary society.

Other eminent artists in the exhibition were Kathy Cavaliere, Olive Cotton, Max Dupain, Joachim Froese, Christine Godden, Janina Green, Fiona Hall, Penelope Malone, David Moore, George J Morris, Michael Riley and Anne Zahalka.

### Public program: 42 visitors (including 2 children)

2 September 2023 at 2pm

A special launch and Curator Talk by Anouska Phizacklea, MAPH Director. Light refreshments were provided.

### Attendance: 753 (including 89 children & 7 groups)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across two platforms (7 Facebook, 6 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **4,460**
- Instagram audience reach: **974**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery





**Top and middle:** Visitors viewing works at the opening

**Bottom:** Visitors at the floor talk listening to exhibition curator Anouska Phizacklea, Director, MAPH explain some of the artists' works.





Holmwood Public School visited the Gallery on Wednesday 20 September which included a series of class activities and talk by gallery staff.





Olive Cotton's great grandchildren, Hilda and William paid the Gallery a special visit during the Robyn Stacey: *as still as life* exhibition.

Pictured with Cotton's *Teacup ballet*, 1935 and biography, *Olive Cotton A Life in Photography* by Helen Ennis.



# Calleen Art Award 2023

Finalists were announced on all social media platforms and on the Gallery website.



**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**

Published by Jacque Perry · 31 August at 13:30 · 🌐

## 🎨 2023 CALLEEN ART AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCEMENT 🎨

We are delighted to announce the finalists for the 2023 Calleen Art Award.

Finalists were selected by a panel of art professionals from 278 entries. This year 57 finalists will be exhibited at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery from 8 October to 19 November 2023.

Congratulations to all finalists! 🍀🍀🍀

The winner of the Calleen Art Award 2023 will receive \$25,000 to be announced at the opening night on Saturday 7 October 2023. The Judge is Kon Gouriotis OAM, Curator, Writer and Editor of Artist Profile.

#cowraregionalartgallery #calleenartaward2023 #calleenfinalists #artprize #acquisitiveartprize #australianartprize #painting #artsoutwest #mgnsn #regionalartsaustralia #regionalartsnsw #visitcowra #itshappeningincowra

Images: 1. Detail compilation of 2023 Calleen Art Award finalists 2. List of 2023 Calleen Art Award Finalists



FINALISTS		
Susan Baird	Rachel Ellis	Steve Lopes
Michael Bell	Jo Fernandez	Graham Lupp
Charlie Bonnell	Ashley Frost	Maria Mararr
Lee Bethel	Joanna Gambotto	Nicola Mason
Joe Blundell	Nick Glade-Wright	Ahn Nguyen
Vicki Bosworth	Kim Grivas	Robyn Nolan
Rhett Brewer	Melissa Guest	Penelope Oates
Kate Briscoe	Marie Hagerty	Jason Liman Olsen
Anthony Cahill	Lizzie Hall	Stephen Ploban
Spencer Calveley	Geoff Harvey	Georgina Pollard
Jane Canfield	Leigh Hewitt	Sarah Randall
Michelle Cawthorn	Dellina Inkamala	Edgar Schiller
David Collins	Dominika Keller	Peter Sharp
Luke Cornish	James Lai	Gary Smith
Jessie Cunningham-Reid	Hannah Lange	D.R. Snook
Dagmar Cyrulla	Natalie Lavelle	Fiona Somerville
Wendy Dawson	Naomi Lawler	Brenda Stace Chat
Chantel de Latour	Danny Lee	Phil Went
Angie de Latour	Rosie Lloyd-Giblet	Minghua Xiang



# RECYCLED ART FOR COWRA AWARD (RAFCA)

17 September 2023

The Cowra Tidy Towns Committee, in collaboration with Cowra Shire Council, held the 2023 Recycled Art for Cowra Awards (RAFCA) on Sunday, 17 September 2023, in the Ngulaway Room, with entertainment and a sausage sizzle provided at the arts precinct.

Celebrating and honouring the exceptional talent and creativity of artists who transform discarded materials into stunning artworks.

The Recycled Art for Cowra Awards is an initiative of the Cowra Tidy Towns Committee.

Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director was a member of the judging panel.



Cowra Regional Art Gallery



# ART AFTER DARK EVENT: MAKERS' FILM FESTIVAL

29 September 2023

Still from Artisans of the Union of Craftsmen of Kazakhstan

**COWRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY** presents

# MAKERS' FILM FESTIVAL

17 SHORT FILMS EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY CRAFT PRACTICES



**COWRA CIVIC CENTRE**  
**FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER at 6.15pm**  
(complimentary glass of wine on entry)

**TICKETS \$25pp and \$15 Friends of the Gallery**

Purchase tickets online at Cowra Civic Centre or the Civic Centre Box Office at 104 Darling Street Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm

Makers' Film Festival is produced by Makers & Smith in Western Australia



**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**  
77 Darling Street Cowra NSW  
Hours: Tues - Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm  
**ADMISSION FREE**  
More information at: [www.cowraartgallery.com.au](http://www.cowraartgallery.com.au)

The Cowra Regional Art Gallery is a cultural facility of the Cowra Shire Council.

Still image: Nomadic Crafts credit Artisans of the Union of Craftsmen of Kazakhstan, Director Aizhan Bekkulova





# MAKERS' FILM FESTIVAL

The 2023 edition of the Makers' Film Festival (MFF23) showcases craft, makers, and making in 17 short films from 7 countries. Produced on Noongar country, the makers within these moving short stories contemplate the sustainable use of materials, express their cultural heritage, explore social and political change, and also make us laugh.

The film-making and story-telling approaches selected for the MFF are as varied as the craft disciplines presented. Interviews, documentaries, and stop motion animations uncover traditions, skills, and consequences in a glorious survey of making – furniture, public art, textiles, baskets, ceramics, glass, jewellery, and more. The entire MFF23 program is only 90 minutes long, screened in two parts with an interval, with films ranging in duration from one to ten minutes.

## CRAFT ON THE BIG SCREEN

Watching craft at cinema-scale is an occasion to focus our attention on how we interact with crafted objects. Hand-makers wrangle with their creative process, traditions, materials, and tools to produce a form that is as individual as they are. We have the joy of sitting on, supping from, wearing, holding, admiring or even wandering through these forms.



Still image: Tjanpi Djanpi Weaving, Animated and Directed by Jonathan Davis



Still image: 2 Faces of Fire: Director Vanessa Milson, Artist Daniel Lafferty.

## Attendance: 20



## Community Snapshot



Community engagement during 2023 included regular visitations by group members of the University of the Third Age (U3A), Cowra pictured above left side and the Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre (CINC) pictured above right side,

**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**



# EXHIBITION

8 October to 19 November 2023

## Calleen Art Award 2023

The Calleen Art Award 2023 exhibition of 57 finalists was a compelling and diverse showcase of works selected from entries received from across Australia. The exhibition included works by established and emerging artists from NSW (including the Central West), Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The Calleen Art Award was founded by Cowra art patron and collector Mrs. Patricia Fagan OAM, in 1977, as an annual acquisitive art award with the aim to foster creativity and excellence in the visual arts and enhance the cultural life of Cowra and the surrounding region. Worth \$25,000 in prize money, with the support of the Calleen Trust, the winning work joined the Calleen Collection at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

### Opening Event: 90 visitors (including 6 children)

7 October 2023 at 6pm

A special gala event was held by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery for the launch and preview of the The Calleen Art Award 2023, on Saturday evening, 7 October. The annual Spring event was opened by Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council.

Announcement of the winner was presented by this year's Award Judge, Kon Gouriotis OAM, Curator, Editor Artist Profile, Arts Writer. Entertainment was provided by the Walker Street Band

### Attendance: 929 (including 45 children & 10 groups)

**Promotions:** regular social media posts across two platforms (17 Facebook, 15 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **3,407**
- Instagram audience reach: **782**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery





**Top:** Brian Langer, Cowra Regional Art Gallery Director, welcoming guests to the opening event.

**Middle (l-r):** Award Judge, Kon Gouriotis OAM, Curator, Editor, Arts Writer, Calleen Trustee Mrs Jenni Fagan, Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council, Mr Peter Fagan, Calleen Trustee & Cr Nikki Kiss.

**Bottom:** Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council

## Winners

### Calleen Art Award 2023 Winner

Marie Hagerty, *Ritual Habitual 2*, 2023

### People's Choice Award 2023 Winner

Penelope Oates, *Carbon Storers*, 2023.  
(announced at the end of the exhibition)

Cowra Regional Art Gallery

## Artists

- ◆ 279 entries received
- ◆ 57 finalists exhibited
- ◆ 34 Female finalists
- ◆ 23 Male finalists



# Calleen Art Award 2023

## Winner

**Winner 2023**

**MARIE HAGERTY**

*Ritual Habitual 2* 2023

Acrylic and oil on canvas

191 x 91cm



Cowra Regional Art Gallery





**Top:** Award Judge, Kon Gouriotis OAM, Curator, Editor, Arts Writer & Jenni & Peter Fagan representing the Calleen Trust with the winning work, Marie Hegarty, *Ritual Habitual 2*, 2022.

**Bottom:** The Walker Street Band.





**Top (l-r):** Ann Apthorpe & Barbara Proctor. Dr Guy Date, Brian Langer & Inel Date.

**Second (l-r):** Calleen Trustee Mr Peter Fagan & Cr Nikki Kiss.

**Third (l-r):** Artist and finalist, Brenda Stace Chat & Potter, Rebecca Dowling. Maryanne & Greg Smith.

**Fourth (l-r):** David & Sylvie. Visiting artists mingling.



# WINNER

## Calleen Art Award 2023

Marie Hagerty pictured with her Calleen Art Award 2023 and her painting *Ritual Habitual 2* (detail), acrylic and oil on canvas.

"Her works are constantly shifting between figuration and abstraction creating alluring and refined hybrid-images that seem to be arrested in movement, space and time".  
(excerpt exhibition catalogue - artist statement).

Photo courtesy: Sara Vandermark.



# PUBLIC PROGRAM

## Floor talk

11 November 2023

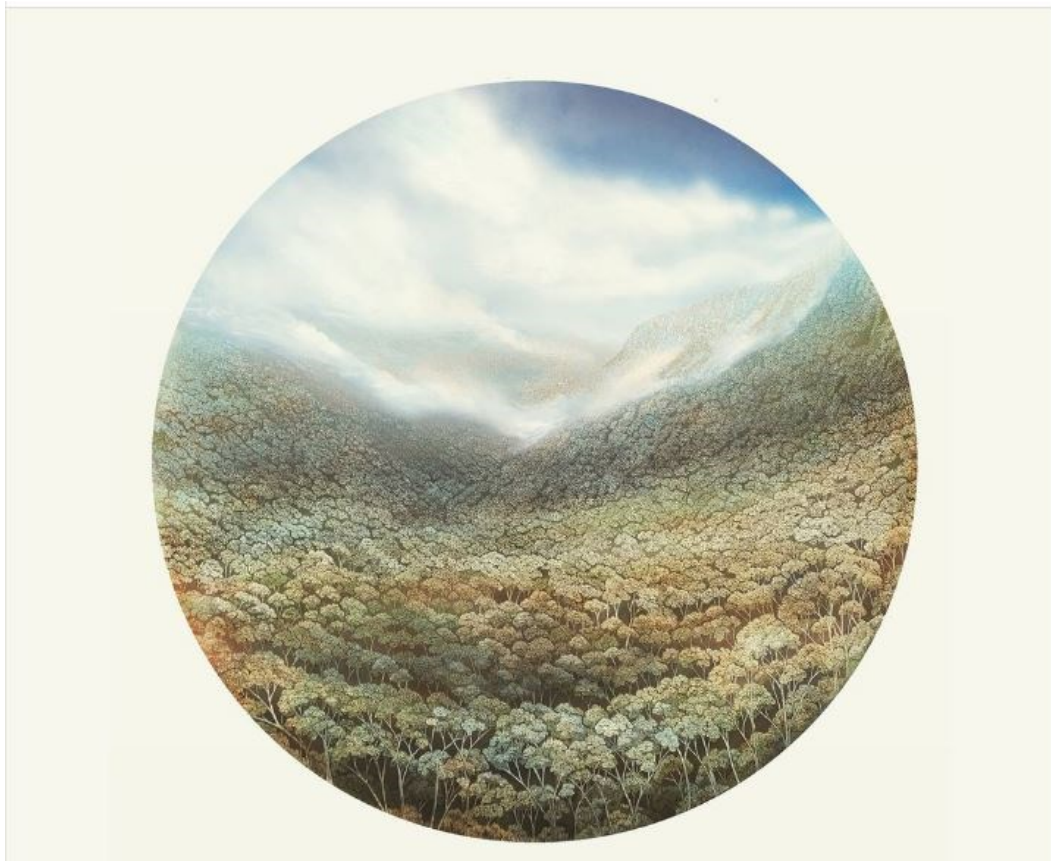
The Gallery presented a special floor talk with guest speaker, Peter Haynes, Consultant, Curator, Writer and Art Historian. His talk was about the artwork of artist Marie Hagerty winner of the Calleen Art Award 2023,

**Attendance: 20**



# CALLEEN 2023 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Gallery visitors voted for their favourite painting in the Calleen Art Award 2023 People's Choice Award (non-acquisitive) and was won by Penelope Oates, *Carbon Storers*, 2023 and announced on social media (as below).



**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**

Published by Jacque Perry · 21 November at 19:00 · 🌐

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🌟 The votes are in, and we are delighted to announce that Penelope Oates is the winner of the People's Choice Award for this year's Calleen Art Award. 🌟

Voted by visitors to the exhibition of 57 finalists, Oates' 'Carbon Storers' 2023 wins the \$1000 non-acquisitive People's Choice Award through the generous support of the Gallery Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Gallery art fund. Congratulations Penelope! 🏆🏆🏆

"When you look down over the Grose Valley from any of its vantage points the viewer is confronted with a sea of trees as far as the eye can see. You can be lost in the vastness of the valley and just take a moment to 'breathe' and forget for that moment in time the peril that our environment is in. Trees are the most effective and valuable storers of carbon, their impact en masse so much more than just a visual feast for the eye." - Penelope Oates, 2023

@penelopeoatesart Penelope Oates Art

#cowraregionalartgallery #calleenartaward2023 #calleen2023 #peopleschoice

#calleenpeopleschoice2023 #penelopeoates #penelopeoatesart #artprize #australianartprize

#painting #artsoutwest #mgns #regionalartsaustralia #regionalartsnsw #visitcowra

#itshappeningincowra

Image 1: Penelope Oates, *Carbon Storers*, 2023 acrylic on board, 120cm diameter. Image courtesy and © the artist.



# EXHIBITION

25 November to 10 December 2023

## upstART 2023

**upstART** is an annual exhibition presented by the Cowra Regional Art Gallery, together with the collaboration of high schools across the Central West, featuring a diverse showcase of artwork by talented young artists in stages 5 and 6.

Cowra Regional Art Gallery is proud to encourage and support the artistic skills and creativity of young and aspiring artists through our youth art exhibition. This year's exhibition had a diverse range of artworks on display including painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, digital art, ceramics and sculpture.

**upstART23** was presented with the support of 10 high schools from the region and serves as a fantastic opportunity to connect the participants to audiences beyond the school gate and see their work presented in a professional public art gallery.

This year's Judge was Heidi Windeisen, artist, art educator and Operation Art Project Officer.

### Opening Event: 78 visitors (including 30 children)

25 November 2023 at 2pm

A special opening and award presentation was held on Saturday 25 November. In attendance to present the awards to the winners was Cr Paul Smith, Deputy Mayor, Cowra Shire. Light refreshments were provided.

### Attendance: 426 (including 142 children & 3 groups)

**Promotion:** regular social media posts across 2 platforms (8 Facebook, 8 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **4,514**
- Instagram audience reach: **431**



Cowra Regional Art Gallery



**Group images:** Visitors viewing artworks at the upstART23 exhibition opening



## The 10 schools supporting *upstART23* were:

- BLAYNEY HIGH SCHOOL
- BOOROWA CENTRAL SCHOOL
- CANOWINDRA HIGH SCHOOL
- COWRA HIGH SCHOOL
- FORBES HIGH SCHOOL
- HENNESSY CATHOLIC COLLEGE (Young)
- THE HENRY LAWSON HIGH SCHOOL (Grenfell)
- JAMES SHEAHAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (Orange)
- ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL (Cowra)
- YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL



**Above (l-r):** Isabel Harnden, Visual/Creative Arts teacher, Cowra High School. Rowan Turnbull, Yr 12, Cowra High School, Highly Commended Photography. Jaz Dunlop, Yr 11, Cowra High School, Winner Painting Award. Ruby Coady, Yr 12, St Raphael's Catholic School Cowra, Winner Year 12. Mischa Boxsell, Yr 11, Hennessy Catholic College Young, Highly Commended Year 11. Luke Edwardes Yr 11, Young High School, Highly Commended Drawing. Amanda Hughes, Visual/Creative Arts teacher, Young High School.



# upstART23 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Gallery visitors voted for their favourite work in the upstART23 People's Choice Award. The announcement was made on social media.



Cowra Regional Art Gallery

Published by Jacque Perry · 3 d · 🌐

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The People have voted! upstART23 People's Choice Award co-winners are Katelyn Shean, Year 11 [Boorowa Central School NSW DEC](#) and Lillian Williams, Year 12, [Hennessy Catholic College](#) with 'O Rejoice Young Man in thy Youth' mixed media, etching.

Voted by visitors to the exhibition of over 100 students in Stages 5/6 from ten secondary schools in the region, Katelyn's painting 'The Great Waste' and Lillian's 'O Rejoice Young Man in thy Youth' mixed media/etching are equal winners of the \$150 People's Choice Award through the generous support of the Gallery Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Gallery fund.

Congratulations Lillian and Katelyn!

[#cowraregionalartgallery](#) [#upstART23](#)

[#peopleschoiceaward](#)

[#equalwinners](#)

[#hennessycatholiccollegeyoung](#)

[#boorowacentralschool](#)

[#visualarteducation](#)

[#studentexhibitionandawards](#)

[#regionalstudents](#)

[#regionalyouthartists](#)

[#artsoutwest](#)

[#cowracouncil](#)

[#itshappeningincowra](#)

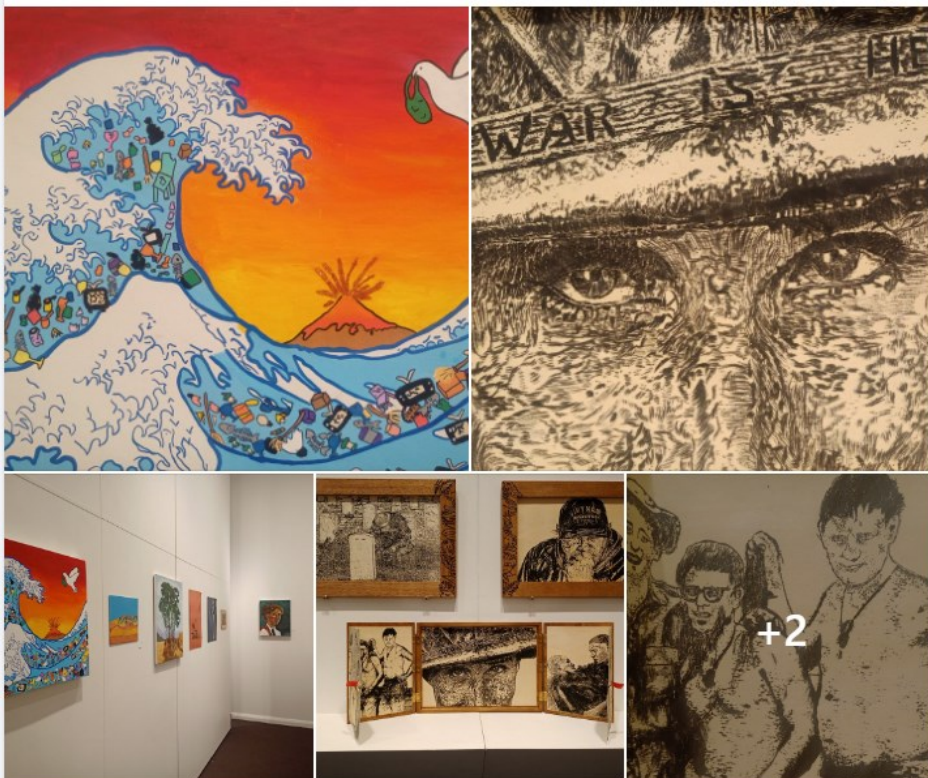
Images: 1. 'The Great Waste' by Katelyn Shean, Year 11, Boorowa Central School

2. 'O Rejoice Young Man in thy Youth (detail)' by Lillian Williams, Year 12 Hennessy Catholic College Young. Winner Mixed Media Award and Co-Winner People's Choice Award, upstART23 Exhibition

3. exhibition view with Katelyn's painting at left

4. 'O Rejoice Young Man in thy Youth' by Lillian Williams and

5. detail of Lillian's mixed media work



# EXHIBITION

17 December to 4 February 2024

## National Photographic Portrait Prize 2023

The National Photographic Portrait Prize (NPPP23) exhibition is selected from a national field of entries, reflecting the distinctive vision of Australia's aspiring and professional portrait photographers. The NPPP celebrates the power of photographic portraiture to communicate something beyond the appearance of subjects – their quirks, flaws, strengths or vulnerabilities.

The 47 finalists in the NPPP23 were Adam Ferguson, Anne Moffat, Bahram Mia, Ben McNamara, Brenda L. Croft, Bruce Agnew, Cassandra Scott-Finn, Charlie Bliss, Charlie Ford, Cindy Kavanagh, David Cossini, David Darcy, Dylan Le'Mon, Elliot Brown, Emma Armstrong-Porter, Forough Yavari, Franca Turrin, Francis Cloake, The Huxleys, Gerwyn Davies, Grace Costa, Isabella Melody Moore, Jacob Nash, Heidi Margocsy, Jacqueline Mitelman, James Bugg, Jay Hynes, Jimmy Widders Hunt, Jo Duck, Julian Kingma, Lily Hatten, Martine Perret, Meng-Yu Yan, Nathan Dyer, Renae Saxby, Renato Colangelo, Rohan Thomson, Sammaneh Pourshafighi, Sarah Depta, Sarah Enticknap, Sean Slattery, Shannon May Powell, Shea Kirk, Stuart Miller, Tajette O'Halloran and Teva Cosic.

The judging panel consisted of distinguished Australian photographer Tamara Dean, Director of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Photography, Daniel Boetker-Smith and National Portrait Gallery Senior Curator, Joanna Gilmour.

Cowra Regional Art Gallery was the only New South Wales venue to host the National Portrait Gallery Touring exhibition.

**Attendance: 1005 (including 139 children & 3 groups)**

**Public Program: 26**





## Public Program

16 December 2023 at 2pm



The National Photographic Portrait Prize exhibition was opened by Joanna Gilmour, Senior Curator National Portrait Gallery and National Photographic Portrait Prize Judge, with guest speaker, Tristan Hoffmeister, Director, Access and Learning and Tara James Senior Exhibition Coordinator. Light refreshments were provided.



**TOP (l-r):** Tara James, Travelling Exhibitions Coordinator National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Tristan Hoffmeister, Director, Access and Learning, Joanna Gilmour, National Portrait Gallery Senior Curator & Jess Kamister, Assistant Exhibitions Coordinator National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.

**Above:** Visitors arriving at the exhibition opening.

**Second:** The Gallery Director, welcoming guests to the exhibition opening.

**Bottom: Guest speaker** Joanna Gilmour conducting a floor talk.



**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**



Floor talk by Joanna Gilmour, Senior Curator National Portrait Gallery

## Promotions

regular social media posts were across two platforms (8 Facebook, 5 Instagram):

- Facebook audience reach: **4,097**
- Instagram audience reach: **675**



## Local Media Interview

PRIME 7 NEWS Orange - interview with the Gallery Director on Thursday 21 December



## Opening Event



Ruth Fagan Cowra Shire Councillor

18h · 🌐



What a fabulous opening at the Cowra Regional Gallery. Thank you to the Director and staff from the [#NationalPortraitGallery](#) who have honoured Cowra with the Nation Portrait Photography Prize exhibition. The most amazing photos!! Exhibition open until February and well worth a look. [#portraitphotography](#), [#portraitgallery](#), [#cowraregionalgallery](#), [#artsoutwest](#), [#cowracouncil](#), [#visitcowra](#)



Above (L to R): Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Brian Langer, Director Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Tara James, Travelling Exhibitions Coordinator National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Tristan Hoffmeister, Director, Access and Learning, Joanna Gilmour, National Portrait Gallery Senior Curator. Photo by Zenio Lapka



Installation view of the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2023* exhibition.

**Top (l-r):** *Aunt Helen*, 2021, Charlie Ford, digital print. *Maddison*, 2022, Isabella Melody Moore, digital print. *Sisters or Friends*, 2022, Emma Armstrong-Porter, type C print.

**Bottom (l-r):** *Stanley Lockdown Hair*, 2022, Jacqueline Mitelman, type C print. *The Bamugura*, 2022, Charlie Bliss, digital print.

**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**





Installation view of the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2023* exhibition.

**Top (l-r):** *Strong Avenue Graceville, Brisbane, 2022*, Stuart Miller, digital print. *Shirley, 2022*, Francis Cloake, digital print. *Ugandan Ssebabi, 2022*, David Cossini, digital print.

**Bottom (l-r):** *Nikki - Yurrkan Mantangka Ngargnyi - coll 1 (Nikki - young woman on Country), 2022*, Martine Perret, giclée print. *Matjangka Norris, 2022*, Rohan Thomson, digital print.



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an integral part of the Gallery and provide an invaluable service assisting with exhibitions and events.



**Gallery Volunteers clockwise from top left:** Jill Allen with the Gallery Director, Dr Lois Foster, Janet Ware & Libby Murray.

**Cowra Regional Art Gallery**



# 2023 Summary

## **Gallery Days Open:**

Tuesday to Sunday - 259

## **Exhibition program:**

Exhibitions: 13 + 1 Screening project

## **Public Programs & Workshops:**

Number of opening events and talks: 11 openings & 6 floor talks

Attendees: 512 (including 45 children)

Number of workshops: 5

## **Visitor/Attendance Numbers**

### Total Visitors:

(including openings and talks: 10,801 / workshops: 37)

## **Groups**

Community - 23 / Schools - 3

## **Outreach Activities**

Library exhibition: 1

*Operation Art* - Teacher workshop

Civic Centre - *Makers Short Film Festival* (Art After Dark Event)

## **Online/Social Media**

Website visitors: 56,101

Facebook reach: 38,310

Instagram reach: 8,763

Mailchimp email opens: 11,819

Total online engagement: 114,993



The Cowra Sculpture Park was launched in 2021. Pictured above is the most recent addition to the park *Blue Between 1971*, welded and painted steel by British Sculptor Phillip King PRA (1934-2021). His work is characterized by a profound interest in industrial materials and abstract form, influenced by the American Abstract Expressionist movement.

Phillip King PRA was President of the Royal Academy of Arts, and his work is held in major collections around the world including Japan, UK and USA.

On loan from the Sydney Opera House.



## COWRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY

77 Darling Street, Cowra NSW 2794  
The Cowra Regional Art Gallery is a Cultural Facility of the Cowra Shire Council.

