



ARTSNATIONAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

by Kay Campbell, ArtsNational Perth Chair

The inclement weather in Sydney did not impact on the lively discussions held during the 35th ArtsNational Annual conference in March 2024.

ArtsNational Perth secretary John Palmer and I attended the conference as Perth representatives. ArtsNational vice-chair Fiona Johnson attended as a member of the ArtsNational Executive.



2024 ArtsNational national conference delegates

There were many points of interest I would like to share:

We have a new president and patron. Geoffrey Edwards from Victoria is our new president. Geoffrey is well-known as an Art Gallery director with specific expertise in sculpture and an enthusiastic support for ArtsNational.

Patron Julian Bickersteth has succeeded Patricia Robertson OAM. Julian is an Officer (AO) of the General Division of the Order of Australia. He is a world-renowned conservation expert.

Previous national vice-chair Les Davis (Coffs Coast) has stepped down with Jane Smith continuing as national chair for another year. Meg Larkin of ArtsNational Tamworth is the new vice chair.

Both the national body and local societies are focused on value adding to membership through collaborative partnerships so that members enjoy additional benefits other than attending outstanding

lectures. At both the Sydney and Melbourne Fairs in May, ArtsNational will present two mini lectures; free tickets were included in the latest members national newsletter, *Insights*.

A partnership with Musica Viva Australia is almost finalised. When information comes to hand I will advise you. If you are interested in these membership offers, please email me [here](#).

The organisation's new name and branding has been well received with 2024 being a year of change as ADFAS transitions to ArtsNational. The name change has necessitated each society look at their constitution. It may be necessary in the future to tweak ours – this would most likely occur at 2025 AGM. If anyone is interested and skilled in this area of the law and would like to cast an eye over the envisaged changes pro bono, please contact me by email [here](#).

On 1 January 2024, law reforms took effect relating to the administration and oversight of organisations with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. This is now relevant as ADFAS/ ArtsNational has been granted DGR charity registration. These reforms are designed to strengthen governance arrangements, reduce administrative complexity, and ensure continued trust and confidence in the sector. The organisation's public fund, the ArtsNational Philanthropic Fund became eligible to receive tax deductible donations as from 28 November 2023. There is much potential of the Philanthropic Fund to make a difference in the realm of Youth Arts. The primary object of these new nationally advertised financial awards, and public recognition, is to support young aspiring artists in the development of their visual arts practice. If you would like more information regarding the national ArtsNational Philanthropic Fund, please contact me by email [here](#).

All societies are having financial challenges, and we continue to review our costs. Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, some societies have had significant reductions in their membership numbers, while others have had to change their venue or are otherwise experiencing financial difficulty. Generally, travel costs have increased. Many rural societies have found there are fewer travel options, and some venue hire costs will have risen. For many societies, these factors have placed an additional burden on their financial resources. Fortunately, Perth has weathered the COVID storm well and the increased costs have been largely absorbed by a prudent fiscal approach.

I would like to end with retiring vice-chair Les Davis's hope going forward:

"I hope ArtsNational Societies continue with their core of providing superbly illustrated, informative and entertaining lecture presentations on many diverse topics relating to the arts using recognised international and local presenters, experts who are passionate in their field of interest, drawn from a pool of enthusiastic professionals with ArtsNational providing the support the Societies need to achieve this at an affordable cost. I also hope that ArtsNational Societies continue to take pride in supporting young artists and performers, conservation efforts, and heritage preservation. Connect Enrich Inspire."

I couldn't have said it better Les. Thank you.

That's a wrap for the annual national conference but to hear what is happening in your society, please join us for the ArtsNational Perth AGM on 25 May in the AGWA theatrette at 12.30pm. There is much to hear about and it's a great opportunity to have your say as well.



More national conference images

WA BALLET BEHIND THE SCENES

Thursday 16 May, 5:15pm

WA Ballet Centre, 134 Whateley Crescent Maylands

An opportunity to experience a rehearsal of the upcoming ballet **State: Contemporary Vision**: A fusion of classical and contemporary ballet.

This season showcases an electrifying collaboration between West Australian Ballet and Co3 in *New Creation* and *Carnivale.6*, promising unexpected twists and a powerful communal experience inspired by Spanish bullfighting and historical events.

This exclusive behind-the-scenes experience will allow you unparalleled insight to the creative process and offer the chance to see the dancers and creatives up close in the studio. Tickets here.

ArtsNational Perth members only event.



ARTSNATIONAL PERTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25 May, 12:30pm: Art Gallery of Western Australia's theatrette

Hear how ArtsNational Perth is performing with an opportunity to ask questions about your organisation.

All members will receive notification of meeting agenda and reports ahead of time.

Please attend. It is expected there will be a minimum of 30 minutes between the AGM and the Roger Mendham's *Power of Photography* lecture.

Roger Mendham

2-3:30pm

Saturday 25 May

State Library of WA theatrette

THE POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs have the ability to stop time, to provide a freeze-frame of a moment in both time and space. They give the observer the opportunity to think, to react, to feel and soak in the details of the circumstances surrounding the image. This talk examines some of the most important photographers and images of the past century. It explores why these images are so powerful and influential in our understanding of history.

More info or to register/buy tickets, click [here](#)

25 May



Click [here](#) to check out ArtsNational Perth's events programme online – NOW!

Alan Dodge

2-3:30pm

Saturday 6 July

State Library of WA theatrette

6 July

SUBLIME VISIONS: THOMAS COLE AND THE 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

Thomas Cole was the father of the Hudson River School as the subject matter of much that he and his colleagues painted was provided by the river views north of New York City. The concerns of Cole, the influence of the ever-changing understanding of geological theories, the attempts to find natural symbolism of the presence of God in the landscape and finally the way 19th Century paintings and photography led to the national parks' movement in the USA as well as the concept of *Manifest Destiny*.



More info or to register/buy tickets, click [here](#)

Vivienne Lawes

Saturday 27 July

State Library of WA theatrette

1-2:30pm:

FROM THE EAST INDIES TO INDONESIA:

Legacies of colonialism and fine art in Indonesia, 1830 to the present day

The post-war change of name from East Indies to Indonesia reflects changes in fine art practice. The period covered is one during which local artists began to look away from the West (particularly Holland) towards the native artisanal and ritual practices that represent notions of national identity.

The evolution of fine art in Indonesia is considered from ancient motifs through to the Modernism in the mid-20th Century. The lecture concludes with political commentaries leading to the pro-democracy revolution of 1998 and subsequent contemporary art.

More info or to register/buy tickets, click [here](#)

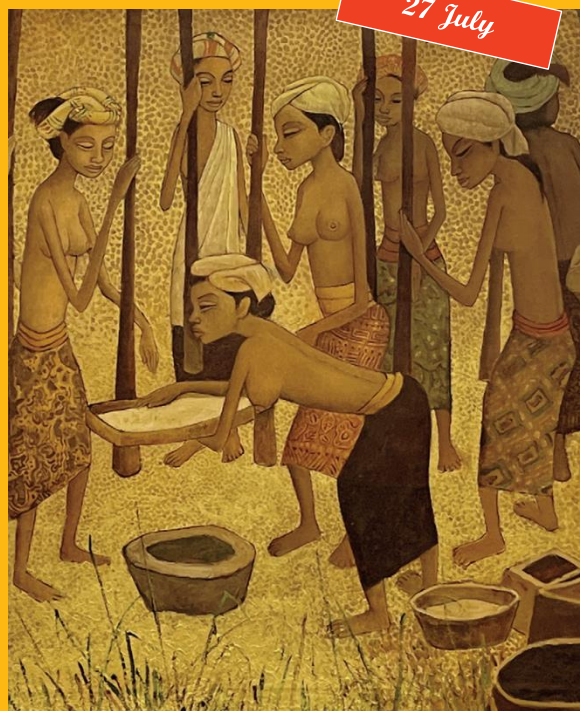
3-4pm:

POWERHOUSE OF THE EAST: The British tradition, Modernism, and fine art in Singapore

Singapore's British heritage since its foundation in the early 19th century profoundly influenced its artistic traditions. It all began to change in the 1930s with the foundation of the Nanyang School of Art and the fusion of Chinese ink painting with the Western modern movement. In the new millennium Singapore is investing enormous effort and expense in developing the art infrastructure as the profile of its contemporary artists rises, with the aim of becoming the locus of the art market in the East. This lecture explores the unfolding history.

More info or to register/buy tickets, click [here](#)

27 July



FIRST YEAR AND THE SYDNEY CONFERENCE

by John Palmer, ArtsNational Perth Secretary



In March I was privileged to attend the annual ArtsNational (AN) conference in Sydney. It was a gathering of representatives from 36 AN chapters across Australia. I was impressed with the size of the organisation and the enormous amount of work in creative activities that is facilitated and organised by willing, enthusiastic volunteers.

As Secretary of AN Perth, I was keen to link up with other people in similar roles and found that my peers from Hobart (Tasmania) and Yarra (Victoria) were fun to be with. We chatted about an array of subjects, ranging from catering, minute taking and strategic planning (the latter is a keen interest of mine).

The conference sessions covered a range of topics from updates on our IT systems and other more motivational subjects. A great takeaway for me was that if you attend a cultural/creative event at least once a week then you will add 10 years to your life expectancy. The power of art!!!

As I clock up a year as Secretary of AN Perth, I am keen to encourage others to become involved and there is a lot of work to be done and you can never have too many willing hands on deck.

YOUR TREASURER

by Aislyn Shepherd, ArtsNational Perth Treasurer

This is a brief introduction to myself as your current treasurer. I am a CPA Accountant and hold a Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance through the Governance Institute of Australia.

Over the last 28 years I have worked in many different commercial accounting roles in different industries. For the last seven years, I have been contracting to Dropsuite Limited, a cloud-based backup tech company listed on the ASX and also a boutique capital raising company in West Perth.

I was a board member in a voluntary capacity during 2017-2019 for angelhands Inc, a not-for-profit entity founded by Dr Ann O'Neill to assist victims of extreme trauma.

I was also a board member for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre 2005 – 2008. I am sure most of you would have crossed paths at some stage with Spare Parts during its 43-year history. I was fortunate to be part of the 20th UNIMA World Puppetry Festival and Congress which was held in Perth.

I have recently become interested in indigenous art specifically the use of vibrant earthy colours and circles that depict the landscape as this brings back memories of my childhood. The colours and shapes of the Kimberleys are etched into my brain as I lived in Derby for a portion of my childhood and would spend weekends and holidays camping and exploring the vast landscape of the Kimberleys.

Two of my favourite art galleries in the Kimberleys are Mowanjum Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Centre, located outside of Derby & Warman Art Centre, located on the Great Northern Highway. I have fond memories as a child going to Mowanjum with my mother, many years prior to it being an art centre. In her spare time, my mother would teach art and crafts to the indigenous women that lived at Mowanjum. Now all these years later it is wonderful to see it thriving as an arts hub and adding so much to community life for many locals and enjoyment for tourists.



2023 PATRICIA ROBERTSON FUND AWARD WINNERS

by Fiona Johnson, ArtsNational Perth Vice-Chair

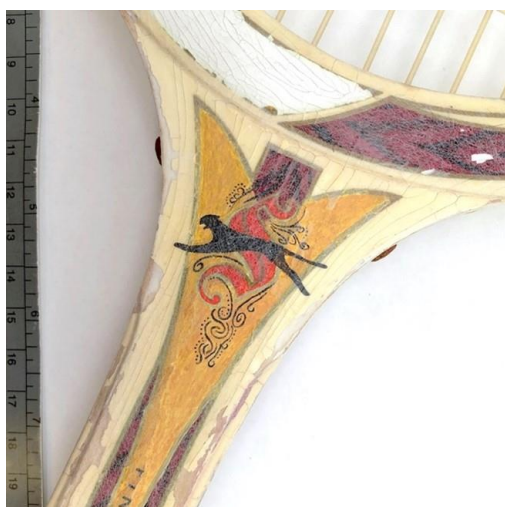
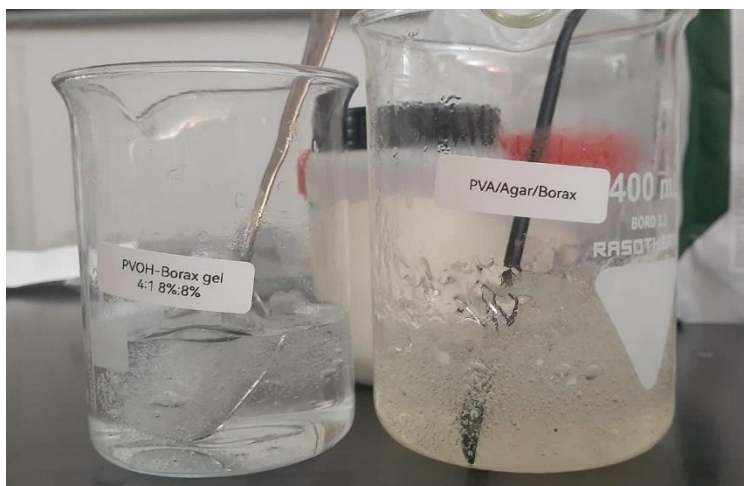
Since 2019 ArtsNational Perth has contributed annually to the Patricia Robertson Fund (PRF), a national philanthropic fund that values conserving artwork. The awards are sponsored by ArtsNational and societies to recognise awardee's commitment to their profession and celebration of their achievements. Critically, the awards enable many winners to attend conferences and further their learning.

In 2023 the PRF donated \$4,000 to the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) for two Mid-Career Scholarships (\$2000 each) and \$2,000 for two Student Conservator of the Year Awards (\$1000 each).

- ArtsNational Armidale contributed \$2,000 to fund an additional Mid-Career Scholarship.
- ADFAS Mornington Peninsula donated \$1,000 for the Conservation Student of the Year Scholarship for the University of Melbourne.

Dr Celia Cramer winner of the *2023 AICCM/ArtsNational mid-career scholarship* used her award to attend the Infrared and Raman User Group conference in September 2023. Celia presented the protocol she developed for the non-destructive chemical analysis of objects made from skin, e.g. leather goods, ethnographic objects, and natural history specimens.

Harpreet Tanday winner of the *2023 AICCM/ArtsNational Armidale mid-career scholarship* used her award funds to attend a three-day workshop *Hydrogels in Conservation* taught by a Conservation Scientist in Reggio Emilia, Italy in September 2023. Harpreet specialising in the care and treatment of cultural heritage materials, with a particular focus on built heritage, stucco, and stone objects, intends to apply her new knowledge to Melbourne's rich city streetscape to remove graffiti without affecting underlying wall murals.



Vera Olbrycht is the winner of the *2023 AICCM/ArtsNational Outstanding Conservation Student*. Graduating from the University of Canberra in 2023, Vera is already working in her chosen profession. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to conservation and is an active student member of the AICCM and been involved in local ACT AICCM events. She has recently conserved tennis racquet's (the older wooden type which many of our members may be familiar with).

Vera provided this report:

"The specialised conservation skills and knowledge gained at University of Canberra built on my volunteer experience, cleaning and conserving historic houses and contents as well as previous work in graphic design, photography, landscaping, and picture framing."

"Typically, my work involves anything from cleaning large outdoor sculptures to various remedial treatments done under magnification, designing, and constructing archival storage boxes, environmental monitoring, and condition reporting. It is a fusion of craft and materials science with patience being the overall ingredient."

"My current work as a Conservation Assistant with the Art Collections section at Australian Parliament House is all of this on a grand scale!"

COMPLIMENTARY DIGITAL LECTURE SERIES FOR ARTSNATIONAL MEMBERS

Respected ArtsNational lecturer, Sam Bowker, who has visited several societies across Australia by invitation, and on an ADFAS mini tour, is offering a complimentary Digital Lecture Series for ArtsNational members. The 12-lecture series *The Art of Everywhere Else* will be delivered live from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga.



The lecture series is for its enrolled Art History students but a link will be sent prior to the first lecture that can be used to watch all 12 of these lectures live on Tuesday evenings from 5 pm to 6 pm (EST). The lectures start on 9 July and run weekly until 7 October with a break from 19 to 31 August. We hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful and most generous offer to add value to your face-to-face lecture programme.

The enrolled students at Charles Sturt University will have tasks to complete and will also be able to watch recordings of the lecturers. ArtsNational members who would like to do the tasks and explore this course further can enrol in the course at a cost approximately \$3,000. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please email perth@artsnationl.au for further information.



TRAVEL TALES

by Aislyn Shepherd, ArtsNational Perth Treasurer

DROPS IN TIME

Art exhibitions are about evoking emotions through the senses mainly visual and possibly auditory, however tactile (touch), gustatory (taste) and olfactory (smell) are senses not usually stimulated at an exhibition. In April however, at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, I experienced something very different. As I walked along the corridor of the gallery, the olfactory senses went on high alert and transported me immediately to the spice markets of India where strong, earthy, aromatic smells are heavy in the air and to my childhood kitchen, where my father of Indian descent, would cook his favourite gastronomical cuisine on a Sunday afternoon.

I followed the exotic aromas to a room where Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto exhibited his installation *Just like drops in time, nothing*. The room was filled with large droplets of a pantyhose-like fabric hanging from a net. A selection of 450 kgs of pungent spices formed large teardrops at the base of each stocking, with the spices seeping onto the floor in a circle around the droplet.

Walking around the installation the nose and eyes took a journey of smells, taste and soothing colours including gingery yellow turmeric, musty reddish brown paprika, pungent brown cloves, woody black pepper, maple-syrup-like smell of amber fenugreek, earthy brownish yellow cumin and the lush fragrance of warm brown cinnamon.



"Neto considers the work to be a living entity and thus readily accepts that it will go through many evolutions throughout its life. He likens the process to the way our bodies renew themselves, through regenerating our very own cellular fabric." wrote Lisa Catt, assistant curator of international art, Art Gallery of NSW, accessed 29 April 2024, www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au.

Lisa further comments: *"Anyone who has ever owned a pair of stockings and tried to get through a winter without them running or becoming a saggy lump will appreciate the complexities of maintaining a room-full of stockings into perpetuity."*

It's interesting to imagine that the weight of the spice will change the shape of the teardrop over time and the smearing of the spice on the floor will expand. The intensity of the aromas and the colours will also change.

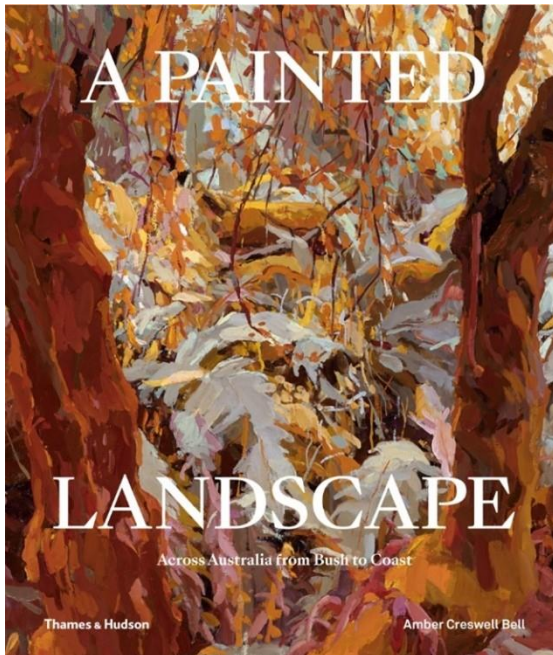
My final thoughts on the installation reflect on how many memories from a different time and place are evoked, from those whose nose leads them towards; *Just like drops in time, nothing?*

Books and Art

by Aston Clarke, The Lane Bookshop



A PAINTED LANDSCAPE: Across Australia from Coast to Coast
Amber Cresswell Bell 2018 Thames & Hudson



Edited by the brilliant Amber Cresswell Bell, *A Painted Landscape: Across Australia from Coast to Coast* is an anthology of Australian landscape pieces from working contemporary artists. The anthology exhibits the result of generations of artistic inspiration and the unique wonder and beauty of Australia.

We all benefit from our connection to country. From the stillness of your local park on an early morning to the vibrant sky of an evening commute home. From a bush walk to a mountain hike, from a beach with an endless blue sky to a cup of tea in a mist filled valley. A landscape that continues to capture the beauty of the landscape for thousands of years is a remarkable thing.

A Painted Landscape allows us to experience inspired works from across our country. The book itself is an excellently produced hardback with vibrant splash pages for the works, and engaging descriptions and biographies of the artists.

Anthologies such as this encourage us to learn and even to create. Exploring the timeless subject of our land through so many different lenses and backgrounds gives us a truer understanding of our connection to the land in which we live.

Copies available [here](#).

ARTSNATIONAL PERTH contacts and info links

Catch up on past event images [here](#).

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ARTSNATIONAL PERTH INFORMATION

This newsletter is published quarterly and can be found on the ArtsNational website [here](#).

For more regular news, subscribe to our eNews [here](#) and/or join the ArtsNational Perth Facebook group [here](#) where you will also find our events' social photos and local arts news and views.

Contact us:

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Email: perth@artsnational.au

Website: www.artsnational.au/societies/perth/



ABOUT US

ArtsNational Perth Committee members are:

Chair:	Kay Campbell
Vice Chair:	Fiona Johnson
Treasurer:	Aislyn Shepherd
Secretary:	John Palmer
Marketing:	Leanne Casellas
Youth Arts Award:	Mariana Atkins
Committee members:	Kevin Jackson

New members (and sponsors) are *always* welcome, for details email us [here](#).

ArtsNational Perth is a wholly volunteer-run organisation. If you would like to help, please [get in touch](#) as many hands make light work



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