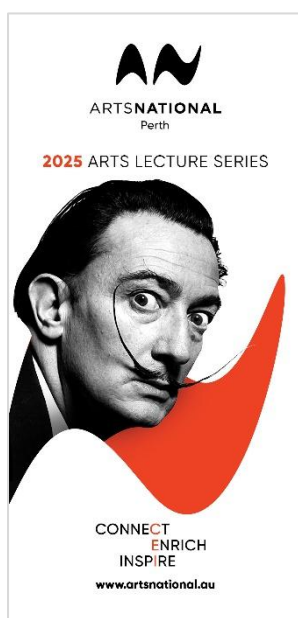




REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR AND THE ONE AHEAD

by Kay Campbell, ArtsNational Perth Chair

Reflecting on 2024, it was a milestone year, our fifth anniversary since establishing ADFAS Perth in 2019, now known as ArtsNational Perth. We celebrated the occasion in style at the Holmes à Court Gallery in mid-October, which was well-supported by ArtsNational Perth members. Janet Holmes à Court and gallery curator Laetitia Wilson warmly welcomed us. Janet shared insights into the impressive collection she and her late husband Robert began, now holding over 4,500 significant Australian artworks. She generously invited ArtsNational Perth to go 'Behind the White Wall' to view the collection in storage - a unique opportunity we eagerly accepted! We will arrange viewings in 2025, when details are confirmed.



Another highlight of 2024 was the awarding of our Youth Arts Award to the West Australian Youth Orchestra (WAYO). This funding will enhance the WAYO programme, providing lessons, mentoring, and restoring instruments. Thanks to lecture attendees' support through raffle purchases, we proudly gifted \$5,000! A special thank you to Kevin Jackson for selecting wonderful prizes throughout the year with the assistance of the Lane Bookshop. He puts a lot of thought into matching books with lecture topics. Our award format has evolved to make the process more sustainable for our volunteers. If you know of a youth arts focused organisation that could benefit from our support, please reach out to the committee: perth@artsnational.au.

I trust you enjoyed last year's lecture series. In November, we launched our 2025 programme offering 13 engaging lectures with no price increase in membership fees! As always, some topics will immediately capture your interest, while others may seem less familiar. However, the few lectures that I have been lukewarm about have proved to be absolute standouts. We encourage you to attend and be pleasantly surprised. If you have friends or colleagues who would enjoy our lectures, or if you know a local café where programme brochures could be placed, please collect some at the next lecture or request a digital copy.

Shortly, we will be sending out a survey to hear your views. What do you want your ArtsNational society to look like? And what is most important to you? We'd love your input, and one lucky responder will receive a free year's membership - better odds than Lotto!

Looking ahead, we continue to offer exciting events. Our Behind the Scenes (BTS) experience with the West Australian Ballet is scheduled for 8 May, with a performance package available for 16 May. Both events can be booked via TryBooking. We are also collaborating with the West Australian Museum to provide our members with additional benefits. Our studio visit team, Debbie and Jo, are working on a series of engaging visits for 2025, with details to come.

All additional event information is shared via email. If you are not receiving our updates, please reach out to ensure we have your correct contact details.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our hardworking committee for their dedication and to all of you for being part of our vibrant ArtsNational Perth community. We look forward to welcoming you back for our first lecture of 2025 on 22 February at 2 pm at the State Library Theatre.

I hope you have had a fantastic start to the year ahead!

WAYO RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024 YOUTH ARTS AWARD

By Mariana Atkins, ArtsNational Perth Youth Arts Award Chair



Last year the ArtsNational Perth committee made the decision to award the Youth Arts Award to the West Australian Youth Orchestra (WAYO). With its mission to: "provide quality musical training and performance opportunities for young musicians to enrich their lives and the cultural development of the Western Australia community" - we felt this was an excellent fit and a worthy recipient.

WAYO musicians performed twice for us last year, once at the fifth birthday celebration at the Janet Holmes a Court gallery in October, and again at the last lecture of the year in November at the State Library. The latter performance by the string quartet, took place as members entered the venue.

YAA 2024 Award presentation to Ben Burgess on behalf of Western Australian Youth Orchestra. L- R: Kay Campbell, Ben Burgess, Andrew Spira, Kevin Jackson

Following the lecture, Ben Burgess, WAYO's Executive Director, accepted the award and cheque for \$5,000 on behalf of the organisation. He addressed the membership and spoke engagingly about WAYO's history and how the Award monies will help support the young musicians in various ways, including music lessons, access to instruments and repair and maintenance of equipment.

The ArtsNational Perth Youth Arts Award's mission is to support the next generation of Perth artists. If you have suggestions of worthy recipients for the Award reach out to us. We would love to your input. Better still, join the subcommittee!

Dr Karen Pearlman

2-3:30pm

Saturday 22 February

State Library of WA theatrette

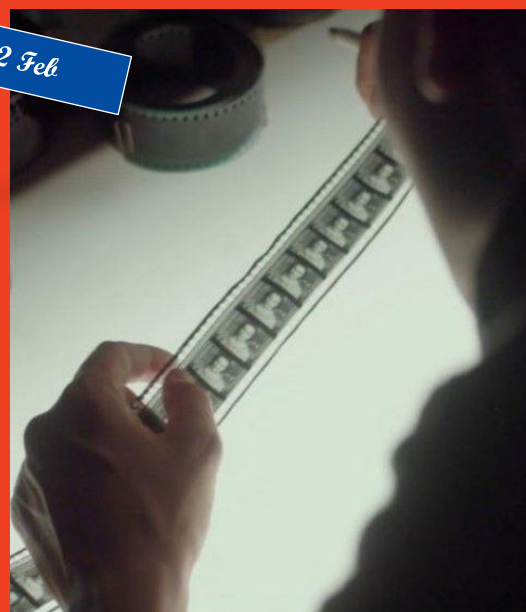
TELLING OUR STORIES:

Images and ideas in Three Waves of Australian Film

Australian film captured the world's attention in the 1980s with a lyrical bittersweet image of Australia. This was followed by the Glitter Decade, and then more recently, complex images of Australia, generated by strong self-assured voices. These three waves of Australian cinema and how our stories project an image of Australia to the world, will be discussed.

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

22 Feb



Sun 16 March: **New members morning tea**



Christopher Garibaldi

Saturday 29 March

State Library of WA theatrette

1-2:30pm:

THE REAL ART OF TENNIS

Early images of the traditional game of Real Tennis feature in this under-examined area of art history in England and the courts of Renaissance Italy where it formed an essential part of the humanist culture. The lecture looks at early images of tennis from medieval illuminated manuscripts as well as later ones by Renaissance and Baroque artists – including discussion of the significance of a notorious tennis match to the life and career of Caravaggio. It also looks in detail at an important work by the Venetian artist Giambattista Tiepolo, examining the painting's unexpected connections to the game of tennis.

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

3-4pm:

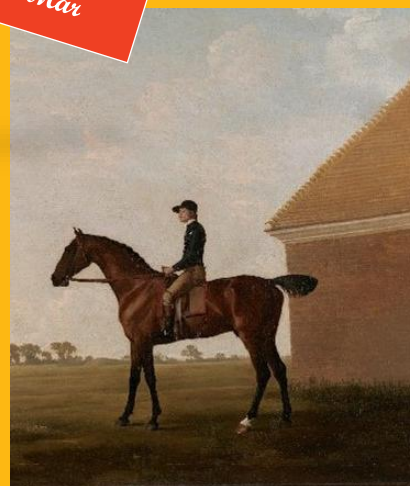
GEORGE STUBBS (1724-1806):

The English Leonardo

Many art historians and critics have compared the work of George Stubbs to Leonardo da Vinci due to his intense scientific method and investigation that lay behind the production of his world-famous *Anatomy of the Horse* published in 1766 – a work which revolutionised the understanding and depiction of equine subjects. This lecture looks at the life and work of England's greatest animal painter, putting Stubbs in the context of British sporting artists of the eighteenth century more generally. It focuses on his depiction of equestrian subjects and, looks at the broader themes he addressed.

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

29 Mar





Sat 3 May: **Annual General Meeting**



Sandra Hill

2-3:30pm

Saturday 3 May

State Library of WA theatrette

NOW AND THEN: My Journey, My Culture, My Art

As part of the stolen generation, Sandra Hill and her siblings, were taken from their mother while her father undertook compulsory army training in the Eastern States. Living in an orphanage, Sandra found a voice through her artwork. During her long journey through life, art has been the only constant. In this lecture, Sandra will talk about her stories and her art.

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

3 May



ANP MEMBERS ONLY

WA Ballet DON QUIXOTE

8 May: Behind the scenes: trybooking.com/CXCKM

16 May: 'A' reserve seating, interval patrons lounge access & programme.
trybooking.com/CXCKE



TRAVEL TALES: Art Gallery of New South Wales René Magritte Exhibition

by Peter Farr

A founding member of the ArtsNational Perth Committee in 2019, Peter Farr was elected to the ArtsNational Executive Committee (EC) in March 2021, and became its National Treasurer in March 2022. As a result, Peter has made regular trips to Sydney for meetings where he made it a point to incorporate some special cultural events. This is one of them from a visit in November 2024.



Just walking into the gallery felt like stepping into a dreamscape where reality and illusion intertwine. The exhibition, dedicated to the works of the Belgian surrealist, René Magritte, was a masterful curation of his most iconic pieces alongside lesser-known gems that offered a deeper understanding of his artistic vision. I was enveloped in an atmosphere of mystery and contemplation, a hallmark of Magritte's oeuvre. Indeed, I soon encountered a group of beautifully behaved Year 2 students from the Manly Public School engaging with Magritte's challenging works and giving what I thought were very perceptive answers to deep questions posed by their teacher (seated, in pink top). How refreshing that was to see on a Monday morning. Future ArtsNational members hopefully!

The exhibition began with a striking display of *The Treachery of Images* (1929), the painting of a pipe accompanied by the famous caption, "*Ceci n'est pas une pipe*" ("This is not a pipe"). This piece, which challenges the relationship between objects and their representations, set the tone for the entire exhibition. It was a reminder that Magritte's work is not just about visual aesthetics but also about provoking thought and questioning the nature of reality. Standing before it, I found myself pondering the boundaries between perception and truth, a theme that would recur throughout the exhibition.

One of the most captivating sections of the exhibition was dedicated to Magritte's exploration of the human form and identity. Works like *The Lovers* (1928), with its shrouded figures, and *The Son of Man* (1964), featuring a man in a suit with his face obscured by a floating apple, were displayed in a dimly lit room that heightened their enigmatic quality. These pieces seemed to speak to the universal human experience of concealment and the masks we wear in our daily lives. The interplay of light and shadow in this section added an almost theatrical quality, making the paintings feel alive and resonant.



Another highlight was the room dedicated to Magritte's landscapes and skies, where *The Empire of Light* (1954) took centre stage. This painting, with its juxtaposition of a dark, nocturnal street scene and a bright, daytime sky, created a sense of disorientation that was both unsettling and mesmerising. The exhibition cleverly used lighting and soundscapes to enhance the surreal effect, immersing visitors in the paradoxical world Magritte had created. It was as if the boundaries between day and night, reality and imagination, had dissolved.



Variation on Sadness 1957 (lower right, Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth) seems to combine metaphor with morbid humour: a hen inspects a hard-boiled egg, while another, apparently freshly laid, rests behind her, the paradox being that one egg is embodying potential for life, the other representing its absence.

The exhibition also included a section on Magritte's lesser-known works, such as his commercial art and experimental pieces. These provided a fascinating glimpse into the breadth of his creativity and his ability to infuse even the most mundane subjects with a sense of wonder. Seeing these works alongside his more famous pieces underscored the consistency of his vision and his relentless pursuit of challenging conventional perspectives.

I felt a profound sense of awe and introspection. Magritte's art is not just to be viewed but to be experienced, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales succeeded in creating an environment that allowed for this deep engagement by visitors. The exhibition is a testament to Magritte's enduring relevance and his ability to make us question the world around us. It is, without a doubt, one of the most thought-provoking and visually stunning exhibitions I have ever attended.



Afterwards, I indulged some retail therapy in the Magritte pop up shop and then had an enjoyable lunch in the Gallery's spectacular restaurant - both facilities made this sandgroper a little envious.

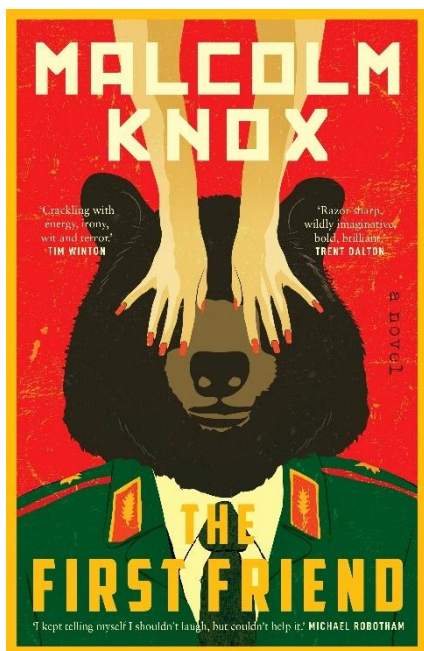
BOOK REVIEW

by Nick Day, The Lane Bookshop

Official ANP raffle prize provider



THE FIRST FRIEND by Malcolm Knox



"Crackling with energy, irony, wit and terror, this is a timely and cautionary reminder of the stifling, murderous logic of strong man politics." **Tim Winton**

"Bleak, intelligent and fearsomely well-researched - I kept telling myself I shouldn't laugh, but I couldn't help it." **Michael Robotham**

Born at the end of the Russian Empire in Georgia, Lavrentiy Pavlovich Beria joined the Communist Party in 1917 and played a major role in revolutionary activities throughout Azerbaijan and Georgia. By 1921, he was heavily involved in intelligence and counterintelligence and eventually rose to become the leader of the infamous *Cheka* (secret police) in his home country. He became the Party Boss of the Transcaucasian republics in 1932 and oversaw the political purges across Georgia during what became known as the Great Purge. He was eventually promoted to the head of the NKVD, becoming one of fellow Georgian, Josef Stalin's most influential secret police chiefs. Fast forward to 1938: Malcolm Knox's book begins with Vasil Anastasvili Murto, Beria's stepbrother and best friend, in a world where the term 'friend' has dubious connotations, signalling an allegiance to the state rather than to one's family. As Babilini, Murto's wife, declares: "Children love The Steel One most of all and me second."

The book slowly pulls back the curtain on the last 40 days of Murto's life, and his fictionalised relationship with Beria. The tension between the married couple is palpable, as Murto uses his relationship with Beria to protect his family. But at what cost?

While I acknowledge that some readers might find the book amusing, I felt intensely the tragedy of what unfolds. You must ask: has Russia not learned anything from its history of despots, from the Tsars to the likes of Stalin, Beria and now Vladimir Putin? Malcolm Knox's latest book feels like allegory for Vladimir Putin's modern-day Russia, its long tyrannical shadow falling across Eastern Europe once again. The Kulaks of Ukraine are already suffering from another Great Purge, and Beria's home state is once again in the crosshairs of Moscow. This book is very much a book for and of our times. Highly recommended.

ARTSNATIONAL PERTH contacts and info links

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

Follow us



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:

Post: ArtsNational Perth, PO Box 7072, Shenton Park 6008

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:	Di Ingelse, Kevin Jackson, Bridget Parker, Nancy Hourani

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

CONNECT ENRICH INSPIRE

ArtsNational Perth newsletter

Page 7