



COMMITTEE CHANGES MAKE WAY FOR NEW RECRUITS

by Kay Campbell, ArtsNational Perth Chair

Di Ingelse and I represented Perth at the annual ArtsNational conference in Sydney. Many great ideas were shared about how to make membership of ArtsNational of more value. The national team is working on value adding arranging discounts to various organisations as an ArtsNational member – Musica Viva springs to mind. There is a list of organisations on the ArtsNational [website](#).

Meg Larkin, the National Chair and Bevan Rigato, General Manager were keen to hear about the Perth society. National treasurer, and our former treasurer, Peter Farr stepped down from his role having steered the organisation through the ramifications of COVID and a name and brand identity change. No small task.



ArtsNational national chair, Meg Larkin; ArtsNational Perth chair, Kay Campbell; ArtsNational outgoing national treasurer, Peter Farr; and ArtsNational Perth committee member, Di Ingelse.

Many societies are happy to honour a discounted guest member ticket if you are visiting a society interstate. To make sure there is a reciprocal right, email the specific society and enquire as to their policy. Each society's email is name of location@artsnational.au. There is a list of all societies on the [website](#) with their lecture and venue information along with contact details.

At our AGM on 3 May, I stepped down as chair but will remain on the committee until the end of the year as I intend to create a new ArtsNational society in Margaret River. A full copy of my Chair Report is available [here](#). As noted in my Chair Report membership remains steady at around 200, we are in sound fiscal standing and we are continuing to evolve our philanthropy efforts with new opportunities being realised. Fiona Johnson has taken on the role of acting chair until the role is filled.



Kay Campbell and Leanne Casellas



Mariana Atkins and John Palmer



Kevin Jackson

I would like to thank those committee members stepping down including Leanne Casellas, Mariana Atkins and Kevin Jackson who have been with the committee since inception in June 2018 when we launched the seed and held a garden party, and then lifted off in February 2019 with outstanding lectures, and also John Palmer who has been our secretary for the past two years.

No successful organisation runs without hard work, great ideas and follow through, fun and friendship. So thank you to those retiring committee members for rolling up your sleeves, showing up to committee meetings, coming up with fantastic ideas and leveraging your influence to add great value to ArtsNational Perth. Thank you also for bringing fun and friendship to our committee.

All will stay connected to the organisation but it leaves great opportunities for you to take on some of the many tasks involved in running ArtsNational Perth. Nancy Hourani and Tammy Powell have joined the committee: Nancy heading up IT and YAA subcommittee and Tammy as secretary. Welcome to you both.

Our new committee looks like this:

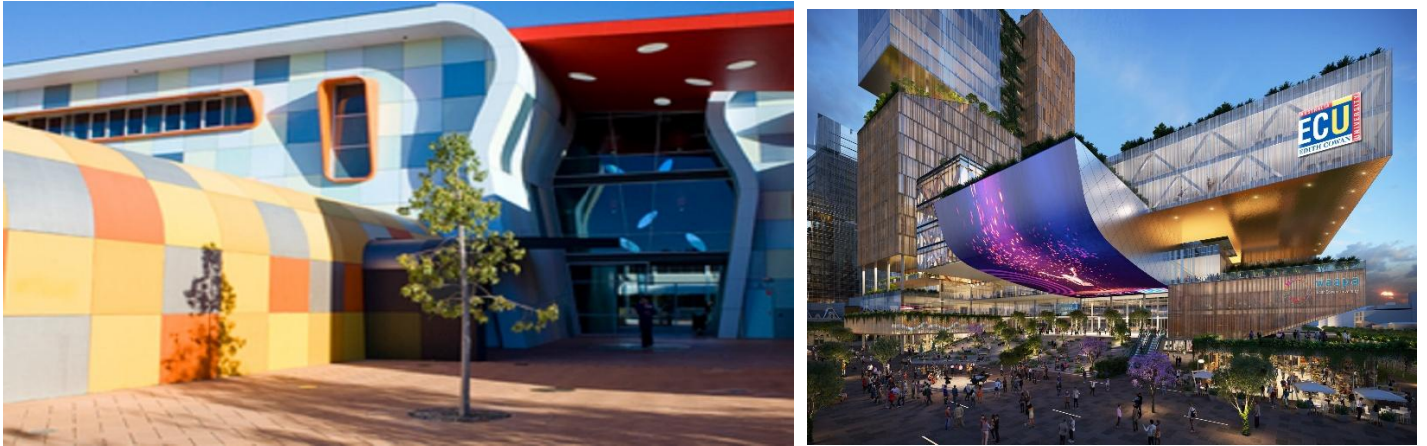
- Fiona Johnson – Chair
- Di Ingelse – Vice Chair and membership secretary
- Aislyn Shepperd – Treasurer
- Tammy Powell – Secretary
- Bridget Parker – Volunteers
- Nancy Hourani – IT and Youth Arts Award
- Kay Campbell

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in any capacity. We specifically need people who have skills in social media and marketing, event management and general administration. We have a wonderful society but we need volunteers to make it work. Please consider what you have to offer. It could be as little as managing the lecture venue and lecturer hotel bookings, or showing the international lecturers around Perth. There are a myriad other tasks; some take very little time but are invaluable.

Being chair has been a rewarding experience and I thank you for your support over the past six years and, in particular, the last three.

2025 YOUTH ARTS AWARD PARTNER: EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

You might have noticed the construction of a new tertiary institution located about 500 metres from our venue at the State Library. The new Edith Cowan University (ECU) City Campus, replacing its Mount Lawley campus, opens in 2026. ArtsNational Perth is a partner in a photo retrospective, *Through the Lens: A Visual Record of the ECU Mount Lawley Campus* which culminates in an exhibition showcasing the works of its talented participants.



The 2025 Youth Arts Award recipient will be chosen from ECU Mount Lawley students under the age of 25, who participate in the competition. With the farewell to ECU Mount Lawley Campus, there is a unique opportunity to honour and celebrate the campus's illustrious history and contributions to education and the arts since 1970. This milestone year also marks the 30th anniversary of ECU's renowned Photomedia programme. This visionary project captures the essence of Mount Lawley through artful photography.

Through the Lens, a documentary photography project invites ECU Photomedia students, to capture the essence and stories of the Mount Lawley Campus. ArtsNational Perth is offering prizes for this initiative which chronicles the last days of the Mount Lawley campus.

- \$4,000 – Future Talent Award (for a promising photographer aged 25 and under).
- \$1,000 – printing and framing of the winning entry

Presentation of prize 3 September: The Future Talent Award will be presented at the opening night of the exhibition. Please mark this date in your diary as we look forward to ArtsNational Perth members attending this event marking the end of an era, and the beginning of an exciting future.



COMING SOON!

Jamie Hayes

2-3:30pm

Saturday 31 May (with live music from JanieO)

Social Science Lecture Hall UWA

31 May

THE BEATLES: Here, There and Everywhere

A fully illustrated talk with musical examples and excerpts of the exceptional moments of the fab-four's extraordinary career. This talk highlights the many unsung heroes, without whose involvement The Beatles would not have been the band we know today. Their success and legacy remain unrivalled by any other pop band in the world. Re-live their greatest moments and their greatest music. Some pop groups are not just of their time; some are for all time.

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



Carl Altmann

2-3:30pm

Saturday 12 July

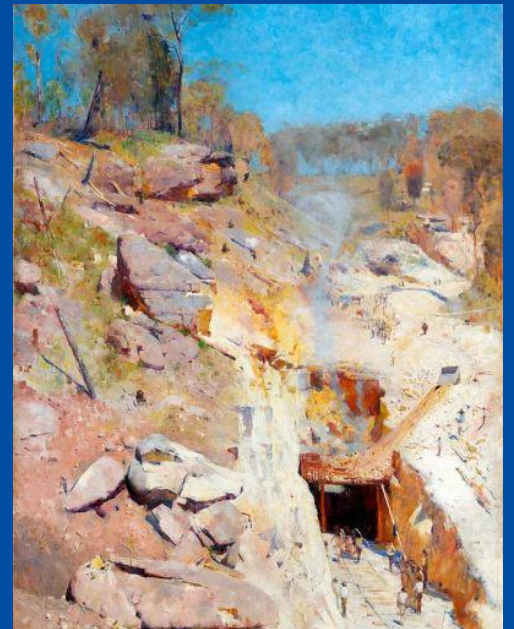
Social Science Lecture Hall UWA

12 Jul

AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES

Since the nineteenth century the way artists have viewed the Australian landscape has changed dramatically. They have shown us that our land is full of visual drama. Gradually they turned away from an accepted European viewpoint to see Australia in its true light, a land of blue and gold. Drawing on works by Sir Russell Drysdale, Tim Storrier, Grace Cossington-Smith, Margaret Preston, John Olsen, Fred Williams and others, our lecturer Carl Altmann will argue that these artists have collectively and individually shown us the raw beauty that makes Australia what it is.

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



Sophie Oosterwijk

2-3:30pm

Saturday 2 Aug

State Library of WA theatrette

2 Aug

LOVE, MARRIAGE AND FIDELITY IN WESTERN ART

Love and marriage have always been a source of inspiration to authors and artists alike. One of the most famous portraits in the National Gallery is Van Eyck's enigmatic Arnolfini Portrait, but marital depictions have a much longer history: in Ancient Egypt people chose to have themselves immortalised as loving couples. Double or pendant portraits were also commissioned in large numbers from artists such as Rembrandt, Hals and Gainsborough. Yet others show a more ironic or even cynical attitude, for love and marriage are not always a bed of roses!

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



Chris Aslan
Saturday 30 August
State Library of WA theatre

30 Aug

1-2:30pm:

A CARPET RIDE TO KHIVA: A Personal Story of Reviving Ancient Silk Carpet Designs

The story of working with UNESCO to establish a silk carpet workshop in the desert oasis of Khiva, Uzbekistan – the most homogenous example of Islamic architecture in the world. Aslan's work took him to the bazaars of Afghanistan to buy natural dyes, and to the great libraries and museums of Europe to track down 15th century manuscripts to revive carpet designs from their illuminations. He also saw the lives of women transformed and became the largest female employer in Khiva.

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

3-4pm:

THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND: The Architecture, Art and Textiles of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan boasts glittering mosques, madrassahs and minarets in the Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. These contrast wonderfully with the brutalist Soviet buildings of Tashkent, Urgench, and Nukus. We explore the Savitsky Museum in Nukus, with the second largest collection of Russian Avante Garde Art, collected at a time when these artistic styles were banned by the state. We explore the revival of Islamic miniature painting and the resurgence of handicrafts all over the country that ceased during the 1930s and the Soviet drive to make everything factory based.

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



ARTSNATIONAL
Perth

CONNECTS PEOPLE
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IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ILLUMINATING ARTS LECTURES

SATURDAY 31 MAY

THE BEATLES: HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE
2-3.30pm
UWA Social Science Lecture Hall, Hackett Drive, Crawley
Presented by touring lecturer **Jamie Hayes**



Four humble Liverpool lads who conquered the pop world. Discover how. This talk highlights the many unsung heroes, without whose involvement the Beatles would not have been the band we know today. Their success and legacy remain unrivalled by any other pop band in the world.

Re-live their greatest moments and their greatest music. Some pop groups are not just of their time; some are for all time.

Plus **JanieO** from Studio J will be singing us in with her vibrant renditions of the most popular Beatles songs.



12 July
LANDSCAPES
Presented by **Carl Altmann**
2 - 3:30pm Social Science Lecture Hall UWA
How Australian artists portray Australian landscapes..

2 August
LOVE, MARRIAGE AND FIDELITY IN WESTERN ART
Presented by **Sophie Oosterwijk**
2-3:30pm State Library of WA, Northbridge
Love and marriage, a source of inspiration in art.

30 August
Presented by touring lecturer **Chris Aslan**
State Library of WA, Northbridge
1-2:30pm **A CARPET RIDE TO KHIVA: A personal story of reviving ancient silk carpet designs**
How a silk carpet workshop in the desert oasis of Khiva, Uzbekistan became the largest female employer in the town.
3-4pm **THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND: The architecture, art and textiles of Uzbekistan**
From the Savitsky Museum in Nukus to the revival of Islamic miniature painting.

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TRAVEL TALES: Yayoi Kusama National Gallery of Victoria exhibition

by ArtsNational Perth volunteer and member, Ellie Flower

SIX DECADES OF HOPE IN THE MOST POPULAR AUSTRALIAN TICKETED ART EXHIBITION

On a recent trip to Melbourne, timed very much to coincide with The Yayoi Kusama exhibition, also known as *Kusama in the Spotlight*, at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), I experienced the sheer joy of this mysterious but thrilling contemporary artist.

This exhibition has racked up the accolade of being the [most popular ticketed art exhibition](#) in Australian history! It has attracted over 570,537 visitors. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity!

Upon entry to the main foyer, you're greeted by Kusama's giant polka dot *Dancing Pumpkin* where children and adults alike dart in and out of the brightly coloured yellow and black spotted installation.



This begins a theme of polka dotted work that Kusama is known for. A deeper understanding of this theme reveals that Kusama feels an energy or feeling in the dots that she sees as creating the universe and her affinity with the natural world. I will never see dots again as just dots! She spoke of these dots as a child (1968) and they became her lenses to make sense of the world. Quantum physicists beware!

Through years of NGV's preparation, ultimately seven international public institutions, many private collections and Kusama's own collection came together to produce a comprehensive and startling tribute to one of the world's greatest living contemporary artists spanning her early activist days in New York to her current works at the age of 96.



As you enter the exhibition through a series of rooms that tell the story of her artistic life, you become aware that there are much more than polka dots going on here. Not only from the perspective of scale (the many immersive installations are incredible) but a quiet but persistent sense of hope.

This was best represented for me in the Infinity Mirrored Room – *My Heart is Filled to the Brim with Sparkling Light* (2024). It has been said that this work represents to some as a fleeting glimpse of another universe – and wouldn't that be nice sometimes!



Make no mistake, simultaneous to this sentiment is also an inescapable sense of poignancy and sadness that comes through her work.

"Our earth is only one polka dot among a million stars in the cosmos," Yayoi Kusama, 1988.



To the People of Melbourne,

Since birth I have always transmitted, through resplendent art, a message of Love to the world. It is Love that illuminates our lives and makes life beautiful. I aim to deliver in my art a heartfelt prayer. My hope is to experience the beauty of a world where Peace and Love have fully arrived. It is in celebration of this everlasting hope that I offer Love to my eternal humankind.

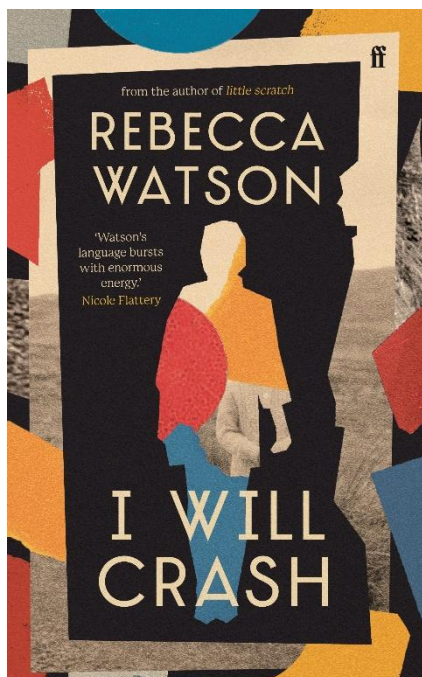
Yayoi Kusama 2024

Footnote: I am so glad we made the effort to travel to Melbourne for this amazingly rewarding exhibition.

BOOK REVIEW

by Aston Clarke, *The Lane Bookshop*

I WILL CRASH by *Rebecca Watson*



This is a novel of brilliant creative writing.

I Will Crash is the story of sibling trauma. It is the story of love and family and emotional suffering. *I Will Crash* is beautiful. *I Will Crash* is tragic.

Since reading Watson's debut novel *Little Scratch* several years ago, I have been eagerly awaiting their next creation. I'd wondered how Watson's unique style would evolve and if the way they played with text hierarchy would continue to slip me into the very essence of their characters... to an almost uncomfortable level. While I may be tuned to the frequency of Watson's desired audience, I still believe it is fantastic work that analyses the nature of sibling relationships and how destructive and overlooked they can be, often shrugged off under the guise of sibling rivalry.

I Will Crash is an unrelenting look into the world of grief and love. About what we sacrifice to live our lives as best we can. It might make you cry (I certainly did) but it's undoubtably worth it and I am once again left wondering how this author will grow and what they will do next!

Official ANP raffle prize provider



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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:	Tammy Powell
Youth Arts Award:	Nancy Hourani
Committee members:	Di Ingelse, Bridget Parker

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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