



## Message from our Chair

Dear Members and Friends

I hope this finds you slowly recovering from a freezing Winter and looking forward to a warmer Spring!!

We have had a significant rise in attendance, particularly for Kathleen Olive's lecture 'Norman Magnificence in Sicily' on 24 June and Chris Aslan's lecture 'A Carpet Ride to Khiva' on 19 August and his SIM lectures on the 'Wool Road' and 'The Silk Road' on 20 August. His lectures had us spell bound! Total attendance at Kathleen's lecture was 187 people, and Chris's lecture was 198 people with 83 members and guests attending his SIM.



The lectures and SIM for the rest of the year look just as exciting and informative – John Francis presents on 'The Mistress of Menace and the Master of Suspense' on 23 September and Eileen Goulding will talk on 'Treasures of Tanis' on 21 October. Eileen will then present two lectures at the SIM: 'Mesoamerican Pyramids – Tombs or Temples?' and 'Aztec and Maya Civilisations of Mexico' on 22 October.

Our raffle in August raised \$660, which was a record. All raffle monies raised go towards the Patricia Robertson Fund and to supporting our Young Arts Program with Canberra Glassworks. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Committee members continue developing the program to celebrate ArtsNational Canberra's Ruby Anniversary for next year. It looks really interesting and fun so far!

This year has been fantastic and interesting and will continue to be so. We have our AGM and Christmas Party on 1 December and I hope to see you all there.

Best wishes and cheers

Sue Healy OAM  
Chair ArtsNational Canberra

## Raffle proceeds supports Young Arts

Buy a raffle ticket; it goes to a good cause! We use the proceeds from our raffle to support Young Arts in Canberra and to make a donation to the Patricia Robinson Fund, part of the Association of ArtsNational.

Each year the Patricia Robertson Fund, consistent with an agreement with the Australian Institute of Conservation of Cultural Materials, provides at least one Mid-Career Scholarship and two Outstanding Conservator Student Awards for students at the University of Canberra and the University of Melbourne.

For some years, we have been supporting young artists at Canberra Glassworks to attend masterclasses. The Glassworks offers professional workshops led by celebrated Australian artists to provide practicing artists a unique opportunity to develop techniques and expand their skills in the field of glass arts.



This year we are contributing \$3,000 to enable two young artists to attend a masterclass in glass blown replicas, led by Ben Edots. Ben is an Australian artist who has been blowing glass since 1987 and has travelled and worked in the United States, Japan and Italy. The five-day masterclass will explore the deep history of glass through the art of replication. Participants will study historical glass forms from various cultures and time periods, then attempt to replicate these objects using traditional and modern hot glass techniques.

The successful Glassworks artists will give a presentation at our AGM on 1 December 2025.

For our last two lectures this year, our raffle will include four (not three) prizes. You have one more chance to win, for the same ticket price! But remember, even if your ticket does not result in a prize, you are helping Young Arts in Canberra and we very much appreciate your support. Please buy a raffle ticket (or three) and know that you are helping a great cause.

## Chris Aslan reading list

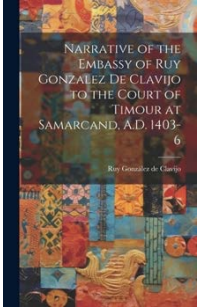
For those who enjoyed the Chris Aslan lecture and SIM and want to know more about this fascinating region, Chris recommended the following two books (in addition to his own, of course):

- My Name is Red by Orhan Pamuk

Pamuk, Nobel Laureate, wrote this fictional story about miniaturists in the Ottoman Empire of 1591.

- *Narrative of the Embassy of Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo to the Court of Timour at Samarcand [sic], A.D. 1403-6*

De Clavijo was a diplomat and he wrote this account of his 15<sup>th</sup> century journey to the court of Timur in Samarkand. The descriptions of the people, landscapes, and customs he encountered will no doubt remind readers of Chris Aslan's own experience and story.



## Remaining lectures and SIM for 2025

Sadly, there are only two remaining lectures and one SIM to be held this year. Tell your friends! Buy them a guest ticket for these lectures as an early Christmas present! Encourage them to join next year! Book early!

### The Mistress of Menace and the Master of Suspense

Presented by John Francis

Venue & Time: Tuesday 23 September 2025, National Library of Australia, 6pm.



Tippi Hedren in Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Birds* (1963), based on the 1952 short story of the same name by Daphne du Maurier. Image from John Francis.

Daphne Du Maurier and Alfred Hitchcock had much in common. Du Maurier is sometimes described as a romantic novelist, but this is completely misleading. Like Hitchcock, she dealt with themes of loneliness, gender, fear, suspense and gothic imagery. They both built compelling and complex emotional landscapes for their characters. Although they never met, the pair produced three cultural landmarks of the 20th century: *Jamaica Inn*, *Rebecca* and *The Birds*. In this lecture John will explore Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963), looking closely at some essential scenes in the film comparing the masterful techniques used on the page and on screen.

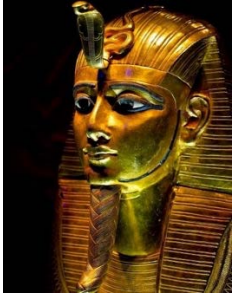
John is an inspirational speaker who has delivered lectures and workshops in the US, Beijing, Malaysia and the UK. Trained as a painter, John was awarded the Max Beckmann Memorial Scholarship in painting in Brooklyn, New York and went on to be artist in residence for

the state of Texas. Later, John produced and directed several short films and animations. He has taught film, art and pedagogy at universities in the UK, US and Malaysia.

### The Treasures of Tanis

Presented by Eileen Goulding

Venue & Time: Tuesday 21 October 2025; National Library of Australia, 6pm.



Gold Face Mask of Pharaoh Psusennes I. Now in the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo. Image from Eileen Goulding

In 1939–1940 in the ancient Egyptian city of Tanis in the Nile Delta, French Egyptologist Pierre Montet discovered a complex of royal tombs— three were still intact! The treasures uncovered constitute one of the greatest, and most beautiful, archaeological discoveries, rivalling even those of Tutankhamun. But because its discovery was during World War II and as it was published only in French, it went unnoticed. This lecture covers the discovery of the tombs of the pharaohs Psusennes I, Sheshonq II, and Amenope with the gold and silver treasures, fine jewellery and artefacts now housed in Cairo's Egyptian Museum.

Eileen has an MA in archaeology from the University of London. She specialises in the history and culture of the ancient worlds of the Mediterranean, South America and Australasia. While continuing her research, Eileen gives lectures to The Arts Society and other organisations. Her first book, *What Did the Poor Take with Them*, is a treatise on ancient Egyptian funerary goods, while her second book, *Understanding Ancient Egypt*, is a good introduction to the subject.

### Did you know? The difference between lectures and Special Interest Mornings

If you enjoy the ArtsNational lectures, but have not attended a Special Interest Morning (SIM), we encourage you to do so. The SIM is not a repeat of the lecture but offers different lectures in the lecturer's area of knowledge. What's more, the lecturer delivers two presentations at the SIM; twice as good as the lecture night!

Each year for the annual membership fee, ArtsNational Canberra offers lectures from six international and two Australian lecturers with diverse expertise across the arts. In addition to this core lecture program, we usually offer two SIMs during the year.

The Committee selects the SIMs by identifying two lecturers from the annual lecture program who offer such an interesting range of topics, that it is worth asking the lecturer to present three lectures – one as part of the annual evening lecture program and a further two lectures

as a SIM. So while the subject matter may have a relationship, each of the lectures is a distinct topic.

SIMs are held at 10 am at 25 Forster Crescent in Yarralumla, the Wednesday morning after the Tuesday night lecture. A light and delicious morning tea is served between the two lectures. The cost to attend a SIM is a bargain price of \$65 for members and \$70 for non-members.

You may wish to get in early for Eileen Goulding's 22 October SIM.

Eileen will be speaking on:

- *Mesoamerican Pyramids -- Tombs or Temples*

Colossal pyramids are scattered across Mesoamerica but are they the same as those built by ancient Egyptians? Eileen will take you on a tour of several pyramid sites, including Teotihuacan and Chichen Itza, to compare their function and design and identify the people who built them and the artefacts they left behind.

- *Aztec and Maya Civilisations of Mexico*

Human hearts, blood and children's tears were all necessary to quench the hunger of the bloodthirsty gods of Mexico. If their needs were not satisfied the consequences for the nation would be catastrophic. In this lecture we discover some of their ancient gods and learn about the religious rites designed to appease them.

Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1319155>





## New members' lunch – 16 September

The Committee is delighted to welcome 12 new people who took up the half-year membership to ArtsNational Canberra. We are so glad you joined us.

The Committee is looking forward to getting to know these new members at our New Members' Lunch at the NLA's Bookplate café at midday on Tuesday 16 September.

## Ruby Anniversary General E-Mails (Gems)



In March 2026, ArtsNational Canberra turns 40 years old. To celebrate, the Committee is planning a number of events throughout the year. We will be communicating these to you via a new form of email – the Ruby Anniversary General E-Mails (Gems!)

Keep an eye out for these gems, coming to your inbox soon!

## SIM venue – dress code

ArtsNational Canberra is fortunate to be able to host a number of events at 25 Forster Crescent in Yarralumla. Members are kindly reminded to respect the venue's dress code and to ensure their guests do so too.

The dress code requires members and guests to wear business attire or smart casual clothing. This includes chinos and denim that is neat, clean and in good repair (ie. no holes, tears, fraying or severe fades). Men are required to wear collared shirts. Clothing that is not permitted includes clothing with slogans, fleece jackets, sporting attire, hoodies, thongs and similar footwear.



## Upcoming Events – Canberra

Canberra Glassworks, 21 Aug to 26 Oct 2025

Artist and designer Will Lynes presents a solo exhibition, *Oily Water*, which delves into the tension between precision and imperfection.

Will Lynes explores the historical and artistic relationship between glass and painted lettering, rooted in traditional signwriting techniques such as reverse glass painting and gilding, blending art and advertising.



A classically trained gilder, Will investigates the tension between precision and imperfection in his practice. By allowing materials to express their natural qualities, he moves beyond the constraints of traditional methods, exploring new approaches and unlocking the potential of his refined skills. Will's work emphasises the sensory experience of materials and the dialogue between process, craftsmanship and artistic expression as he develops his unique creative voice.

Image and text courtesy of the Canberra Glassworks

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Some old-  
fashioned things  
like fresh air and  
sunshine are hard  
to beat

– Laura Ingalls Wilder

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## Upcoming Events - Eurobodalla Shire

The Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre ('the Bas') Moruya presents *The Wonderful World of Dr Seuss*, a look into an extraordinary private collection of Dr Seuss limited edition prints.

Step into a world where imagination knows no bounds – where cats wear hats, fish come in every colour and nonsense makes perfect sense.

This is a rare opportunity to celebrate an artist whose creativity has touched hearts across generations.



Exhibition courtesy of Gary Smith AM.

Where: Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, corner of Vulcan and Murray streets, Moruya  
When: Saturday 20 September to Saturday 19 October 2025, 10am to 4pm. Closed Sundays.  
Cost: Free

## Save the Date – AGM and Christmas Party, 1 December



Time to get out your diary and reserve the evening of Monday, 1 December 2025 for some ArtsNational festivities.

- ArtsNational Canberra Annual General Meeting, 5.45pm
- ArtsNational Canberra Christmas Party, 6.30pm

These events will be held at 25 Forster Crescent in Yarralumla. Further details, including cost, will be sent out soon.

## Getting to know your Committee members – Penny Campbell

Penny Campbell joined ArtsNational Canberra for the 2024 season after hearing her father speak about how much he learnt in each informative lecture he attended.



She then joined the Committee in late 2024 and is still learning the ropes as the newest Committee member. She is the Public Officer for ArtsNational Canberra and compiles the quarterly newsletter. This year, she joined ArtsNational Molonglo to truly get the best of arts on offer in the region.

Penny is recently retired after more than 30 years' service in the Navy. She is relishing her new free time to dabble in various volunteer activities and to take her two Australian Cattle Dogs for longer and longer walks in Canberra's many bush spaces.



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