

NORTHERN RIVERS



ArtsNational Northern Rivers Welcomes You

ArtsNational Northern Rivers offers members and guests a series of eight one hour illustrated presentations throughout the year, plus one bonus presentation. These are delivered by overseas and Australian experts, chosen for their specialist knowledge and communication skills.

Our evening events are renowned for their welcoming hospitality and inclusive atmosphere.



Venue:

The historic A & I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow.

Parking in Station St. (Two disability places in front of Hall)

When:

Monday evenings at 6.30pm, with welcome drinks from 6.00pm.

Annual Membership:

Single \$ 160

[Join Here](#)

Dual \$ 280

[Join Here](#)

Guests welcome:

Guests: \$30 Book online per event or pay at the door.

Enquiries:

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2026 PROGRAM

Monday 9 March 2026

[Book Here](#)

Johannes Vermeer
and the Absent Subject

Presented by Albert Godetzky



Johannes Vermeer's paintings might be considered typical examples of Dutch art from the Golden Age yet, when compared with his contemporaries, his works seem oddly different. The explanation of this difference has preoccupied scholars ever since the 'rediscovery' of Vermeer in the 19th century. What exactly is the subject of a painting by Vermeer? Is it the merry couple enjoying wine and music, the elegant furnishings, or is it the light and shadow which suffuses every detail and creates the tonal nuances of his compositions? Vermeer's art will be reviewed as will the circumstances that may have influenced him

Monday 13 April 2026

[Book Here](#)

Degenerates and Perverts:
The Legendary 1939 *Herald* Exhibition

Presented by Steven Miller *



The 1939 *Herald Exhibition of French and British Contemporary Art* has been called the single most enlivening event in Australia's modern cultural development. Opening when Australia was undergoing profound change, this exhibition became the focus for the opposing forces of cultural conservatism and innovation.

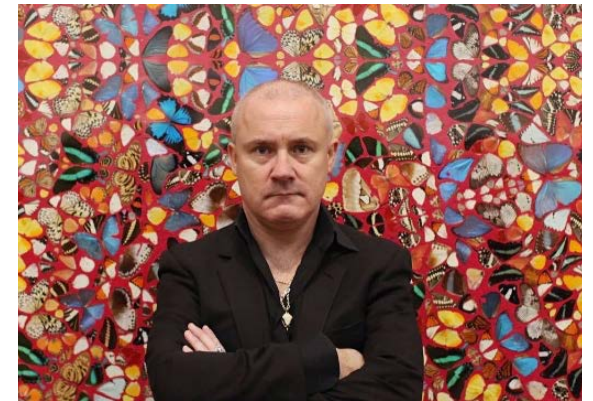
This lecture will examine the many and competing claims made about the exhibition – how the show was organised, how it was displayed, and the reception it received. It will evaluate its impact upon Australian art and society, at a time when conservatives were accused of perverting progress and progressives were accused of degeneracy.

Monday 18 May 2026

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1479118>

Damien Hirst and Contemporary Art

Presented by David Worthington



Damien Hirst is the most famous British artist since Henry Moore. Not even Francis Bacon had such a huge international presence. And yet in his home country he is often seen as a practical joker, pulling the wool over the eyes of the public, and not making proper art at all. This lecture aims to dispel this and show that he is a deeply serious artist making work that is significant and influential.

Monday 15 June 2026

[Book Here](#)

The Space Shuttle: A Butterfly on a Rocket

Presented by Pieter DeVries*



This presentation traces NASA's Space Shuttle program from its ambitious start to its final missions. Through a 12-week film shoot at Cape Canaveral and Mission Control in Houston, this documentary offers exclusive footage from unprecedented access to the Space Shuttle, Endeavour — a privilege never before granted.

Pieter DeVries will share behind-the-scenes stories and delve into the missions and the individuals who made the Space Shuttle program a defining chapter in space exploration.

Monday 13 July 2026

[Book Here](#)

Who's Afraid of Ai Weiwei: Repression and Resistance in Recent Chinese Art

Presented by Barry Venning



When the Chinese authorities arrested Ai Weiwei in 2011, the graffiti artist, Tangerine (Tang Chen) stencilled his image, Banksy-like, thousands of times all over Hong Kong, with the question 'Who's afraid of Ai Weiwei?' Ai became the best-known symbol of resistance to Chinese repression, but many of his friends and peers also risked the wrath of the Chinese state. In addition to Ai himself, the lecture examines the coded resistance of Ai's friends in the Beijing East Village art community.

Monday 10 August 2026

[Book Here](#)

Pompeii & Herculaneum: Reconstructing the Final Day

Presented by James Renshaw



This presentation brings together archaeology, volcanology, literary evidence, and art to examine what happened to these two towns when destroyed on the same day in AD 79 by the eruption of Mt Vesuvius.

Those present will examine the evidence of Pliny the Younger, the provider history's first eyewitness account of a volcanic eruption, along with the evidence uncovered in the cities themselves.

Monday 14 September 2026 [Book Here](#)

The Use of Naturalism in the work of Fabergé

Presented by Clare Blatherwick



The name Fabergé conjures up images of pre-revolutionary Russia, opulent Easter eggs and exquisite pieces found in the most important collections in the world.

This presentation analyses the use of naturalism in the work of Fabergé, focusing on its lesser-known experiments in Art Nouveau, as well as animal representations in hardstone carvings and flower studies. It also highlights the naturalistic imagery incorporated into objects d'art such as desk seals and caviar dishes.

Monday 19 October 2026 [Book Here](#)

Opium: Seduction, Greed, Art

Presented by Amanda Herries



Opium - source of the stuff of dreams. The poppy is a beautiful, fragile flower with immense power. Opium is a hypnotic generator of sleep, delightful lethargy and relief from pain. It is highly addictive.

Greed led to the introduction of this hugely desirable substance first to China, and then to Europe. Its beguiling seduction effects led to its use in quietening troubled minds and calming agitated babies and children. Its use led to the creation of great works of art in music, art and literature.

November 2026 TBA

5.30pm

Annual General Meeting
(Members only)

6.00pm

Welcome drinks for members
and guests

6.30pm

Bonus Presentation and end-of-year
celebration.



The special presentation is yet to be decided, but be assured it will be informative and entertaining.