

ABOUT US

At ArtsNational Sunshine Coast, we are a not-for-profit organisation run by local volunteers for the past 38 years on the Sunshine Coast. We offer an exciting annual series of superbly illustrated, informative, and entertaining arts talks locally.

We provide our members and visitors with a unique opportunity to connect with a wide variety of arts, design and conservation-related lectures and activities locally.

Our international and Australian presenters are all expert and interesting speakers. Talks are one hour long with an opportunity to talk to the presenter following the presentation over light refreshments and wine.

YOUNG ARTS: We also support the development of young artists from our community through donations and from our fund-raising Raffles at each Arts Talk.

ABOUT OUR ARTS TALK PROGRAM

We offer an exciting annual program of nine arts talks from March to November.

WHEN: Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock as advertised.

VENUE: Lecture Theatre 1, K Block at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) Sippy Downs Campus – Parking is Free

MEMBERSHIP COSTS: Members: \$165 full year
Visitors are very welcome: \$30 per arts talk includes wine following the art talk
Visiting ArtsNational Members: \$16.50
Students: \$10 per arts talk
Non-members may attend up to three talks in a calendar year.

TO JOIN:

Contact our Membership Secretary: Merle O'Rourke
Phone: 0419 795 625 Email: orourke.merlej@gmail.com

TO FIND OUT MORE: For arts talks information and details about the presenters, please visit our webpage <https://www.artsnational.au/societies/sunshine-coast/>

ABOUT ARTSNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

ArtsNational is a vibrant, volunteer-led national association offering superbly illustrated, informative, and entertaining arts talks delivered by internationally recognised experts on diverse subjects.

ArtsNational has 36 Societies in regional and metropolitan cities across Australia. We're passionate about linking people with the arts and with each other, creating an inviting space to share and explore the beauty of the arts together..

To find out more: www.artsnational.au

CONTACT US LOCALLY

ARTSNATIONAL SUNSHINE COAST

Chair: Dawne Clark
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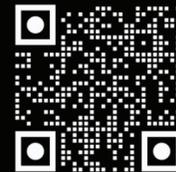
Membership Secretary: Merle O'Rourke
Phone: 0419 795 625
Email: orourke.merlej@gmail.com

AGM: 6 December

Members are encouraged to attend our Annual General Meeting which will be followed by our end-of-year celebration and launch of our 2027 Arts Talks Program.

Follow us on Facebook to find out more about our 2026 Arts Talk Program events.

www.facebook.com/ArtsNationalSunshineCoast



[artsnational.au/societies/sunshine-coast/](https://www.artsnational.au/societies/sunshine-coast/)



ARTSNATIONAL
Sunshine Coast

2026 ARTS TALK PROGRAM



CONNECT
ENRICH
INSPIRE

SUN 15 MAR

3:00 - 4:00PM

Albert Durer: Life, Ego and Afterlife

BY ALBERT GODETSKY

In his day, Albrecht Dürer was a larger-than-life figure. Dürer crafted a lasting legacy for his art through his wood block prints, paintings, and copious writing. Yet, the words he wrote - as much as the images he invented - reveal a man in profound search of his identity.



This arts talk traces the artist's origins in his goldsmith father's workshop in Nuremberg, his ambitious travels in Italy and subsequent patronage by the Hapsburgs.

SUN 19 APR

3:00 - 4:00PM

Dressing Sydney: The Jewish Fashion Story

PETER MCNEIL

Thousands of Jewish migrants fled Nazism and many arrived in Australia in the 1930s and '40s. A large number proceeded to work in the clothing and appearance industries, also known as the 'rag trade'.



The focus is Sydney and the subplot is 'Dressing Sydney: The Jewish Fashion Story'. Learn how a whole working-class district - Surry Hills - was remade between the wars, then transformed again in the 1980s as our economy was restructured.

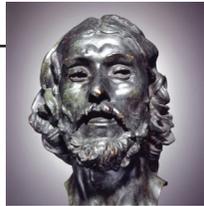
SUN 24 MAY

3:00 - 4:00PM

August Rodin and 19th century Sculpture

DAVID WORTHINGTON

Rodin is one of the heroic figures of 19th century art history and was internationally celebrated during his lifetime. But after his death his reputation slipped and there were questions about his use of the female image. Now he is seen as having, in one career, taken sculpture on a revolutionary path equivalent to what the Realists, Impressionists and Post Impressionists did with many careers.



This arts talk surveys his work showing why he is one of the greatest sculptors ever, looking at his work in relationship to 19th century sculpture as well assessing his continuing relevance.

SUN 28 JUN

3:00 - 4:00PM

On the Wild Side: filming creatures great and small

PIET DE VRIES

In this arts talk, Piet shares his techniques for capturing extraordinary images for Sir David Attenborough and National Geographic.

From playful Macaque monkeys in China to majestic Cassowaries in Northern Australia, he will illustrate his presentation with segments from his nature documentaries.



SUN 19 JUL

3:00 - 4:00PM

Paintbrushes at Dawn: the world's greatest artistic feuds, rows and quarrels

BARRY VENNING

The history of art is peppered with first-rate bust ups: between the Renaissance artists, Brunelleschi and Ghiberti; between Constable and Turner in the early 1830s; between Salvador Dali and the Surrealist leader, Andre Breton in the 1930s and, most recently, between the graffiti artists Banksy and 'King' Robbo, who painted over each other's works.



SUN 16 AUG

3:00 - 4:00PM

Persepolis: Art, Architecture and Ideology of the Persian Empire

JAMES RENSHAW

The Persian empire exploded into life during the middle of the 6th century BC and was the largest empire in the world for the next two centuries.

In around 515, its third Great King, Darius I, commissioned the building of a new city, Persepolis, with his palace at its centre. We know a great deal about this palace, and one of its central features, the Apadana Staircase, can be seen in replica in the British Museum. What can this palace and its art tell us about the ideology of this extraordinary, influential empire?



SUN 20 SEPT

3:00 - 4:00PM

The world of Pearls

BY CLARE BLATHERICK

The allure of pearls has been documented dating back to 4000BC. The Romans thought pearls were formed from the teardrops of the gods, or perhaps as a result of clams capturing dewdrops in the moonlight.



This arts talk looks at the amazing variety of types of pearls, and some of the most famous pearls in the world, including those that belonged to Mary Queen of Scots.

SUN 25 OCT

3:00 - 4:00PM

The Japanese Garden in the west: 100 years of Eastern Influence

AMANDA HERRIES

Once Japan opened up to the West, travellers and plant-hunters were able to bring back information about the gardens, and the plants themselves. Japanese garden styles became highly fashionable into the 20th century, with several still identifiable.



Tracing the origins of garden styles, the plants used and the surviving Western examples, we can ask: is it possible to create a 'Japanese' garden outside Japan, or do we merely give it a Japanese voice?

SUN 15 NOV

3:00 - 4:00PM

Reconsidering 'Vernacular' Roadside Art: A Global History of Big Things

DR AMY CLARKE

Derided as low-brow 'kitsch', 'Big Things' have long been ignored by architectural and art historians. While Australia, the U.S., and Canada certainly have the largest volumes of Big Things globally, supersized roadside statues exist in almost every country.



This arts talk will demonstrate that there are distinct regional trends and typologies that can be 'read' as indicators of the socio-cultural traits or qualities that peoples in these places value most.