



## SUMMER 2026

### Exciting New Horizons and Doing Our Core Business Well

by Fiona Johnson, ArtsNational Perth Chair

Happy New Year and welcome to our sixth year of operation. For those members who have traversed our journey since inception, it's amazing to think it's six years since Hillary Kay presented our inaugural lecture on Behind the Scenes of the Antiques Road Show, followed by Guy de la Bedoyere's stellar lecture on the travels of the Late Roman Camino, and the Wreck of the Dutch East Indiaman Batavia in 1629. Those two weekends, amidst a heatwave in February 2019, set up our society for future success as membership uptake was generated, and attendees were enriched, inspired, and connected to the community we had just created.

As we welcome our newest society, Margaret River, I want to thank Kay Campbell for her efforts on the Perth committee, and wish her and her new committee well, and that they too enjoy success. We hope to work together with Margaret River in the future to curate mini tours allowing us to share the costs of touring local and Australian lecturers and providing many other benefits to you.

This year your membership includes 11 lectures: nine from touring international lecturers and two from local lecturers. Membership pricing has been maintained despite expected increasing costs, allowing us to bring you some of the best lecturers in their field across many diverse subjects. Couple membership has been redacted to improve our administrative efficiency (particularly where we have only six committee members shouldering all work for our current 190 membership). On that note, this year saw the best uptake of the Early Bird membership to date, perhaps aided by our growing familiarity with TryBooking and our efforts to make the experience smoother for everyone.

Due to the State Library's audience capacity, we have to restrict membership numbers so we don't overbook; and we are almost full. So, if you haven't yet joined, I encourage you to do so soon. Membership offers access to exclusive member-only events and discounts, and both our committee and the Association have been working hard to increase these opportunities, which can be found on our website. To get you in the mood for arty cinema, at each lecture (as well as the wonderful book prizes sourced from The Lane Bookshop) we are going to raffle a \$50 Luna Palace PopCoin voucher. So why not try Art on Screen, Met Opera and some National Theatre Live productions, which are screened at the Windsor and other Luna Palace cinemas throughout the year.

This year, my focus is on doing our core business well. That is not to say effort will not be engaged to bring you great add-on events, but it acknowledges our committee is small and our workload significant. With a strong program and exciting growth opportunities – particularly with our newest society – we would greatly value more members stepping forward to volunteer. Assistance at the welcome desk on lecture days (such as scanning tickets) would be especially helpful. We are also urgently seeking members with administrative or marketing experience to fill the committee roles of Secretary and Marketing /Communications Officer (especially with social media skills); and are also looking for people to assist more generally with decision-making at our bi-monthly committee meetings. Expressions of interest are warmly welcomed and can be sent to perth@artsnational.au.

In past years ArtsNational Perth has hosted several very successful *Books & Art* add-on events at The Lane Bookshop where artists such as Philippa Nikulinsky and Leon Pericles were invited to talk about their books documenting aspects of their artistic journeys. *Books & Art* events were a regular program highlight for me and so, hoping to inspire a member to step up and host *Books & Art* this year, I thought I would open my current reading list to you:

- ✓ From perennially favourite Australian ArtsNational lecturer, Susannah Fullerton, *Great Writers and the Cats Who Owned Them*
- ✓ From last year's touring lecturer, Chris Aslan, *Unravelling the Silk Road*
- ✓ *Silo Art* by Alasdair McGregor. A sumptuous coffee table book by Australian Geographic celebrating Australia's outdoor art revolution

All are highly recommended and available from The Lane Bookshop.

**I look forward to welcoming you to a lecture soon.**

Fiona Johnson

## ArtsNational Margaret River

*by Kay Campbell, immediate past Chair, ArtsNational Perth*



During Covid we all experienced change – some to a greater extent than others. For me, it was moving permanently to our small farm outside Margaret River.

Over the last six years I have commuted to Perth for ArtsNational lectures and committee meetings. It was a commitment I was happy to make as I love the organisation, the lectures, membership and colleagues that have come my way. Two years ago, I started to consider opening a society in Margaret River and examining what that would entail. At some stages I thought I was stark raving mad, but the idea would not go away. At the 2025 national meeting I met with CEO Bevan Rigato and Meg Larkin, Chair of the

national body, to discuss the prospect. They were enthusiastic in their support of a second society in WA. I also had discussions with the Perth committee who were also enthusiastic.

So, the wheels began to turn to set up **ArtsNational Margaret River** – leading to the recent sold-out launch event at the beautiful Secret Garden in Wilyabrup – which was encouraging!

Our first lecture is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March by Alan Dodge – on the arts scene in New York in 50's and 60's. Alan delivered this lecture to the Perth membership in 2023. ArtsNational Margaret River will offer 11 lectures in 2026. The venue for most lectures is the Heart Studio theatre on a Monday afternoon (for details check the [ArtsNational website](#)). We will be on the same circuit as Perth for the international lecturers which means the same lecturers will visit both societies, however the lectures may be different.



The two societies will work together to offer additional events and we will look to bring in lecturers from the eastern states and thereby sharing the cost.

Both Perth and Margaret River societies have agreed to have a reciprocal ticketing arrangement where a member of the sister society can attend the lecture for a \$10 fee. We encourage you to book a seat as you would do normally, and there is a Perth member option on the booking page.

***If you are spending time down south, consider coming to the lectures – we would love to welcome you.***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Perth society for their support both fiscally and emotionally. It would have been impossible to have formed a new organisation without your support. I would also like to thank you, the membership, for the support over the last six years. I have gained so much knowledge and friendship being involved at the committee level. Organisations like ours cannot work without volunteer input, so consider what you can do to assist the smooth running of the society. You will reap unexpected rewards.

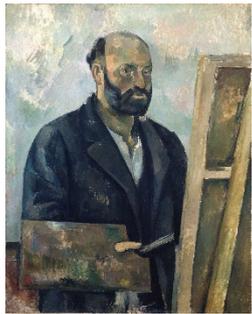
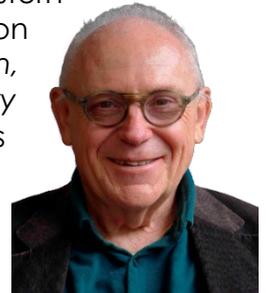
**SEE YOU AT THE NEXT LECTURE - WHETHER IT IS HERE OR THERE!**

# Coming Soon - An Exciting Year of Lectures!

See <https://www.artsnational.au/societies/perth/> if want full information about these engaging lecturers and their presentations.

## Saturday 21 February: Emeritus Professor Richard Read

Emeritus Professor Read, Senior Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia, authored the first book on critic Adrian Stokes and has published widely on literature, visual arts, and global imagery. His recent works include *Colonization, Wilderness, and Spaces Between* (2020) and *Sensory Perception, Geology and History* (2022). His forthcoming book, *The Reverse Canvas: Meta-painting in Western Art*, was researched as Visiting Fellow at King's College, Cambridge in 2024.



### SELF-PORTRAITS

**Saturday 21 February, 1.00-2:30pm**

**State Library of WA theatrette, 25 Francis Street Northbridge**

Self-portraiture in Western art emerged during the Renaissance, evolving from minor appearances in classical scenes to focused depictions enabled by studio mirrors. Artists captured themselves at work while engaging the viewer. Professor Read explores this shifting ambiguity across centuries through self-portraits by Rembrandt, Velázquez, Cézanne, Hepworth and others.

[Book Here](#)



## Saturday 21 March: Two lectures by Susan Kay-Williams

Susan served 17 years as Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court Palace. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Chartered Institute of Marketing, she was honoured in 2015 by the Society of Dyers and Colourists. Passionate about textiles and colour, she authored *The Story of Colour in Textiles* (2013) and *An Unbroken Thread* (2022). She is currently President elect of the Society of Dyers and Colourists.



### THE HISTORY OF EMBROIDERY

**Saturday 21 March, 1.00-2:30pm**

**State Library of WA theatrette, 25 Francis Street Northbridge**

This lecture traces embroidery's evolution over a thousand years—from 10th-century origins and Opus Anglicanum, Tudor finery, and Asian influences, silk shading, Berlin wool work, and art embroidery by Morris and Crane. It concludes with 20th-century innovators and today's artists, highlighting continuity and change across centuries.

[Book Here](#)

## JAPONISME: How the East Influenced the Art of the West in the Late 19th Century

**Saturday 21 March, 3.00-4:30pm**

**State Library of WA theatrette 25 Francis Street Northbridge**

After Japan opened to the West in 1854, its art was showcased at international exhibitions. European artists, including Van Gogh and Walter Crane, studied Japanese paintings and woodcuts, drawing inspiration to reshape their own styles. This lecture explores how Japanese influence transformed Western artistic expression in profound ways.



[Book Here](#)

## **SAVE THE DATE\***

### **Once Known**

A Carrolup Centre for Truth-Telling exhibition

Presented by the John Curtin Gallery, Old Perth Boys School, Perth  
<https://www.curtin.edu.au/jcg/exhibitions/carrolup-once-known/>

This excellently curated exhibition features reproductions of artworks created by Aboriginal children detained at the Carrolup Native Settlement in the 1940s. The exhibition is a powerful celebration of the legacy these young artists have left us.



**John Curtin Gallery, Old Perth Boys School  
139 St Georges Tce, Perth**

#### **The event includes morning tea**

There will be a small charge to cover refreshments and a donation to Carrolup Centre for Truth-Telling.

**\*Friday 13 February - time to be confirmed** (probably noon or 2pm). As we have not been able to confirm all the details of this event prior to publication of this newsletter, if you are interested in joining this **members only** event please register your expression of interest by [email here](#), or phone 040 992 8688



## **New Members Morning Tea**



Take this opportunity to meet other new members of ArtsNational Perth in an informal setting, overlooking Cottesloe Beach and Sculpture by the Sea. There will be a tour of the maquettes (models) of the exhibition by an exhibiting sculptor. Then enjoy a cuppa with some of our committee members, giving you a chance to ask any questions and find out more about us.

**Sunday 15 March 2026 10:00 am - 11:30 am**

**Sea View Golf Course Clubhouse  
1 Jarrad Street, Cottesloe**

Please register your attendance at [TryBooking](#)



## **West Australian Ballet: MACBETH**

**18 August (5.15 pm):** Behind the Scenes rehearsal preview at the WA Ballet Centre, Whatley Crescent, Maylands.

Cost \$25

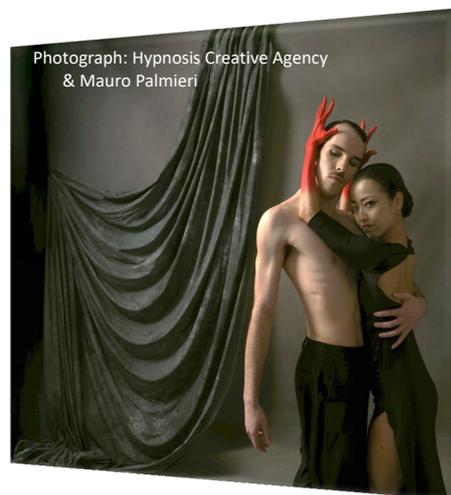
**11 September (6.30 pm):** 'A' reserve seating at His Majesty's Theatre, Perth with WASO and Interval lounge access and a program.

Cost \$120

**Bookings must be made directly with WA Ballet**

**Call 08 9214 0707 to reserve tickets NOW**

**Quote ArtsNational**



## Our Partnerships

### Please support our discount partners

Show your membership card to claim discounts at ArtsNational Perth affiliated partners:

Subscriber rate at **Lunar Palace Cinemas**. Special offers on all **Art on Screen/Exhibition on Screen** and **Met Opera** series and selected **National Theatre Live** productions. Check <https://lunapalace.com.au> for dates and locations.



10% discount on art supplies for ArtsNational members

[www.oxlades.com.au/](http://www.oxlades.com.au/)

<https://www.facebook.com/OxladesArtSuppliesPerth>

Unit 2/49 Guthrie St Osborne Park

tel: 9446 3233

## Youth Arts Award



**2021**  
Photographers Nikki Singh  
Annabelle Watling



**2022**  
Artists Charlotte Robinson  
May Thadar



**2023**  
Artists Sarah Carey  
Leocardia Nyamayaro



**2024**  
Western Australian  
Youth Orchestra

The ArtsNational Youth Arts Award is funded by the generosity of our members via **raffle ticket sales at each lecture** (over \$19,000 awarded to date). If you would like to provide prizes for the raffles, or if you have any suggestions for organisations or individuals who may benefit from the Youth Arts Award please email Nancy Hourani at [perth@artsnational.au](mailto:perth@artsnational.au)

**2026**  
?

**2025**  
Photographer  
Lincoln Fuller Hill



### A Two-Legged Travelogue (an air miles-free art exploration)

by ArtsNational Perth member and volunteer, Geoff Paull

A travelogue for a newsletter such as this would usually describe a journey to a recognised 'arts destination'. Yet many rewarding art experiences are found close to home. Over the past year, several exhibitions and collections within our own city have stood out for me.

My most enjoyable experience of 2025 was [Pippin Drysdale: Infinite Terrain](#) at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. While AGWA may not have been flavour of the month for everyone recently, this exhibition of work by Western Australian ceramic artist Pippin Drysdale – created in collaboration with her thrower, Warwick Parmenteer– was nothing short of spectacular. Having personally travelled through many of the unique outback landscapes that inspire Drysdale's work, I found the sensory reconnection to the colours, patterns and forms of those regions quite visceral. The exhibition was genuinely immersive in the sheer number and variety of well described works, the bold and absorbing palette and the clear and uncluttered layout. And with the insight gained into her remarkable national and international career all these components combined to create a thoroughly engaging experience.

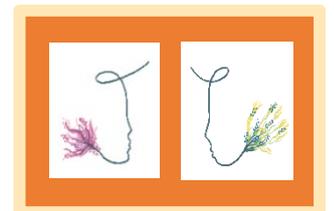


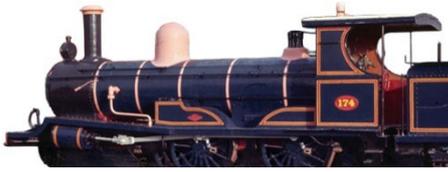
Another highlight was [Once Known](#), a Carrolup Centre for Truth-Telling exhibition presented by the John Curtin Gallery in the Old Perth Boys School on St Georges Terrace. This excellently curated exhibition features reproductions of artworks created by Aboriginal children detained at the Carrolup Native Settlement in the 1940s. When I consider work I do, using advanced technology, I marvel at the imagination, skill and understanding of the environment these children brought to their work using only the most basic materials and limited guidance. The exhibition is sobering in the context of 'detention', yet it is also a powerful celebration of the legacy these young artists have left us. Arts National Perth has arranged a members' visit to this exhibition in early 2026.



Does anyone in Perth *not* know about the extraordinary [Terracotta Warriors](#) at WA Museum Boola Bardip? It is impossible to do this exhibition justice in a single paragraph, but anyone with an interest in society, culture or history cannot help but be awed by the sophistication of the civilisation that produced these works. The exhibition challenges popular narratives that depict the 'West' as the sole centre of advanced customs and technologies in ancient times. Here, comparative achievements in the 'East'– from thousands of years ago – are undeniable. The objects on display reveal a society of remarkable cultural, spiritual, scientific and technical advancement. As with the Carrolup story, there is a bittersweet dimension in the enslavement and suffering of many involved in the creation of these artefacts. Yet by engaging with this exhibition, we honour their contribution to our understanding of human civilisations.

The City of Belmont is not generally regarded as an epicentre of the arts in Western Australia, which made my experience at the [Belmont City Council Art Award](#) exhibition all the more delightful. Held in September at the Council's impressive Glasshouse community venue, the exhibition featured over 300 works and awarded more than \$13,000 in prizes. The opening was a lively and engaging event with many artists present, and I couldn't resist purchasing a two-part artwork that has since become a highlight in our home. Awards such as this foster grassroots enthusiasm for art and deserve strong recognition and support.





Can big, noisy machines be art? Many people think so (who doesn't like a Heath Robinson sketch; and the Manchester Science and Industry Museum in the UK is renowned) and Perth offers several venues to satisfy your inner engineer. [The Rail Heritage Museum](#) in Bassendean is one such place, showcasing the impressive machinery and operational artefacts of Western Australia's rail history. Beyond the steel, carpentry, paintwork, architecture and fittings (including exquisite touches such as the Regal Dining Car tableware), what particularly fascinates me is the social history embedded in these collections. The Museum's archive holds some 32,000 photographs and documents, recording rail operations from the late nineteenth century, when the first government line opened between Geraldton and Northampton in 1879. Many of these images capture insights into everyday life across the diverse communities and industries served by the rail network (photos Rail Heritage WA).



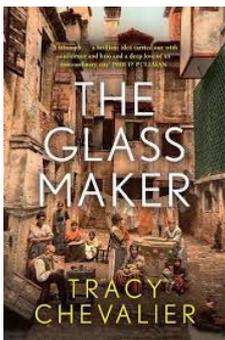
The [National Archives of Australia](#) office in Northbridge offers rotating exhibitions drawn from its extensive collection, providing insight into how Australian identity has evolved – perhaps evoking personal memories of that journey. If you consider the image of someone elegantly swan-diving from the 30-foot platform at Crawley Baths (or even performing a less graceful 'bombie') as a form of art, then it's worth checking what any current exhibition provides. Each thoughtfully curated display explores a different theme, supported by regular curatorial talks that enrich our understanding of the material (photo State Library of WA).



I'm fortunate to have access to such a rich array of people, organisations, exhibitions and collections within our city. While we admire public and private exhibitions we encounter elsewhere, Perth offers a wide range of opportunities to experience art in all its forms. So, get those two legs moving – or wheels, for those who need them – and explore what's on offer close to home.

## Book Review

### **THE GLASS MAKER** by Tracy Chevalier by Anne Day, *The Lane Bookshop*



Best-selling author Tracy Chevalier has produced another marvellous historical novel. *The Glass Maker* transports the reader through time and space, beginning in Venice in 1486, and continuing through to the present day. The glass makers live on the island of Murano, now famous for its centuries-old tradition of glassmaking that attracts tourists from all over the world. The central character of the story, Orsola Rosso, looks on with envy as the men in her family turn molten glass into goblets and bowls, while at the same time carefully observing their techniques. Soon she is making exquisite glass beads worn by empresses and courtesans, and provides a source of much-needed income for her family through devastating times of war and plague.

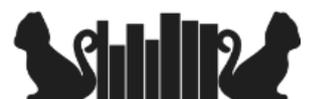
The audacious aspect of this new historical novel is its treatment of time. While we are taken from the height of Renaissance Italy through to the present day, time moves much more slowly on Murano. Decades pass, but the characters age by only a few years, while history, like molten glass, swirls around them and into their lives. We travel through, for example, the Napoleonic era, the two world wars, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

*The Glass Maker* is also a love story, and a fascinating account of the art of glassmaking itself. A beautifully written book about a woman's desire for independence that will appeal to lovers of historical novels.

Order copies [here](#).



Official Arts**National** Perth raffle prize provider



### An Interview with Natalie Cullity

By Di Ingelse, Membership Secretary

Those of you who attended last year's final lecture, about *The Knights Crusaders*, will recall that three of our members (Nigel and Heather Rogers, and Natalie Cullity – photo below) were wearing medals of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, and were acknowledged as members of the Order by lecturer Eileen Goulding.

Knowing little about this order, nor that it existed in Western Australia, I thought our readers would be as intrigued as I was, and asked **Natalie**, shown below in her regalia as Dame of the Order, to tell me more.

You can read a [full article here](#) – but here is a brief summary to whet your appetite.



The Order is an ecumenical Christian Order of Chivalry founded around 1048 AD by Brother Gerard, when monks established a hospital in Jerusalem to care for Christian pilgrims. Dedicated to assisting those in need regardless of race, colour, religion, gender, or nationality, it is the oldest surviving Christian Order of Chivalry.

The Order was established in Australia in 1969 and in Western Australia in 2008. Membership is by invitation only, with male members known as Chevaliers and female members as Dames. The spiritual home of the Western Australian Priory is St George's Cathedral, Perth.

Central to the Order's identity is the Maltese Cross. Its four arms represent the Christian virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance, while its eight points symbolise the Beatitudes. On ceremonial occasions, members wear a red robe bearing a white Maltese Cross and a gilt cross worn on a red riband.

Originally members of the First Crusade, the Knights captured Jerusalem in 1099 and later became a powerful religious and military order, known successively as the Knights of Rhodes and the Knights of Malta. The Order adopted the Benedictine Rule of poverty, chastity, and obedience, formally recognised by a Papal Bull in 1113. After periods in Cyprus and Rhodes, the Knights settled in Malta, famously defending it during the Great Siege of 1565.

Today, the Order's Christian faith remains fundamental to its purpose. The Western Australian Priory supports numerous charitable initiatives, including assistance for veterans, fundraising for Ukraine, and contributions to community and outreach organisations. It also partners with arts and cathedral groups to raise funds for those in need.

Historic, chivalric, and traditional, the Western Australian Priory remains, above all, Christian—guided by beliefs that have sustained the Order for nearly a millennium.

We trust you've enjoyed this edition of our newsletter. Any comments, queries or suggestions please contact [membership@artsnationalperth](mailto:membership@artsnationalperth)

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

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## 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.

*ArtsNational Perth is a wholly volunteer-run organisation. If you would like to help, please [get in touch](#) as many hands make light work.*

### Contact us:

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

Email: [perth@artsnational.au](mailto:perth@artsnational.au)

Website: [www.artsnational.au/societies/perth/](http://www.artsnational.au/societies/perth/)



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