

**Museums
& Galleries
of NSW**

**IM Gine
AWARDS 2025**

inspiring museums and galleries in excellence

Acknowledgement of Country

Museums & Galleries of NSW acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and all the other Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work.

We pay respect to them as First Nations people with continuing connection to land, place, waters and community.

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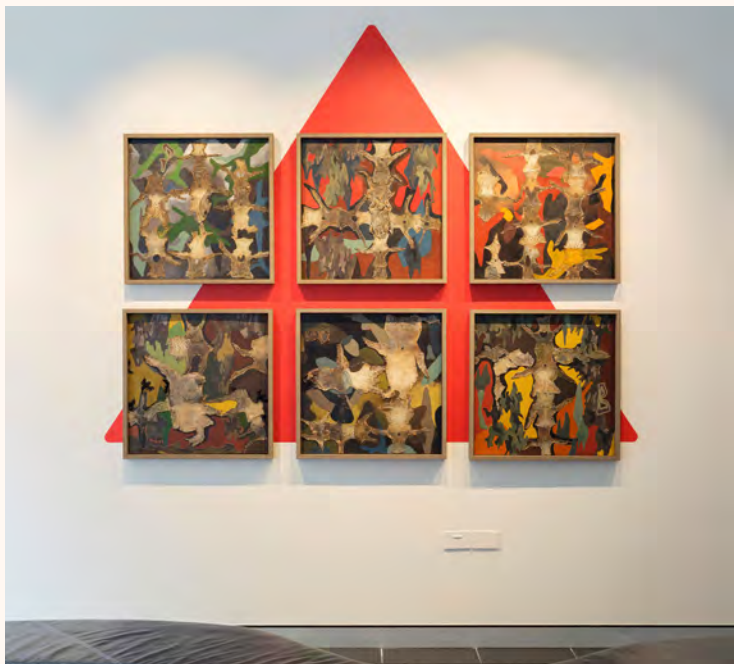
Galleries / Visual Arts Projects

Small or Volunteer Organisations

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

Man&Wah: Propagate|Germinate|Bloom

This major VACS-supported commission transformed 4A into a lush, cosmic botanical environment of sound, film, and large-scale print. Created by Hong Kong-born, Brisbane-based duo Man&Wah, the exhibition intertwined migration, ecology, and identity, offering an immersive, multilingual, and community-driven experience that made contemporary art accessible, inclusive, and deeply connected to place.



Bondi Pavilion Art Gallery

Souter’s Bondi

Curated by Todd Fuller, ***Souter’s Bondi*** celebrated Waverley’s Art Deco Centenary by reuniting David Henry Souter’s iconic Bondi murals with contemporary responses. Featuring works by Gerwyn Davies, Maz Dixon, Billy Bain, Cigdem Aydemir, Anne Zahalka, Samuel Leighton-Dore, Paul Blackmore and Lillian O’Neil, the exhibition reinterpreted Souter’s imagery through contemporary lenses of identity, inclusion and place. Presented in partnership with the Australian National Maritime Museum, the project bridged Bondi’s cultural history with modern perspectives on community and change.



Fairfield City Museum & Gallery

Within Heaven and Earth

Within Heaven and Earth brings together seven artists exploring identity, cultural

Gosford Regional Gallery
25 Moments: Reimagining Twenty-Five Years of Art

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Gosford Regional Gallery reflects on nearly 500 exhibitions since 2000 in **25 Moments: Reimagining Twenty-Five Years of Art**. Featuring 25 key exhibitions and 31 artists, the exhibition highlights the gallery’s curatorial evolution, iconic works, and new commissions, showcasing its enduring impact on the Central Coast’s cultural landscape and contributions to contemporary Australian art.



Goulburn Regional Art Gallery
Horizons

Horizons brought together nine contemporary Australian artists to explore the intersections of body, environment, and the built environment. Spanning photography, sculpture, installation, and video, the exhibition engaged with local and national ecologies, cultural histories, and identity. Bold and multidisciplinary, **Horizons** demonstrated that the gallery continues to champion diverse voices, engage broad audiences and contribute meaningfully to the contemporary arts landscape in NSW and beyond.

Lismore Regional Gallery
*Buruugaa Garaa Buruu Garaa
Budgeramgali (Saltwater People
Freshwater People Stories)*

Co-curated with Melissa Ladkin, this exhibition featured works by Amrita Hepi, Joshua Lynch, Djon Mundine OAM and Uncle Roy Gordon. Exploring spiritual and customary relationships with water through choreography, spoken word and sound, it reflected ancestral knowledge and contemporary storytelling, marking Lismore Regional Gallery's post-flood reopening with a strong First Nations-led vision.



Museum of Art and Culture, yapang
Truth Tell

To understand the present, we must confront the past. *Truth Tell* del

Campbelltown Arts Centre
Marikit Santiago: Proclaim Your Death!

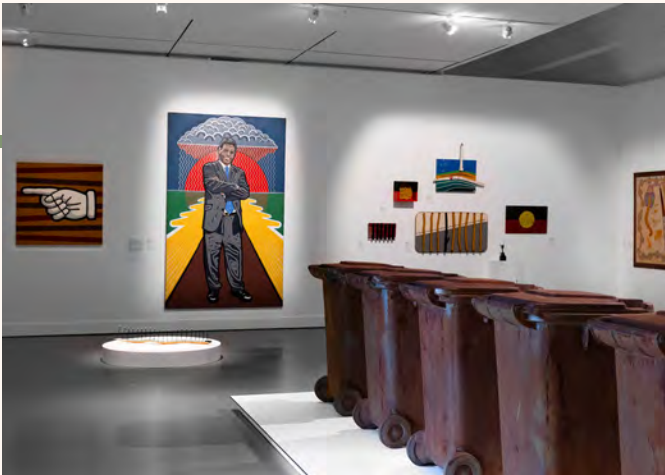
Proclaim Your Death! was a major solo exhibition by Filipino-Australian artist Marikit Santiago. Combining painting, installation, and family collaboration, the exhibition explored displacement, identity, and resilience. Anchored by a large-scale cardboard installation of San Augustin Church and featuring oil paintings, watercolours, and video, it engaged over 500 participants through workshops, public programs, and an education kit, merging personal and collective narratives into a profound dialogue on survival and cultural memory.



Grafton Regional Gallery
True North: From the Forest Floor

Lewers: Penrith Regional Gallery
Blak Douglas: The Halfway Line

Blak Douglas: The Halfway Line was a landmark mid-career survey that traces the artist's thirty-year journey from early graphic design to award-winning portraiture. Co-curated by Djon Mundine OAM and Toby Chapman, the exhibition focused on the emergence of Douglas's iconic aesthetic and voice, speaking truth to power, and attracted record audiences through major loans, new works, and extensive public and education programs.



Lewers: Penrith Regional Gallery
Spot the Difference

Museums/Heritage & Galleries/Visual Arts

Major Metropolitan Institutions

Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney

Mungari: Fishing, Resistance, Return

Mungari celebrated the return of four Gweagal spears taken by James Cook in 1770. Guided by Gweagal descendants and the Dharawal community, the exhibition displayed the spears alongside traditional fishing tools and contemporary works, honouring cultural resilience, continuity of knowledge, and community-led repatriation. Designed as a culturally safe space for truth-telling and community engagement.



Credits

Special thanks to this year’s IMAGinE Awards and ACHAA Awards judges: **ACHAA Board Directors, Amy Mills, Angus Cawdell-Smith, Bren Donnellan, Brett Adlington, Colleen Fitzgerald, M. Sunflower, Rebecca Turnbull, Rebecca Kummerfeld, Sarah Gurich, Yvette Dal Pozzo.**

IMAGinE Awards branding designed by **Kerri Kennedy.**

Image credits

Introduction

iv / Top Image courtesy Kylie Tung. **Bottom** Brett Adlington. Photo: Vanessa Low.

v / Installation view of *Horizons*, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery 2025. Photo: Silversalt Photography.

vi / The Painting Conservation team performing treatments in the natural light of the Sydney lab.

vii / Elric Ringstad, Senior Conservation Framer.

Exhibition Projects – Galleries / Visual Arts

Credits

Exhibition Projects – Museums / Heritage

27 / Top Photo: H Hewson. **Bottom** Courtesy of New South Wales Lancers Memorial Museum.

28 / Top Courtesy of Kiama Historical Society. **Bottom** Courtesy of Port Macquarie Museum.

29 / Top *Villawood: Between Hope and Hopelessness*. Photo: Document Photography. **Bottom** Courtesy of National Trust NSW.

30 / Top *ASSEMBLE: Orange Festival of Arts 1965-1987*, detail. Photo: Kirsten Cunningham. Courtesy of Orange Regional Museum. **Bottom** *Orange 412* interactives. Photo: Kirsten Cunningham. Courtesy of Orange Regional Museum.

31 / Top Photo: Mike Terry. **Bottom** Photo: Sam Townsend.

32 / Top *Colour: Inflexions and Interactions* (2025-26). Courtesy of UNSW Library. **Bottom** *Living Water: 75 years of water research at UNSW* (2024), UNSW Library. Photo: Jacquie Manning.

Credits

Volunteer Achievement Award

69 / Top Barbara Foster Anniversary Event with Stuart Hume. Courtesy of National Trust NSW.
Bottom Courtesy of Kogarah Historical Society.
70 / Top MRAG volunteer invigilator David Williams and Ron Mueck's *Pregnant Woman* 2022, on loan from the National Gallery of Australia. Photo: Leighsa Cox. **Middle** Courtesy of Moree & District Historical Society. **Bottom** Julie Johnstone, S.H. Ervin Gallery volunteer.

ACHAA Awards

71 / Laura Fernando accepts the ACHAA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts on behalf of Donna Biles Fernando, with Aunty Jeanette Crew.
74 / Portrait of Gary Williams.
75 / Top Courtesy of Albury LibraryMuseum. **Bottom** Courtesy of Albury LibraryMuseum.
76 / Top Jonathan Jones. Photo: Mark Pokorny. **Bottom** Exhibition view of *Dhuluny: the war that never ended*, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, 6 July – 8 September 2024, featuring works by Karla Dickens and Augustus Earle. Photo: Silversalt Photography.
77 / Top Photo: Jaccquie Manning. **Bottom** Photo: Live Photography Australia.
78 / Top Photo: Andrew Pearson. Courtesy of Tamworth Regional Council. **Bottom** Courtesy of Tamworth Regional Council.
79 / Top Marika Duczynski, Curator, Indigenous Heritage, Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney. **Bottom**