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Art Almanac

AUSTRALIA'S MONTHLY GUIDE TO EXHIBITIONS AND AWARDS

July 2026 \$10



New Religion
Wayne Eager · Ayako Saito
Ngura Pulka – Epic Country | Archie Moore

Art Almanac Media Kit

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Australia's longest-running art guide

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Ayako Saito, *Velvet Mirror*, 2020, steel, painted, 33.5 x 94 x 16.5cm / Photograph: Ayako Saito / Courtesy the artist and Australian Galleries, Melbourne & Sydney

Ayako Saito *The Sum of my Parts*

Defined by bold colours and clean lines, Ayako Saito's sculptural practice spans steel, bronze, and paper. Her upcoming exhibition, *The Sum of my Parts*, brings together her various mediums and styles with old and new works.

Well known for her large Sculpture by the Sea monolithic and inherently robust objects, the exhibition instead turns to Saito's experimental practice that allows her medium to bend and shift into her expressive shapes. The works become experimental, and in a sense allow for a testing of her larger works, which recently saw her awarded the 2025 'Mid-Career' Helen Lempriere Scholarship from Sculpture by the Sea, present a monumental work at the University of Sydney, and install a large sculpture in High Court Sydney's courtyard.

Saito shares that the form comes first; the twisting, curving, angular motif is seen throughout her steel, bronze, and paper sculptures. Each resolved, original, and complete. Ever inspired by the artist's fascination by the physicality and the memory of space. The material defines how they are interpreted. Each medium brings its own quality to the forefront, and even the colours are an extension of this philosophy. "The colour has to match the character of the form," she says.

Appearing ever moving and in a state of flux, Saito's works for *The Sum of my Parts* display a holistically immersive practice, a cycle of inspiration.

21 July to 8 August 2026
Melbourne

EMMA-KATE WILSON IS AN ART CRITIC AND DESIGN WRITER BASED ON RUNDALLING COUNTRY IN NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Australian Galleries
Melbourne & Sydney

26 Two up

Ngura Pulka – Epic Country

WORDS SASHA GRISHIN

Ngura Pulka – Epic Country is a spectacular exhibition of thirty huge paintings by forty-nine First Nations artists of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. Their subject is the desert country and tjukurpa – ancestral stories/Dreamings – of the Anangu in South Australia's north-west.

Scale is one of the distinguishing features of the works in this show, with most of the paintings three-by-three metres and the largest, three-by-five metres. There is also a huge diversity in styles and approaches in the paintings in the exhibition, from the explosive energy of Nyumiti Burton's *Seven Sisters Tjukurpa*, 2021, the gestural freedom of Barbara Moore's *Ngayuku Ngura (My Country)*, 2021, and the subtle magic of Matjangka Nyukana Norris' *Ngura Pitji*, 2021. The exhibition brings together a rollcall of some of the great names in APY art, including Betty Chinney, Betty Kuntiwa Pumani, Margaret Richards, Zaachariah Fielding, Betty Muffler, Kunmanara (Nellie Ngampa) Coulthard, and many others.

"... to impress and dazzle ..."

The National Gallery of Australia's dramatic display is accompanied by a selection of thirteen works by APY artists drawn from the national collection and shown in a neighbouring gallery. If the aim was to impress and dazzle a broad audience with a large and stunning exhibition of First Nations art, then *Ngura Pulka – Epic Country* is an outstanding success. In the words of the gallery's head curator, First Nations art, Tina Baum (Gulumirgin (Larrakia)/Wardaman/Karajarri peoples), it is a show of "Epic stories, epic scale, epic country."



APY Women's Regional Collaborative, *Ngura Pulka – Epic Country*, 2022 / © the artists, APY Art Centre Collective / Courtesy APY Art Centre Collective

Review 27

PRESSURE *Architecture, Process and the Print Studio*

Tin Sheds Gallery
Until 24 July 2026
Sydney

Through selected materials and works from two studios, Sydney's PUBLISHER Press and New York's art PRESSURE investigates printmaking as both an artistic medium and a rigorous pedagogical tool.

By showcasing the often-overlooked mechanics of process and allowing final works to be experienced alongside sketches, tools, and videos that define them, the deliberate slowness and labour-intensive mechanics of craft are made visible, with gallery technology turned printmaking workshop, the physical actions of separation, reversal, pressure, and repetition that define the medium, and the workshop, are revealed.



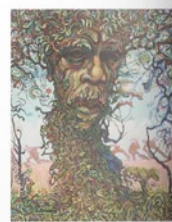
Press, *Pressure*, 2020, offset and ink on paper, 100 x 100cm / Courtesy the artist and PUBLISHER Press, Sydney

Justin Pearson *Integration*

Bowral Art Gallery
1 to 14 July 2026
New South Wales

New South Wales artist Justin Pearson is known for painting fleeting and whimsical moments in mythology and everyday life.

Integrating the natural world's steady presence of trees and vines into the fluid movement of the human face and figure, the works of *Integration* feature ink-drawn heads based on photos close-ups of facial sculptures that affected the artist – then integrated into larger oil landscapes. These combined images provide a collective memory, creating a poetic gesture where expressions and linguistic energy and voice.



Justin Pearson, *Integration*, 2020, oil and ink on paper, 100 x 100cm / Courtesy the artist and Bowral Art Gallery, New South Wales

Wendy Sharpe *Into the Dark*

The Lock Up Contemporary Art Space
18 July to 13 September 2026
New South Wales

Counting the Archibald, Sulman, Calverley Art, and Adelaide Perry Art prizes among her award wins, Sydney and Paris-based artist Wendy Sharpe is known for expressive works that celebrate and observe the human condition.

Featuring a line-painted mural, temporary light sculpture installations, and new commissions, *Into the Dark* responds to the climate crisis, the decline of truth, and to war, by confronting our collective fears of the darkness plaguing our world today. Sharpe asks whether naming our dread can transform psychosis into awareness and resistance.



Wendy Sharpe, *Into the Dark*, 2020, oil and ink on paper, 100 x 100cm / Photograph: Justin Sheldrake / Courtesy the artist

Brian Robinson *Multiverse*

Newcastle Art Gallery
Until 30 August 2026
New South Wales

Cairns-based Torres Strait Islander artist Brian Robinson is known for printmaking, sculpture, video, and public art, and a graphic language that blends contemporary cultural icons with Torres Strait material design, which means decoration, design, or patterns in Kala Lagun Ya – the traditional language of Mabuaig, Boda, and Maa Islands.

Microscopic flower prints, larger-than-life sculptures, and a digital animation experience are among more than thirty works spanning history, imagination, mythology, and richly detailed narratives. In *Multiverse*, ancient stories, sea creatures, and superheroes collide and collide.



Brian Robinson, *Multiverse*, 2020, offset and ink on paper, 100 x 100cm / Courtesy the artist and Newcastle Art Gallery, New South Wales

38 Select exhibitions

Select exhibitions 39

About

Established in 1974, **Art Almanac** is Australia's longest-running art guide. Published monthly (with a combined December–January edition), our complete guide to galleries and services also includes a monthly 'what's on' in exhibitions, awards, artist opportunities, and industry offerings – with casual rates and bespoke annual packages available.

Our guide is enriched by curated editorial, including contributions by some of Australia's finest arts writers.

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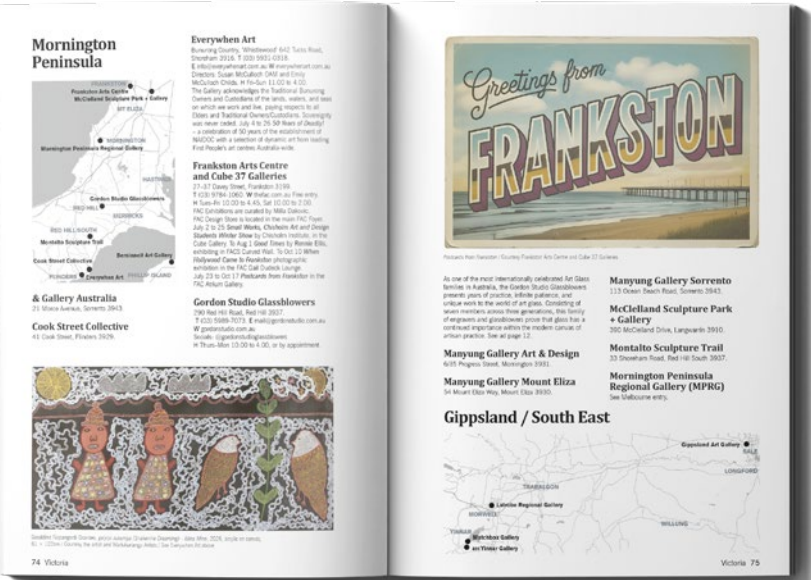
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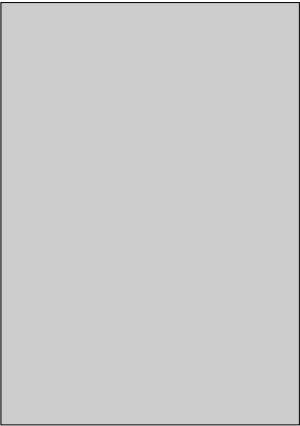


Print Deadlines 2026

* Dates subject to change

Issue	Deadline	On Sale
August issue	1 July	2 August
September issue	31 July	31 August
October issue	2 September	5 October
November issue	30 September	2 November
Dec 26 / Jan 27 issue	30 October	30 November

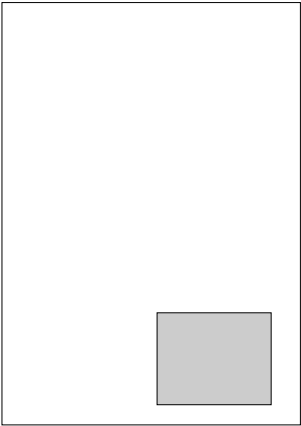
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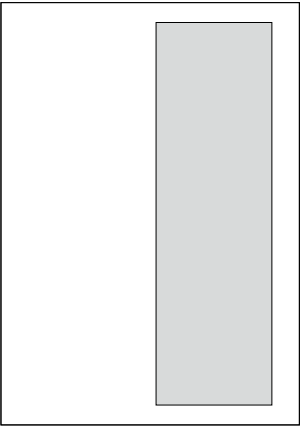
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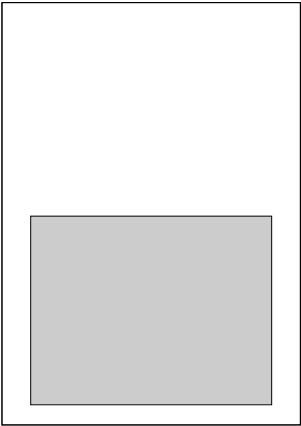
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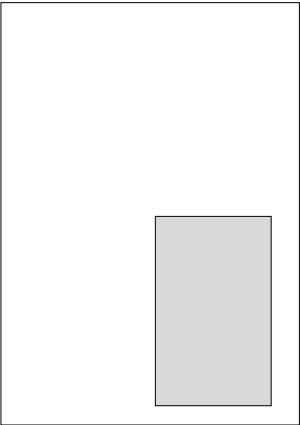
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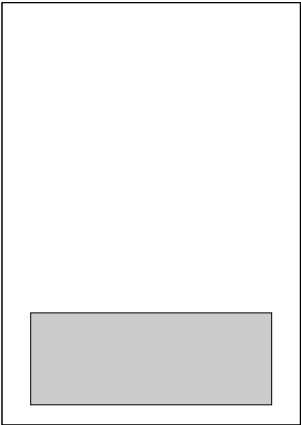
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Listings

We offer three ways to promote your gallery, exhibitions, awards, and art industry services.

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Line Listing price of \$9 per line (minimum 5 lines). A line comprises 6 to 8 words. Charge excludes the gallery name and address. \$90 for an image in print (in addition to minimum Line Listing).

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Claire Jaque Vassouet, *Dry Spell*, 2025, acrylic and impasto on canvas, 120 x 135cm / Courtesy the artist and Vivian Anderson Gallery / See page 65

Armadale Malvern



Foundation Print Studio Gallery
2 Willis Street, Armadale 3143. T (03) 9509-1782.
E fire@fps.org.au W fps.org.au Director: Liz McDowell.
H Wed-Sat 11.00 to 4.00.
To July 4 *Etched*: FPS members exhibition.
July 7 to 25 *Print Club's Making an Impression*, FPS members and non-members exhibition. The Gallery is pleased to bring together works from its talented community of Print Club participants across Lino Club, Reduction Lino Club, Intaglio Club, and Letterpress Club. Celebration and People's Choice awards July 25, 4-5pm.

Libby Edwards Galleries
Station Street, Malvern 3144.

Malvern Artists' Society Gallery
1297-1299 High Street, Malvern 3144.

Manyung Gallery Malvern
6-10 Claremont Avenue, Malvern 3144.

Hawthorn



Ladder Art Space

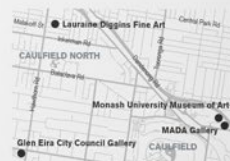
81 Denmark Street, Kew 3101. T (03) 9852-8772.
E info@ladderartspace.com.au
W ladderartspace.com.au H Tues-Sat 11.30 to 5.00. Closed public holidays, and outside exhibition dates. Exhibition catalogues will be available via their website. July 4 to 25 (Opening Fri July 3, 6-8pm) *Fragments of Nature* by Svea Wan-Ching Chang. Also, *Inner mirror*, *Inverted space* by Emilija Kasumovic. And, *The Demon Dance* by Katherine Nicholas.

Quadrant Gallery + Art Advisory
72 Bakers Road, Hawthorn 3122.

Town Hall Gallery

360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn 3122.
T (03) 9278-4770. E arts@bororoondara.vic.gov.au
W bororoondara.vic.gov.au/arts H Mon-Fri 9.00 to 5.00. Sat 12.00 to 4.00. Closed public holidays.
To July 25 *Wall of Magic Creatures* by Kate Belyon. Interact with a wall of soft-sculptural fantastic figures inspired by the Lunar zodiac. Also, *Slow Read* turns attention to the printed page and to quiet, deliberate acts of looking and reading. Presented in partnership with Melbourne Writers Festival, featuring artists: Jacky Cheng, Zoi Croggon, Julie Gough, Gracia & Louise, Nadia Hernández, Deborah Kelly, Martin King, David Noonan, and Jayda Wilson. *Overcoming Adversity* by Geoff Dosseter – explores artistic expression after a life-altering injury.
July 1 to Aug 15 *Nourish* by Joanne 'budgie' Jamieson, highlights the beauty of everyday objects.

Caulfield Elsternwick



Gallery Sunari

444 Centre Road, Bentleigh 3204.

Glen Eira City Council Gallery

Cnr Glen Eira and Hawthorn roads, Caulfield 3162.
T (03) 9524-3333. W gleneira.vic.gov.au/gallery
Curator: Diane Soumias. Free entry.
H Mon-Fri 10.00 to 5.00, Sat-Sun 1.00 to 5.00. Closed public holidays and between exhibitions.
To July 5 *Artists in focus: Stories from the Council's art collection*. July 9 to Aug 9 *Glen Eira Artists Society annual exhibition*. Also, *Sea and Clouds* by Dominique Dunstan.



Joanne 'budgie' Jamieson, *Nourish*, 2025, oil on canvas board, 64.5 x 74.5cm / Courtesy the artist and Town Hall Gallery

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Art Almanac

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ART AWARDS & PRIZES

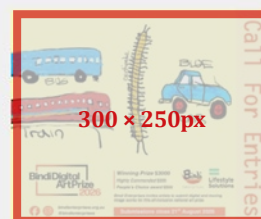
OPPORTUNITIES



John Brack × Noel McKenna
A face in the mirror

"John Brack (1920–99) and Noel McKenna (1956–) were both keen observers of life – of people, their behavioural patterns, and of their surroundings. The two artists never met and McKenna, who was thirty-six years younger than Brack, told me that many years ago he had approached Brack with a proposal to paint his portrait for the Archibald Prize and received a blunt, 'no, not interested' response from the Brack camp." **Sasha Grishin** reviews.

National Portrait Gallery
Until 19 July 2026
Australian Capital Territory



Jennifer Cromarty
Domestic Life



BLAZE