

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Acknowledgement of Country

Newcastle Art Space acknowledges the Awabakal and Worimi peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and create in Muloobinba/Newcastle.

We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the rich traditions and continuing creative cultures of all First Nations people of Australia.



Image: RECLAIM opening night
3 November 2023
Cover Image: HEAP 2023

ABOUT US

Newcastle Art Space (NAS) is a crucial entry point for emerging artists and those rekindling their professional arts practice in the Hunter Region. For more than 40 years, we have been bringing artists together and supporting their creative and professional development - from those launching their careers through to established practitioners seeking to evolve their practice and share knowledge.

For artists, we provide a vital link to fellow artists and arts industry professionals, and forge connections to audiences and buyers. For the community, we offer opportunities to experience art and engage with artists through exhibitions, talks, workshops and events.

We are located in O Block, an old painters and decorators teaching shed at Tighes Hill TAFE in Newcastle/Muloobinba. Clay Room Tighes Hill is housed alongside NAS in O Block, providing clay workshops and classes for all skill levels. This vibrant and bustling education and production space for all things clay engages more than 200 students each year, adding to the dynamism and creative exchange on offer on site. Inside, NAS is an accessible and appealing exhibition venue. The gallery is available for low-cost rental and operates through a mix of open calls and in-house proposals. This is a supportive environment for artists, especially those new to exhibiting. Exhibitors benefit from our growing and diversifying audience base, along with the gallery's solid sales history.

Our hub of more than 20 studios provides spaces for individual and collaborative creative development. The diversity of artists provides an environment where peers can benefit from incidental support and learning, along with access to NAS creative and professional development programming.

Our annual program of prizes includes the prestigious Hunter Emerging Art Prize. We also offer an annual Mentorship Program which pairs emerging artists and curators with established professionals. With this opportunity, NAS positions itself as a centre for emerging artists in the Hunter Region, a place where risks, experimentation and collaboration are actively encouraged. The program involves professional development and networking opportunities, and culminates in a major exhibition at NAS.

Our strategic plan articulates our aim to expand these offerings to host a rich annual program of masterclasses, workshops, residencies and internships.



Image: Installation view of Aidan Gageler's
The Giver, NAS May 2023

OUR VISION

We give Hunter-based visual artists opportunities to develop and thrive, creatively and professionally.

NAS is a hub that nurtures strong, experimental and diverse contemporary visual arts practice through its sought-after programs and co-located gallery, studios and access spaces. We offer significant creative and professional development opportunities through our mentorships, residencies, workshops, exhibitions, prizes, and by forging supportive links to our alumni, other artists, arts industry professionals and audiences. In everything we do, we strive to model sustainability and best practice, and be good partners.

OUR VALUES

WAYFINDING	PROVIDING CAREER ENTRY POINTS AND PATHWAYS
DYNAMISM	FACILITATING INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY
RAPPORT	BUILDING SUPPORT AMONG PEERS AND PROFESSIONALS
DIVERSITY	RESPECTING AND EMBRACING DIFFERENCE
INTEGRITY	LEADING BY EXAMPLE IN SUSTAINABILITY AND BEST PRACTICE

OUR MISSION

- **NURTURE A CREATIVE HUB**
- **ELEVATE HUNTER-BASED ARTISTS**
- **REFLECT A DIVERSE COMMUNITY**
- **COLLABORATE AND BUILD PARTNERSHIPS**
- **MODEL SUSTAINABILITY AND BEST PRACTICE**

GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors has worked to strengthen and re-energise the organisation following the crisis of COVID and its aftermath. In 2023, we were able to address many strategic projects that had been moving slowly or put to one side during the previous years.

The main objective was to improve our governance framework through a major overhaul of our constitution and development of a new strategic plan. We completed work to revise the constitution in late 2023 thanks to generous pro bono assistance from Sparke Helmore Lawyers. The new Strategic Plan was put out for consultation mid-2023 and finalised later in the year.

NEW CONSTITUTION

The previous NAS Constitution was adopted in April 2007. Since then, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) was established and has become NAS's primary regulator. The ACNC sets standards which all registered charities and its governing board members must meet in order to maintain charity registration. The ACNC published a template constitution for companies limited by guarantee which includes best practice governance procedures and which the ACNC encourages all registered charities that are incorporated as companies limited by guarantee to adopt.

With this in mind, the directors sought assistance from legal firm Sparke Helmore Lawyers to prepare a new constitution. We sincerely thank Julien Castaldi, Isabelle Hazell and the Sparke Helmore Pro Bono Team for their excellent work.

Our new constitution:

- Brings NAS's governing document into line with current ACNC models and standards.
- Introduces simpler processes for membership, including a more flexible clause with respect to membership fees which allows the directors to determine the application fee amount and annual subscription fee amount (if any) and a due date for payment.
- Provides a clearer process for election and succession of the directors, with each director required to retire/stand for renomination at least once every three years.
- Improves the function of general meetings (members' meetings), including new clauses that clarify how members can propose resolutions and statements.
- Amends clauses to address recent changes to the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) regarding the administration of Cultural Organisations (the deductible gift recipient endorsement category NAS is registered as).

STRATEGIC PLAN

To mark the 'mid-life' milestone of NAS turning 40 this year, the directors worked to define and redefine our organisation and its role in our region's rich and growing cultural scene. The process involved studio artists, members, volunteers, arts professionals, partner organisations and other friends of NAS.

We believe the new Strategic Plan 2023-2028 captures many of the fresh ideas that have been bubbling up around the organisation and brings new clarity to our approach.

This five-year vision aims to sharpen our focus yet widen our lens. Within the local arts ecology, NAS has evolved as a crucial entry point for emerging artists and those rekindling their professional arts practice. Over the coming years, we aim to make that entry point more accessible and inclusive, and to nurture a creative hub that lifts up and supports Hunter-based artists through relevant programming, ethical partnerships and new opportunities to collaborate.

Strengthening organisational funding and improving our accommodation will be key issues for the organisation over the coming five years. These priorities are clearly articulated in the new strategic plan and will drive our actions and decisions.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The 2023 year brought a shift in our financial strategy, with a new staff structure and a commitment to diversifying our income streams through our programming, membership and fundraising. Underpinning our financial strategy is a strong commitment to provide appropriate resources to improve services and value to our studio artists, members, exhibitors, mentors, and all users and visitors.

NAS ended the year with a deficit of \$8,260, in line with our increased investment in staffing in the second half of 2023. Cash reserves remain sound, sitting at \$85,876 at 31 December 2023, a reduction of \$3,372 from the previous EOY.

Our income includes funds from prize entries and hosting fees, gallery hire and sales, masterclass fees and membership. Strong sales in the gallery of more than \$35,000 in 2023 reflect a full, diverse and appealing gallery program and new audience development initiatives.

In addition to these income streams, we are planning to increase revenue in 2024 through grants, donations and targeted fundraising. It is hoped that increased income from these sources will assist to better serve our studio artists and members, and provide for the future. In 2023 non-rental sources of income accounted for 40% of NAS income, up from 33% the previous year.



Image: NAS staff Jo Dyer, Jennie Williams,
Madeleine K. Snow

OUR PEOPLE

Our people include our Board of Directors, staff team, contractors, volunteers and project collaborators, as well as our studio artists, mentors, mentees and members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board is elected by the membership, with a balance of practicing artists, arts professionals and people with the skills, expertise and connections needed to lead and manage the organisation.

BOARD

Justin Hamilton
Tom Lambie
Dan Nelson
Courtney Novak
James Rhodes
Chris Tola
Caroline Traill
Karen Wells
Tony Sansom (Chair) - Resigned July 2023.

Current 1 May 2024

STAFF TEAM

Our current staff team includes three part-time staff – a Creative Programs Manager, a Finance and Systems Coordinator, and an Admin and Membership Coordinator.

The team is relatively new, following the departure of Business Manager Leah Fawthrop in August 2023. We take the opportunity below to introduce our new talent and acknowledge the contributions made by Leah and others in recent years.

CURRENT STAFF

Madeleine K. Snow – Manager Creative Programs
Jo Dyer – Finance and Systems Coordinator
Jennie Williams – Admin and Membership Coordinator
Greg Meyne – Building maintenance

Current at 1 May 2024

CURRENT STAFF

Madeleine K. Snow is the Creative Programs Manager at NAS. She commenced this role in August 2023 and is responsible for the creative direction of the art space, including curating exhibitions, managing public programs and art prizes. Madeleine has extensive experience in the arts industry, working in arts management, education and curating. She is a published art history writer and cultural producer.

She curated *Female Drivers*, an exhibition for Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG), as well as *Seeing Red* for The Lock Up (TLU). *Seeing Red* was part of Hunter Red, a Hunter-wide collaboration across arts institutions including Newcastle Art Gallery, MAC Yapang, MRAG and TLU. Madeleine also works as a Fine Arts Teacher at Hunter TAFE in the field of Art History and Museum Practice. She was previously the Visual Art Producer for This is Not Art (TiNA) and now sits on the TiNA Board.

Madeleine has worked in the museum and gallery sector at Casula Powerhouse Art Centre, Liverpool Regional Museum, Penrith Regional Gallery, Lismore Regional Gallery, and the then named Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery (now MAC Yapang). She began her career as a Teacher/Lecturer at the Art Gallery of NSW and as a Museum Educator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney. Madeleine is passionate about working with artists both emerging and established, and curating exhibitions.

Jo Dyer is the Finance and Systems Coordinator. She commenced the newly created role in July 2023 and is primarily responsible for bookkeeping, website maintenance and the ongoing improvement of the organisation's administrative processes.

Jo has over 15 years' experience as both a practising artist and in administrative roles, having worked primarily in the architecture industry in Newcastle and Melbourne since 2012. Jo graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Newcastle in 2008, majoring in Creative Arts. She has since completed a Diploma in Business Administration (2016) and a Master of Fine Art from RMIT (2024).

As an artist, Jo works across disciplines including painting, installation and assemblage. She was a finalist for painting in the Newcastle Emerging Art Prize in 2013 (now the Hunter Emerging Art Prize) and has had solo exhibitions in Newcastle, Sydney and Melbourne. Despite fitting the stereotype of 'the creative', Jo is equally passionate about her administrative work and feels it is truly her dream job to work as part of the NAS team to facilitate and support the smooth operation of Newcastle Art Space and the delivery of its creative program.

Jennie Williams is the Admin and Membership Coordinator. She is also a new resident studio artist at NAS in the field of ceramics, and recently completed a Diploma of Ceramics at Newcastle Art School Hunter TAFE. She has extensive experience in customer service, retail and administrative roles. Jennie has also worked for SBS Television in the subtitling and language services departments.

Jennie brings to NAS her energy and enthusiasm for working with people, and particularly liaising with the team of studio artists and volunteers.

PREVIOUS STAFF

Leah Fawthrop left her position as Business Manager in August 2023, having worked across administrative and creative programming at NAS since early 2019.

Through her initiative, the organisation has taken our professional development programming online with a series of video tutorials on the NAS website, including the excellent interview with Belinda Street and Rachel Milne about how to enter art prizes. She fostered a partnership with Curious Legends to access substantial federal funding for micro-grants and small-scale creative projects designed to re-establish audiences and markets following the COVID lockdowns. She also continued the NAS internship program into 2021, providing opportunities for three new and talented artworkers to learn with us.

Leah helped secure additional sponsors for the Hunter Emerging Art Prize, allowing us to expand our prize offering, and worked with curator Louise Faulkner to bring the highly successful 'Clouds' and 'Clouds 2022' exhibitions to NAS.

The mentorship program also continued, and under her management a new 'Date-a-Curator' event was added, bringing in curators from the region's public and private galleries to meet with the mentees. This successful event has become part of the annual program and provides a unique opportunity for emerging artists to meet with and present their work to curators and other arts professionals.

We acknowledge these significant contributions and thank Leah for her role at NAS.



Image: NAS exhibition installer
Flynn Doran

CONTRACTORS

NAS's 2020/21 intern and Curatorial Mentee 2021/22 **Leah Poi** went on to provide much-needed administrative, programming and curatorial support as a volunteer and contractor prior to and during 2023. We acknowledge her generosity and substantial contribution to NAS over the past four years.

Ash Campbell, a NAS intern in 2019/20, has also provided much-needed administrative, programming and curatorial support during past years as both a contractor and volunteer.

Professional installation contractor **Flynn Doran** has brought his efficiency and finesse to our exhibition installs and made improvements in the workings of the gallery during the year. In addition installation for Reclaim was done by contractor **Tom Zagami** and **Rob Cleworth** has assisted with installation and lighting.

Installation contractor **Marlene Houston** installed 'Unframed', our first exhibition for 2023.

STUDIO ARTISTS

We achieved close to full occupation of our studios in 2023. Our 25 resident artists represent a diversity of practices including painting, photography, ceramics, textiles, installation and interdisciplinary approaches.



Image: Artist Paula Thistleton in her studio

CURRENT STUDIO ARTISTS

Michael Bateman

Virginia Cuppaidge

Flynn Doran – until Dec 2023

Jayde Farrell – until May 2023

Nick Fintan – from Oct 2023

Jim Griffiths

Jessica Gilbert

Frances Johnston

Richard Kearney

Hide Kobayashi – from Apr 2024

Jess Kellar – from Jan 2024

Joerg Lehmann

Kim Long (The Clay Room)

Jaymie Maley

Annemarie Murland

Dan Nelson

Marilyn O'Brien

Leah Poi – until Dec 2023

Sara Prince – from Oct 2023

Jackie Smallcombe

Ali Sobel-Read

Paula Thistleton

Dane Tobias

Caroline Traill

Eila Vinwynn

Joh Waller – until May 2023

Current 1 May 2024

VOLUNTEERS

From mid-year Melanie McKinnon and then Jennie Williams coordinated our team of volunteers. We thank everyone who helped out in 2023, especially if your name is not captured below. Anyone interested in volunteering at NAS in 2024 can get in touch with jennie@newcastleartspace.org.au to find out how to get involved.

Sarah Berhane

Max Blanch

Ellie Dombkins

Clare Finlay

Nick Fintan

Jessica Gilbert

Jim Griffiths

Frances Johnston

Alana Lerch

Kim Long

Jaymie Maley

Melanie McKinnon

Melanie Meggs

Den Milenkovic

Dan Nelson

Leah Poi

Sara Prince

Ali Sobel Read

Jon Siffleet

Leah Stevens

Paula Thistleton

Caroline Traill

Leigh Wardle

Derek and Arlene Wilson



Image: Volunteers Max Blanch and Leigh Wardle at the opening of SUMMER SALT, December 2023

OUR PARTNERS



CLAY ROOM TIGHES HILL

Clay Room Tighes Hill is housed in the NAS Building at 91 Chinchin St and provides clay workshops and classes for the community. We engage in cross-promotion and collaborative projects involving the Clay Room and encourage the incidental creative exchange that happens with students visiting the art space.



THE NEWCASTLE CLUB FOUNDATION

NAS partners with The Newcastle Club Foundation in delivering and promoting The Newcastle Club Foundation Art Prize, which provides \$15,000 in prize money to artists annually. In 2023, the Foundation also generously sponsored the major prize of \$5000 in NAS's Hunter Emerging Art Prize.

SPONSORS

HEAP 2023

The Newcastle Club Foundation
Stevens Conveyancing
Frame Today
This Is Not Art
Moir Landscape Architecture
The Squires Family Trust in Memory of Jody Robinson
Eckersley's voucher

\$5000 Overall Prize
\$1,000 Painting Prize
\$1000 Photomedia & \$1000 Works on Paper Prizes
\$1000 Experimental Prize
\$1000 Sculpture Prize
\$1000 Youth Prize
\$250 People's Choice

THE SQUIRES FAMILY TRUST
IN MEMORY OF JODY ROBINSON



2023

3000+

Estimated
Gallery visitors

\$35K+

Artwork sales

25 Studio
artists

22+

Volunteers

**Hunter
Emerging Art
Prize 2023**

194

Entries into HEAP

\$11K

Prizes given for HEAP

350+

Artists exhibited
at NAS

**Newcastle Club
Foundation
Art Prize**

\$15K

Prizes given for NCF
Art Prize

119

Entries into NCF Art Prize

9

Exhibitions

+

2

Master
classes

5.5K+
Instagram
followers

**Mentorship
Program**

55 + 4
Artists Curators

Total participants in our
Mentorship Programs in
2022/23 and 2023/24

4 Mentorship
Professional
Development &
Networking
sessions held

PROGRAMS

We continued to strengthen and expand our programs in 2023, with a full and diverse exhibition program, an Aboriginal residency project, new masterclasses and participation in the IGN Art Fair.

The successful exhibition *State of Clay* has sparked us to follow up, with an exciting new clay-focused show to feature in our program for 2024. The Ninuku Arts Studio Residency Cultural Exchange was a deeply enriching addition to this year's program, as was Michael Bell's Masterclass. This masterclass, along with Pablo Tapia's painting demonstration signalled our commitment to reinvigorating our hands-on workshops and artist-led presentations at NAS.

In conjunction with the Independent Galleries Network's Art Fair, in May we hosted a Meet the Curators session which provided a valuable opportunity for studio artists to meet with new staff from Newcastle Art Gallery (NAG). We were eager to hear about the major redevelopment of the gallery and NAG staff took the opportunity to visit artists' individual studios and hear about their practice.

In June we hosted sessions on Cash flow for Creatives and Networking for Creatives, sponsored by This is Not Art, Creative +Business, and Business Connect.



Image: Newcastle Regional Art Gallery staff visited NAS studio artists at the IGN Art Fair Open Studio Day, July 2023



EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition programming saw NAS present a diverse mix of shows featuring established artists alongside emerging voices in Newcastle and the Hunter in 2023. NAS presented nine exhibitions in 2023, involving 350 artists, attracting an estimated audience of more than 3000 and yielding \$35,000 in art sales.

The program was representative of the NAS model for exhibitions – a mix of group and solo hire, responses to artist call-outs, collaborations with partners such as The Clay Room, Major art prizes, the Mentorship Exhibition, and special exhibitions from guest curators. *Reclaim* for artists with traumatic and acquired brain injury was curated by guest Curator Ash Campbell, while *Summer Salt* saw more than 60 artists respond to a call out and included a Ceramic Christmas Market with the Clay Room and local band The Breachers performing at the opening night. Aidan Gageler's solo exhibition followed his success at winning the 2023 Hunter Emerging Art Prize, and the popular *State of Clay* was a group hire by recent graduates in ceramics from Hunter TAFE.



2023 EXHIBITION PROGRAM

3-19 MARCH – GROUP SHOW – UNFRAMED

31 MARCH-16 APRIL – HUNTER EMERGING ART PRIZE 2023

5-26 MAY – AIDAN GAGELER – THE GIVER

3-23 JUNE – GROUP SHOW – WINTER SOLSTICE

1-21 JULY – MENTORSHIP EXHIBITION – TILT

9-17 SEPTEMBER – GROUP SHOW – STATE OF CLAY

29 SEPTEMBER-15 OCTOBER – NEWCASTLE CLUB FOUNDATION ART PRIZE

1-16 NOVEMBER – GROUP SHOW – RECLAIM

1-17 DECEMBER – GROUP SHOW – SUMMER SALT + CLAY ROOM

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The NAS Mentorship Program is designed to connect, exchange, and engage artists, fostering a supportive and collegial environment for artistic growth.

By facilitating these interactions, we aim to inspire new directions and creative developments through the active exchange of ideas.

We encourage participants to make incremental yet impactful changes, emphasising the power of subtle shifts over drastic ones. Our Mentorship initiative celebrates both emerging and established artists from our region, promoting new collaborations and exploring diverse artistic connections. It also speaks to our exhibition programming, which is driven by presenting a dynamic mix of emerging voices side by side with established artists.



Image: 22/23 Mentor James Drinkwater with Mentee and studio artist Jessica Gilbert

MENTORSHIPS IN 2023

The 2022/23 Mentorship Program saw 32 artists and 2 curators participate in the program, culminating in a final exhibition and publication, *TILT*, which launched in July 2023.

While these metrics outline the structure of the Mentorship Program, its true essence lies in the creative dialogue, opportunities for experimentation, and the expansive growth it fosters among participants. The program has provided a platform for dynamic creative exchanges in 2023.

Our 2022/23 Curatorial Mentee, Kar Mun Phoon worked with that year's cohort to produce a zine documented the process of the Mentorship Program through to the realisation of the exhibition.

There was also an activation of Studio 4 for an installation, and this space continues to be used as an installation and multimedia space into 2024.

A new Mentorship Program for 2023/24 began in October, engaging 25 artists and 2 curators.

MENTORSHIP SESSIONS

2022/23 PROGRAM

Feb 2023 Session 1- Social Media Workshop

Ticketed event open to the public

May 2023 Session 2 - Gallery Considerations

Session 3 - Framing Considerations

Ticketed events open to the public

July 2023 Session 4 - Date a Curator - separate sessions for private and public gallery professionals

2023/24 PROGRAM

Oct 2023 Session 1 - Introductions - NEW Mentors and Mentee get to know you session.

Dec 2023 Session 2 - Mentorship Artists' Practice - this session designed for artists to share their work and current practice

Apr 2024 Session 3 - Artist Talks - this session by exhibiting artist Jen Denzin (Mentor) on her exhibition Alpha + Omega and Mentee presentation by Syann Williams on her international artist residency to Laos.

May 2024

Session 4 - Curatorial Session - Planning for the exhibition at NAS with Wednesday Sutherland and Peter Johnson

June 2024 Session 5 - Professional Development Workshop for artists 'Articulating your Practice'

August 2024 Session 6 - Date a Curator - separate sessions for private and public gallery professionals to meet with the Mentorship group

MENTORS & MENTEES

2022/23 PROGRAM

CURATORIAL:

Kar Mun Phoon - Madeleine K. Snow (mentor)

MENTORS - MENTEES:

Nicola Bolton - Aksara Hariram

Michelle Brodie - Bianca Vern-Barnett

Emma Clifton - Aidan Gageler

Amanda Donohue - Donna Jorna

James Drinkwater - Jessica Gilbert

Jacqui Garcia - Kulka Fahey

Peter Gardiner - Bronte Naylor

Tom Ireland - Jake Watts

Joerg Lehmann - Bernie Heald

Louisa Magrics - Skye Rollicking

Rachel Milne - Kimberley Swan

Nigel Milsom - Robert Carter

Barb Nanshe - Jana Flint

Peter Tilley - Laura Bishop

Graham Wilson - Elizabeth McDonald

Ali Sobel-Read - Elisa Krey

2023/24 PROGRAM

CURATORIAL:

Wednesday Sutherland - Peter Johnson (mentor)

MENTORS - MENTEES

Lottie Consalvo - Megan Farquhar

Jen Denzin - Samantha Walsh

Helen Dunkerley - Ramona Raven

Ellie Hannon - Syann Williams

Anne Kempton - Laure de Vaugelas

Annemarie Murland - Jaymie Maley

Louisa Magrics - Shaana-anne Crisp

Wilma Simmons - Sara Prince

Nigel Milsom/Pablo Tapia - Constance McInerney

Pablo Tapia - Nick Howley

Peter Tilley - Max Allan Blanch

Leslie Tilley - Lexie Worboys

Clare Weeks - Chris Brown



MASTERCLASSES

On 18 November 2023, we hosted a mixed media creative workshop with renowned artist Michael Bell. This workshop targeting artists invited participants to explore various mediums and innovative approaches to enhance their creative practices.

Michael Bell is a nationally recognised artist with over 40 years of experience. He has held 24 solo exhibitions and participated in over 200 group shows. He has been a finalist twice in The Archibald Prize and five times in The Sulman Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW. His diverse portfolio includes designing graphics, posters, and illustrations for ABC Books, Triple J Radio, Mambo, and The Castanet Club. Bell is also a talented educator with extensive experience mentoring both emerging and established creatives.

On 7 December 2023, NAS hosted a free painting demonstration by artist **Pablo Tapia** titled 'Painting Like Clarice Beckett'. This was a live demonstration providing an in-depth exploration of the principles and methodology of Clarice Beckett's artistic process.

Pablo's demonstration celebrated the Australian Tonal Impressionist movement's enduring legacy, showcasing its relevance and vitality in contemporary art.

Attendees gained valuable insights into the techniques that have shaped some of Australia's most well-known artworks.



Image above: Artist Michael Bell at his exhibition *For the Love of DOG* at Manning Regional Gallery, 2022

Image left: Michael Bell's Masterclass at Newcastle Art Space, November 2023



Image above: Hunter Emerging Art Prize opening

PRIZES

HUNTER EMERGING ART PRIZE

The Hunter Emerging Art Prize (HEAP) is a our region's premier annual art prize supporting the work of artists who identify as emerging. The finalists' exhibition at NAS is a significant focus fostering opportunities for emerging creatives in the Hunter. The judges are local arts industry experts. In 2023 they were Graeme Wilson, Madeleine K. Snow and Courtney Wagner. Aiden Gageler was the winner in 2023 and went on to be selected as a finalist in the prestigious Ramsay Art Prize for contemporary art at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

We thank our generous 2023 sponsors: The Newcastle Club Foundation, Stevens Conveyancing, Frame Today, This Is Not Art, Moir Landscape Architecture, The Squires Family Trust in Memory of Jody Robinson and Eckersley's.

NEWCASTLE CLUB FOUNDATION ART PRIZE

The Newcastle Club Foundation Art Prize is an annual prize valued at \$15,000 which supports artists who reside or have a connection with Newcastle and the Hunter. To date it has been focused on painting, with a new theme developed each year.

This prize is managed by NAS with the semi-finalist exhibition held in the gallery and culminates in the finalist exhibition held at the Club.



Image: 2023 prize winner Paul Maher with his work



Image: Ninuku Arts Cultural Exchange
November 2023

NEW PROJECTS

NINUKU ARTS CULTURAL EXCHANGE RESIDENCY

Through a series of working bees, Studio 10 was activated as a project space in 2023 beginning with a cultural exchange from Ninuku Arts from 23 October -1 November 2023. This initiative saw us welcome visiting artists from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. This exchange and connection between Ninuku Arts and Newcastle Art Space was established by studio artist, Eila Vinwynn, during her time managing the centre in recent years.

We were honoured to welcome Yangi Yangi Fox, her daughter Renae Fox, Carol Young, her niece Cassaria Young-Hogan, and Linda Eddy, who traveled from some of the most remote communities in the APY Lands. Ninuku Arts, located in Kalka, a desert community near the South Australia and Western Australia border, has a rich tradition and creative community. Yangi Yangi Fox, a cultural leader and Board Member of Ninuku Arts, is also the Deputy Chair and former Director of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council. Celebrated for her work as a Tjanpi Desert Weaver, Yangi Yangi has exhibited both nationally and internationally.

This cultural exchange provided a unique opportunity for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Novocastrians to deepen their understanding of Anangu culture. The highlight of the exchange was a BBQ lunch held on October 28, where the community had the chance to meet the artists, visit the new studio, and view works in progress created during their residency in Newcastle. These works were subsequently exhibited in the NAS end of year exhibition Summer Salt.

Into 2024, we will continue to consider Studio 10 and other studios in NAS as potential multi-use spaces for collaborations, residencies, workshops and other projects.



Image: Installation view of 22/23 Mentorship show TILT
featuring works by (from left) Bianca Vern-Barnett,
Peter Tilley, Jessica Gilbert and Rachel Milne
Image credit: Chris Brown

NAS
NEWCASTLE
ART SPACE

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Office hours:
Wednesday 10am – 2pm
Thursday 10am – 2pm
Friday 10am – 2pm

Please note the gallery is closed when
there is no exhibition.

Gallery hours during exhibitions:
Thursday - Friday 10am – 2pm
Saturday – Sunday 12pm – 4pm