



Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN GALLERY

25
YEARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2023 as we celebrated the Gallery's 25th year, we underwent significant changes and re-positioning to better place the Gallery on a firm footing for the future.

We began the year in a new position within the University structure following the disbanding of the Corporate Relations Directorate with the retirement of Vice President, Val Raubenheimer. The Gallery now sits within the Vice-Chancellery, reporting to the Chief Advancement Officer. The other major change include the retirement of Gallery Director Chris Malcolm mid-year.

The Gallery's Vision and Strategic Directions have been aligned with the new Curtin Strategic Plan 2023, which focusses on three Goals: People, Planet, and Partnerships.

In 2023, the Gallery delivered an excellent exhibition program with a return to four seasons, and with support from our external partners BHP, Lotterywest, Perth Festival and Wesfarmers Arts, and Lendlease, and visitor numbers have rebounded.

The highlight of the program for me was the delivery of the highly anticipated second iteration of the Regional Arts Triennial, *Open Borders*, and the opportunity to work with so many talented and inspiring regional arts practitioners.

Lotterywest and Gilbert and Tobin's support enabled the employment of three new staff members and the introduction of regular education and engagement programs under the umbrella of the Carrolup Centre for Truth-telling.

Since the establishment of the Carrolup Centre in 2020 the work of the Gallery in this space has expanded considerably and whilst The Herbert Mayer Collection of Carrolup Artwork continues to lie at the heart of what we do, there is now a much-expanded collection, significant engagement programs, and two major capital works programs sitting under this umbrella.

We loaned 12 facsimile artworks from the Carrolup Collection to the Sydney Biennale to appear in a curated exhibition at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney, between February and June 2024. Two works from the University Art Collection were included in the Exhibition "State of Abstraction" at the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Interim Director Jane King presented three papers at the International University Museums and Collections Conference held in August at University of Sydney, Chau Chak Wing Museum. Several JCG staff attended the AMAGA National Conference in Newcastle earlier in the year and facilitated a group presentation on the Digital Arts for Life project undertaken in 2022 in partnership with DADAA, AGWA, and the Faculty of Allied Health.

The 2024 Exhibition Program has been released with a full calendar of exceptional exhibitions across four major seasons. Highlights include the second iteration of the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial – IOTA 24, and a touring exhibition from AGNSW *Brett Whiteley: Inside the Studio*.

Jane King
Interim Director
December 2023.



Students participating in mural making as part of proppaNow public program, February 2023. Photo Catherine Peattie.



ABOUT

OUR VISION

is to be one of Australia's leading public art galleries, making tomorrow better through the power of art.

OUR PURPOSE

is to inspire audiences and the broader community to reflect on contemporary issues through the visual arts and to create a more just and equitable world.

OUR MISSION

is to deliver exhibitions and programs and build our Collection to reflect the needs of our community, making art accessible for all.



OCCurrent Affair, proppaNOW, installation view. Photo Brad Coleman.

OUR GOALS

PEOPLE

Objective	Initiative	Outcomes 2023
Student Experience	Be embedded in campus life delivering student focused programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued major collaboration with Fine Arts Discipline area involving students at all levels participating in Gallery-based activities. Week-long series of activities for Orientation Week February 2023 Delivered 3 x 2 hour mindfulness and drawing workshops for School of Allied Health August 2023. Delivered curated Truth-telling experiences to 18 Curtin student groups.
	Provide professional development opportunities for emerging professionals including student placements, Curtin Extra, and Earn while you Learn opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 student internships provided Active member of Student as Partners working group on campus.
Staff Engagement / Faculty relationships:	Continue to develop strong links to faculty to enable our world leading research to be showcased to the community through public program activities and research based exhibitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Cross-faculty call-out for proposals to present research as part of weekly Speaker Series. Hosted Speaker series talks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Kit Messham-Muir Distinguished Prof Kingsley Dixon AO Prof Josh Byrne Ongoing collaboration with Curtin Writers responding to exhibitions concludes at end of 2023 with launch of 25 for 25 book. Case study presented jointly at UMAC23 Conference. All JCG exhibitions and publications now being recognised through <i>Elements</i> led by Faculty of Humanities Dean of Research Continuing to work with School of Allied Health to deliver further mindfulness workshops in 2024. Ongoing Metaverse Carrolup Project with Faculty of Humanities
Community Belonging	Deliver a robust exhibition program built on socially conscious thought-provoking themes.	<p>JCG Bentley</p> <p>Bunuru:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth Festival Exhibition: <i>However vast the darkness</i> <i>OCCurrent Affair</i>, proppNOW Carrolup coolingah wirn – The Spirit of Carrolup Children <p>Djeran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A Decade of Carrolup</i> <i>Birdiya Maya exhibition – homelessness research project.</i> <p>Djilba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Open Borders – Regional Arts Triennial</i> <p>Kambarang</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>John Stringer Prize 2023</i> <i>Little Treasures</i>

		<p>Touring Exhibitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Alternative Archive</i> (via AOTM) <p># Exhibitions: 8 # Total Visitors YTD: 26,482 (2022: 25,992) # Publications: 5 # Public Program events: 102 (2022 – 90) # Truth-telling experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 18 school groups ○ 15 private groups ○ 25 public events ○ 12 key stakeholder experiences ○ 3 On Country experiences.
	Listen to and respond to feedback from our audiences, expand our virtual audiences, and ensure accessibility for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Counts Impact report Net Promoter Score 56 • # E-Newsletter subscribers: 2,684 (2022: 2,548) • # Facebook followers: 4,061 (2022: 3,901) • # Instagram followers: 4,298 (2022: 3,941) <p>Media coverage: # Radio/TV interviews: 7 # Feature Articles/mentions: 68 ASR \$256.8 Reach: 962K</p>



PLANET

Objective	Initiative	Outcomes 2023
Sustainable Development Goals	Link our Exhibitions and programs thematically to the UNSDGs, and inspire our audiences to create a more just and equitable world	<p>Themes explored in 2023 exhibition program included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Gender Equality • 7 Affordable and Clean Energy • 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth • 10 Reduced Inequalities • 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities • 13 Climate Action • 15 Life on Land • 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
Sustainable Operation	Develop a plan to move to Net Zero in operations, including power usage, paint, plastic waste.	<p>Continue to re-use materials. Moved to carbon neutral printing. Installed waste system for PPE. Implemented meat-free catering at major events.</p>
Secure Sustainable funding	To enable ongoing Collection acquisitions and an engaging exhibition program.	<p>Secured three-year funding to 2024 for <i>John Stringer Prize</i> through Lendlease sponsorship. Relaunched the Donor Circle as The Navigators in late 2022. Successful application to Lotterywest for 2-year funding for Carrolup Centre engagement 2023/24.</p>
Global Impact	The Gallery engages across our global campuses and allows opportunities for exchanges via our participation in IOTA triennials	Plans well underway for IOTA 2024 with new artist residency program and exchanges.



PARTNERSHIPS

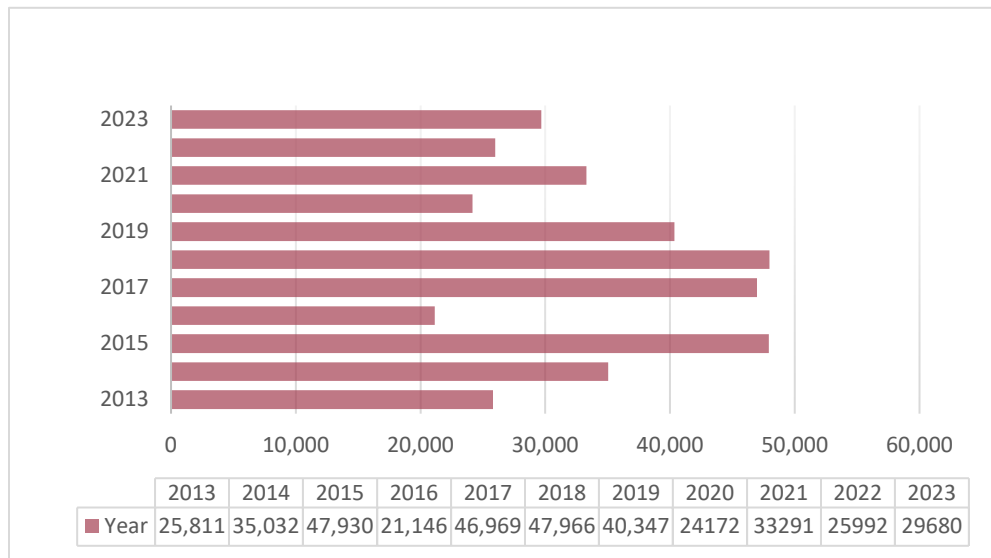
Objective	Initiative	Outcomes 2023
First Nations Voice and Perspective	Continue to develop our engagement around the Stolen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition <i>OCCurrent Affair</i>, proppaNOW • Exhibition: <i>A Decade of Carrolup & Birdiya Maya</i>

	Generations and Truth-telling through our Carrolup Collection and exhibitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in “Programs of Discomfort: Pathways to Healing” Truth-telling Round Table convened by Danjoo Koorliny, Forrest Research Centre, WA Museum and University of Glasgow. • Truth-telling experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 18 school groups ○ 15 private groups ○ 25 public events ○ 12 key stakeholder experiences ○ 3 On Country experiences. •
Strong Relationships	Play an active leadership role across the Museums and Galleries sector through peak bodies and associations and through sector-wide initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of AMAGA, CACWA, AoTM, NAVA, UAMA, CiMAM, Artsource. • Major contributor to Open Borders Summit held at JCG and UWA in August 2023 attended by more than 80 regional delegates. • Attended conferences and presented papers at: UMAC2023, AMAGA National Conference Newcastle, ReMix Summit, State Heritage Conference. • In preparation for <i>RAT Open Borders</i>, staff visited regional exhibitions in Narrogin, Margaret River and Bunbury.
	Open a new Carrolup Centre Portal at 139SGT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned opening delayed to early 2024
	JCG will strengthen existing relationships/partnerships and pursue new ones for future collaborations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town of Victoria Park Arts Season • City of South Perth: Emerge Arts Festival • Australian Baroque <i>The Brush and The Bow - Nov 16</i> • The Collectors Club – John Stringer Prize • Museums and Galleries NSW and UQ Art Museum, <i>OCCurrent Affair</i>, proppaNOW • Art on The Move, AMAGA, Galleries West, Southern Forest Arts and Regional Hubs Network: <i>Open Borders</i>
Community Outcomes	Through partnerships provide commissioning and residency opportunities for artists, and acquire new works for the University Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 new works acquired for the University Art Collection in 2023 plus photos, letters and postcards relating to the Carrolup Story. • 3,309 total works in Collection • \$23.8 million value of Collection • 533 works on Campus Display • Loan out: Ben Joel, <i>Down to the fissures</i>, and Andrew Leslie, <i>Rotate</i>, on loan to AGWA for their exhibition ‘State of Abstraction’ which opens 4/11 at AGWA. • Collection Exhibition: ‘Little Treasures’ curated by interns Dr Duncan McKay, Hanna Gunn and JCG staff member Paul Boyes. • Three Public Art tours delivered as part of the Vic Park art season in April were well attended.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023

ATTENDANCE

Attendance figures continued to recover but are yet to return to pre-pandemic numbers.



8
exhibition
s



102
Public
Program
Events



29,680
visitors



146
artists
exhibited

EXHIBITIONS

Season 1 Bunuru

However Vast the Darkness
OCCurrent Affair – proppaNOW
Carrolup coolingah wirn

10 Feb – 16 April

Season 2 Djeran

A Decade of Carrolup
Birdiya Maya

12 May – 9 July

Season 3 Djilba

Open Borders

11 August – 8 October

Season 4 Kambarang

John Stringer Prize
Little Treasures

3 November – 10 December

TOURING EXHIBITIONS

The Alternative Archive (via AOTM)

27 Jan – 12 Mar
Goldfields Arts Centre
28 Jul -24 Sep
Carnarvon Library and Gallery
7 Oct 23 – 21 Jan 24
Bunbury Regional Art Gallery



COLLECTION

ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

CULTURAL GIFTS PROGRAM

- John Beard, *Rout 1*, donated by Bob Poolman

DEED OF GIFT:

- Kelsey Ashe, *Land of a thousand myths*, donated by Kelsey Ashe.
- Allan Baker series of sketch books, donated by Su Baker to also be included in *The Strelley Mob* exhibition 2024
- Ben Joel, *Portrait of Elizabeth Jolley*, donated by Amy Finlay-Jones
- D Khan, *Untitled*, donated by Penelope Esberey
- James Dabb, *Untitled*, donated by Margery Freeman
- Reynold Hart, *Untitled x 2*, donated by Margery Freeman
- Bella Kelly, *Untitled*, work on paper, donated by Wendy Carter
- Carrolup Research Material donated by David Melling
- Malcolm Ellis, *Untitled*, painting, donated by David Melling
- Carrolup Research Material donated by Ursula Schappi, including postcards of Carrolup artworks
- Carrolup Research Material donated by Margaret Lobo, including photos and letters

PURCHASED:

- Three ceramic artworks by Glenn Barkley
- Work on paper by Betty Bundamurra from the recent exhibition *Open Borders*.
- *Untitled* work on paper by James Dabb
- 12 artworks purchased from the 2022 student graduate exhibition, including paintings, ceramics, works on paper and video.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

- Building 105 Refurbishment and relocation of *Tree Forms*, Howard Taylor.
- Building 215. Installation of *Delineate*, Matthew McVeigh, donated 2022
- Building 316 New Super Sciences Building, preliminary scoping.
- Building 610 SKA facility, scoping proposed mural
- Reflection Garden – small sculptural commission
- Stadium Precinct Project (Dome)
- Bench relocation *Other Views*, Walter Jack, commissioned 2019.
- Building 200A CCTT redevelopment, including relocation of existing work *Jacks or Better*, Lou Lambert



3,309 total artworks
in Collection



\$23.8M value of
Collection



28 acquisitions

CARROLUP

Staffing and management

Michelle Broun's 2-year contract as the Curator Australian First Nations Art has now ended.

Kathleen Toomath continued as Carrolup Manager until October 2023, and then transitioned into the new position of Carrolup Cultural Advisor.

The new Lotterywest Grant enabled us to recruit three new staff members including Ron Bradfield Jnr to the team.

Programming

We started the year with the Truth-telling Exhibition *OCCurrent Affair*, by Brisbane based collective ProppNOW, which formed an important part of our Perth Festival Program.

A Decade of Carrolup in our second season, presented many opportunities for school excursions, and community groups to learn more about the Carrolup Story.



School holiday workshops. Phot Catherine Peattie

Fundraising and partnerships

Funding from our 3-year BHP agreement came to an end, but we have been fortunate to have secured further multi-year program funding from Lotterywest.



A Decade of Carrolup exhibition opening. Photo: Brad Coleman



4,061
followers



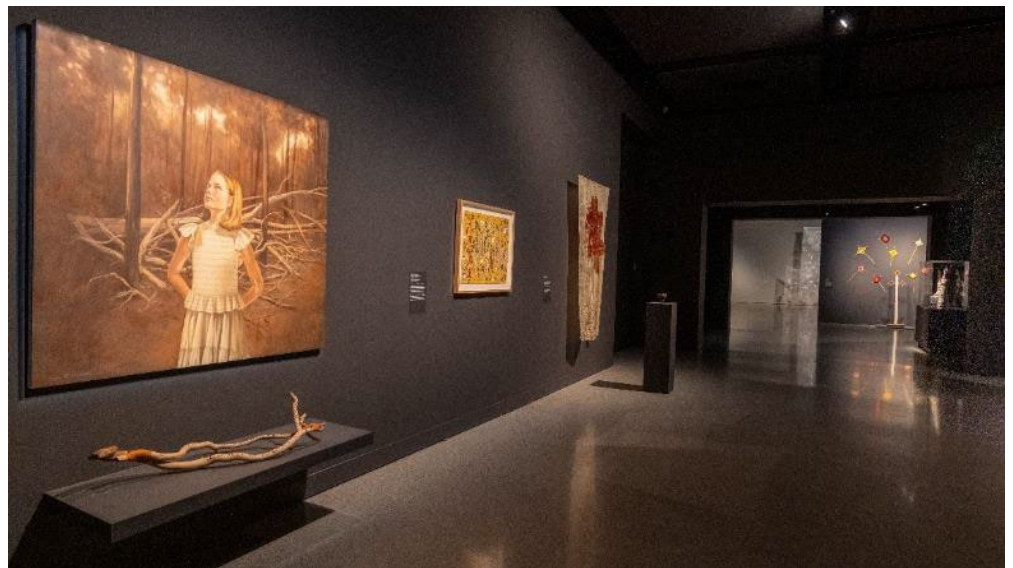
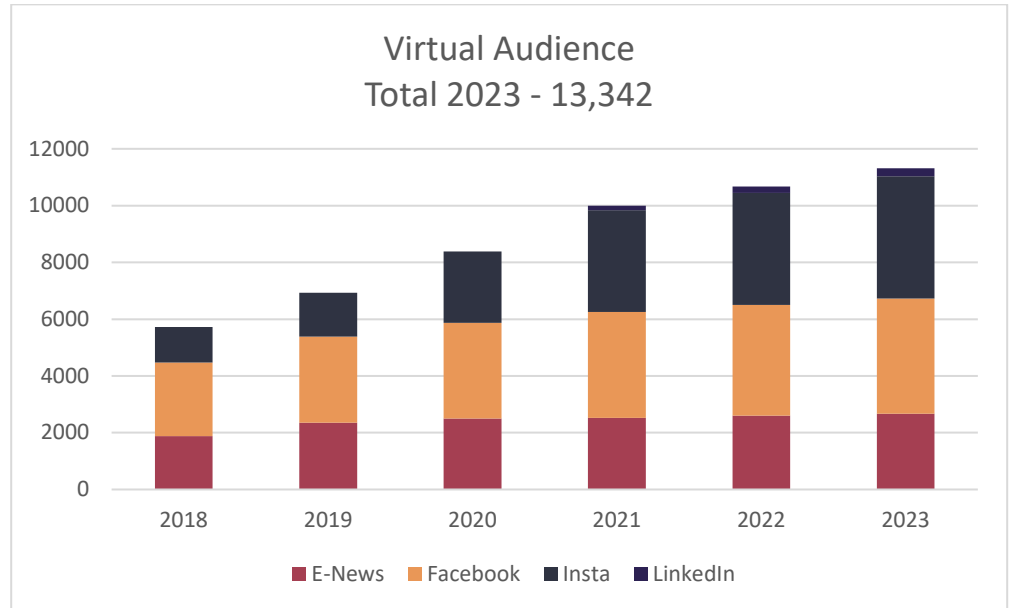
4,298
followers



291
followers

ENGAGEMENT

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT



Open Borders exhibition, installation view. Photo: Brad Coleman

PUBLICATIONS

Three exhibition catalogues, the anthology *25 for 25*, and the 2024 Program booklet, were produced in 2023.



25 for 25 Book Launch. Photo: Brad Coleman



PHILANTHROPY

THE NAVIGATORS

The Navigators Program continues to grow and is our premier philanthropy vehicle.

SPONSOR/PARTNERS

Perth Festival: As we celebrated a 25 year partnership with the Perth Festival they continued to support our 2023 exhibition, as well as inclusion in the Festival Program and associated marketing and promotion.

Lendlease Ltd

Lendlease continued as Presenting Partner supporting the John Stringer Prize 2023.

BHP

BHP was the major supporter for our Carrolup Program. 2023 was the final year of the 3-year agreement.

Lotterywest

2023 marked year one of a new multi-year funding agreement with Lotterywest to support The Carrolup Centre Engagement Program.

GRANTS

Successful:

DLGSC

Lotterywest

Open Borders 2023

Carrolup Centre + Engagement



The Award event for the John Stringer Prize 2023



OUR PEOPLE

JOHN CURTIN GALLERY ADVISORY BOARD

Mr John Barrington (Chair from January 2021) (First meeting May 2019)

Mr Marcus Canning (First meeting August 2019)

Ms. Delwyn Everard, (First meeting February 2019)

Mr Chris Malcolm (Director, John Curtin Gallery) (First meeting August 2009 – February 2023)

Mr Tim McInnis, Chief Advancement Officer (First meeting February 2019 – November 2023)

Mr Tim Urquhart, Director, Properties, Facilities and Development (First meeting February 2018)

Executive Officer: Ms. Jane King, Deputy Director, John Curtin Gallery (First meeting November 2017)

CARROLUP ELDERS REFERENCE GROUP

(to August 2023)

Mr Tony Hansen, Chair

Mr Ezzard Flowers

Mr Garry Ryder

Mrs. Dorothy (Dot) Bagshaw

Mr Jim Morrison

Ms. Hannah McGlade

Curtin members:

Ms. Jayde Conway, Office of the Elder in Residence

Mr Chris Malcolm, Director, JCG (until June 2023)

Emeritus Professor Steve Mickler, MCASI

Ms. Kathleen Toomath, Carrolup Manager, JCG

Minute Secretary: Ms. Patti Belletty, Gallery Administrative Coordinator

CARROLUP CENTRE FOR TRUTH-TELLING REFERENCE GROUP

This new Reference Group replaces the former CERG and has a broader remit in line with the goals of the Carrolup Centre for Truth-telling. The first meeting of the new CCTRG will be in early 2024.



Gallery staff Carrolup On Country tour August 2022. L-R David Reid, Brad Coleman, Sharon Baker, Chris Malcolm, Olivia Jones, Patti Belletty, Sue-Lyn Moyle, Sean Mitchell, Matt McAlpine, Graeme Burge, Jann Thompson, Jacqui Monks, Cat Battersby, Kathleen Toomath, Jane King, Lia McKnight, Rae Walter.

STAFF

Director	Chris Malcolm (until June 2023)
Director	Jane King (from July 2023)
Gallery Manager	Cathryn Battersby (from July 2023)
Curator	Lia McKnight (from March 2023)
Collection Manager	Barbara Cotter
Cultural Advisor	Kathleen Toomath
Community Engagement Coordinator	Ron Bradfield Jnr
Administrative Coordinator	Patti Belletty
Comms Coordinator	Sue-Lyn Moyle (LWOP)
	Sharon Baker
Visual Comms Coordinator	Brad Coleman
Communications Assistant	Lauren Hancock-Coffey
Education Coordinator/s	Catherine Peattie. Cornah Willis (until August 2023)
Exhibitions Registrar	Jacqui Monks
Collection Officer – Campus Display	Mikaela Miller
Collection Officer	Jess Day
Collection Officer – Carrolup	Lisa Liebetrau
Collections Assistant	Carlie Germs, Elyssa Hunt, Bethan Power
Gallery Assistant	Tarryn Gill, Rae Walter, Mary Peck
Gallery Attendants	Cathy Blanchflower, Carlie Germs, Bethan Power, Brad Coleman, Jacqui Monks, Patti Belletty.
Production Coordinator	Jann Thompson (LWOP)/ David Reid
Installation Assistants	Bjoern Rainer-Adamson, Sean Mitchell, Jacob Kotzee, Mir Ng, Sebastian Befumo, Adam Derums, Samuel Bruce, Robbie Harrold, Ryan Marano, Marie Bray, Nina Juniper, Tarryn Gill, Brad Coleman.
Gallery Interns:	Bethan Power, Hanna Gunn, Lauren Hancock-Coffey, Duncan McKay, Dana Al Odeh, Jesse James.