

2025

Annual Report



NETS
VICTORIA.

NETS Victoria acknowledges and pays respect to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters on which our office is based. We acknowledge neighbouring Boonwurrung/Bunurong, and the wider Kulin Nation.

NETS Victoria also pays respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands and seas across Victoria and throughout Australia and acknowledges Elders past and present. Working across Country would not be possible without the continuing custodianship of Australia's First Peoples of their unceded lands. It is our privilege to work on Country. NETS Victoria pays our deepest respects to Country and those who have looked after it.

NETS Victoria works towards supporting regional Victorians and regional Australians and connecting them with extraordinary contemporary art, craft and design. This means that NETS Victoria has the opportunity to work with many First Nations artists, curators, professionals and communities. NETS Victoria thanks them for sharing their knowledge, cultural expressions and stories.



Above and Front cover:
Visitor viewing Maree Clarke,
Water Memory 2025, artwork
in the exhibition *EXCHANGE*
at Blak Dot Gallery.
Photo: Simon Fazio
Maree Clarke is represented
by Vivien Anderson Gallery
EXCHANGE was a Blak Dot
Gallery exhibition, curated
by Dr Kimba Thompson and
Catherine Hunt, supported
by NETS Victoria 2025.

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Kait James

Installation View: *Miss Red Flag 2024* and *Treaty Barbie 2024–2025*, Ararat Gallery TAMA.

Photo: MDP Photography

Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc

Presented in *Kait James: Red Flags*, a Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibition, curated by Aaron Bradbrook and touring nationally with NETS Victoria 2024–2027.

Our Vision & Goals

VISION

Our vision is for regional communities to be inspired and connected through access to authentic and cutting-edge contemporary art that challenges the status-quo, celebrates multiple viewpoints, and is valued as part of the State's vibrant culture and economy.

GOALS

We will deliver a bold, forward-thinking and inclusive Artistic Program that reflects the diversity of contemporary Australian artists and their stories.

We will achieve the funds to grow and support our team through taking an innovative and courageous approach to diversifying our income streams and extending our strategic partnerships.

We will be led by our values and demonstrate our commitment to community engagement, diversity and inclusion in both the work that we do and the ways in which we do it.

OUR VALUES

Collaborative Leadership: We listen and we lead.

Empowerment: We make space for new voices, grow space through our sector development and capacity building work, and hold space through active and authentic allyship.

Radical Transparency: We share openly what we do, why we do it, and how.

Integrity: We demonstrate best practice, respect and ethical courage.

Diversity: We celebrate the cultural and social advantages that diversity brings, and proactively remove barriers to inclusion to empower regionally engaged contemporary art audiences across Victoria and throughout Australia.

Chair's Report

2025 has been a year of meaningful growth, deepened commitments, and important transitions for NETS Victoria.

At the heart of our work this year, was a continued investment in First Nations leadership, partnership, and creative expression. We are proud to have achieved our goals under our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, building on last year's momentum. We strengthened strategies in cultural procurement, learning, communication, recruitment, retention, and professional development.

It is deeply gratifying that our Artistic Program continues to centre First Nations voices across the exhibitions *Between Waves*, *ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together)*, *Kait James: Red Flags*, *EXCHANGE*, and *HOME 25: Invisible Cities*. In 2025 we presented 30 Australian First Nations artists and five Australian First Nations curators, outcomes that continue to inform our ambitions in 2026.

We reopened the Exhibition Development Fund for new applications in March 2025, inviting bold curatorial projects that engage with contemporary art, craft, and design, with the aim for those works to tour across Victoria. Through this funding, we seek to continue amplifying under-represented voices, fostering partnerships, and nurturing exhibition concepts that might otherwise struggle to find their first expression.

A particular highlight was awarding the 2025 Exhibition Development Fund (EDF) to the Koorie Heritage Trust for *Journey Among Men*, a deeply significant First Peoples-led mentorship and exhibition project. This funding supports not just artistic production, but the transmission of cultural knowledge and practice, rooted in community, Country, and intergenerational care.

We were fortunate to present exhibitions in collaboration with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Bunjil Place Gallery and Warrnambool Art Gallery. On behalf of the board, I extend our sincere thanks to Tony Ellwood AM and the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) for their continued support of NETS Victoria's offices and operations. These valued partnerships are essential to a connected and vibrant visual arts sector and enable NETS Victoria's advocacy, ambassadorial, and capacity-building roles.

This year we welcomed Dr Jessica Clark (palawa/pallawah) to our Board, strengthening our governance with deeply informed First Nations curatorial experience. I would like to thank all of our Board members for their commitment, generosity, and insight: Tammy Wong Hulbert (Deputy Chair), Amy Cao (Treasurer), Claire Watson (Secretary), David Sequeira (Chair of Artistic Program Advisory Committee), Jessica Clark, Nicole Monteiro, Nasalifya Namwinga, Rachel Arndt and David Cross.

We were also thrilled to see Wadawurrung artist Kait James join our Artistic Program Advisory Committee and First Nations Advisory Committee. Her expertise and experience brings invaluable perspective.

Our Artistic Program Advisory Committee provided exceptional oversight this year of our Exhibition Development Fund and I thank them for their support. My sincere thanks go to David Sequeira (Chair), David Fitzsimmons, Kait James, Eugenia Lim and Eric Nash. I acknowledge and thank the members we farewelled this year, Myles Russell-Cook and Yhonnie Scarce, their guidance has shaped NETS Victoria's path in meaningful ways.

Special thanks to the Chair of our First Nations Advisory Committee Steven Rhall, who alongside Kait James has provided invaluable insights and recommendations for strengthening cultural safety in our organisation.

Our commitment to touring and equitable access was reinforced by *EXCHANGE*, a powerful group exhibition presented at Blak Dot Gallery, featuring eight First Nations artists from Naarm. This exhibition reflected the vital importance of exchange, not just of ideas or materials, but of culture, histories, obligations, and care.

On a national level, NETS Victoria has continued our participation in the NETS Australia network, contributing to a new national survey that asks artists, curators, and cultural workers for feedback on how to make exhibition touring more accessible, inclusive, and contemporary. Voices in this survey will help shape the future of touring in Australia— thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Across sector advocacy and engagement events this year, I was delighted to personally participate in the TOPSOIL professional development workshop *Building Cultural Safety in Creative Workplaces* at Shepparton Art Museum supported by Riverlinks, and to deliver the opening address for *Kait James: Red Flags* at Ararat Gallery TAMA. I also co-convoked the panel *Wilful Subversions: The Future of Touring Exhibitions?* with NETS Victoria Director Claire Watson as part of *Unruly Objects* at the AAANZ Conference held at the University of Western Australia in Boorloo/Perth. I am very proud of the important contribution being made by NETS Victoria to discourse and cultural change in touring contemporary art.

This year has however marked a bittersweet moment: our Director, Claire Watson, announced she will conclude her time at NETS Victoria at the end of the year. Claire's leadership since 2019 has been transformative. Under her guidance, NETS Victoria has deepened its commitment to First Nations stories, strengthened connections across regional and urban communities, and become a leader in advocacy and touring models.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our immense gratitude for her passion, dedication, and thoughtful stewardship. She leaves a legacy that will continue to guide us.

Excitingly, anticipating the new year and the next chapter for NETS Victoria, we welcome Kent Wilson into the role of Director. Kent shares a set of values closely aligned with those of our organisation. His extensive experience across curatorship, business and education, coupled with his dedication to cultivating vibrant cultural engagement within regional Victoria and beyond, positions him exceptionally well for this role. We are excited to see where his leadership will take us next.

Looking ahead, NETS Victoria remains committed to building on our foundations: centring First Nations leadership, supporting curatorial innovation, strengthening governance, and touring work that matters—to all communities, across Victoria and beyond.

Thank you to our Board, First Nations Advisory Committee, Artistic Program Advisory Committee, staff, members, partners, and most importantly, the artists and curators who bring their creativity, wisdom, and stories to this work.

Together, we navigate change with generosity, reciprocity, and a deep belief in the power of art to transform and connect.

Bec Cole

December 2025



Bec Cole, Chair of NETS Victoria, speaking at the opening of *Kait James: Red Flags* at Ararat Gallery TAMA.

Photo: Kim Dearnley

Courtesy of Ararat Gallery TAMA

Presented in *Kait James: Red Flags*, a Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibition, curated by Aaron Bradbrook and touring nationally with NETS Victoria 2024–2027.

Director's Report

It remains a privilege to lead NETS Victoria's dedicated and passionate team as we continue to deepen our impact, especially through First Nations-led initiatives, thoughtful touring partnerships, and policy development.

2025 has been an important year in statewide cultural milestones. First and foremost, NETS Victoria recognised and celebrated the announcement of the Treaty between First Peoples of Victoria and the Victorian Government which means that the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria will now be a permanent representative and decision-making body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria. We also welcomed the launch of Creative State 2028 by Creative Victoria, and we look forward to learning more about the opportunities and implications for cultural life and creative industries from this highly anticipated strategy over the next three years.

NETS Victoria realised all the goals of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan this year. Our organisation-wide strategies for First Nations procurement, cultural learning, communication, recruitment, retention, and professional development are now fully embedded in how we operate. We also continue to champion our publication *A Guide for Venues: Engaging with First Nations Curators, Artists, and Audiences* as an essential public resource.

To continue enabling meaningful artistic development, we reopened the Exhibition Development Fund (EDF) in March 2025 for new proposals. We sought bold, visionary curatorial projects that would ignite meaningful conversations. It was fantastic to award our 2025 Exhibition Development Fund (EDF) to the Koorie Heritage Trust, supporting their project *Journey Among Men*. This deeply resonant, community-led initiative involves mentoring by Elders, the passing on of cultural knowledge through carved belongings, and ultimately culminates in an exhibition on Country. Supporting meaningful projects like this is at the core of what we can and should do.

In 2025, one of my greatest professional joys was participating in the professional development workshop *Building Cultural Safety in Creative Workplaces*, alongside NETS Victoria Chair Bec Cole and cultural equity leader Veronica Pardo at Shepparton Art Museum on Yorta Yorta Country in September. The presentation shared practical insights and learnings from our own journey of building cultural safety in a small arts organisation, and how we have created transformative outcomes with minimal resources.

In October, NETS Victoria staff attended the NETS Australia network meeting held at Artback NT in Garramilla/Darwin strengthening relationships and addressing national touring standards. The event was also a wonderful chance to connect with our state and territory peers across exhibition touring and involve programming staff. An important takeaway from the meeting was the identification of common challenges, as well as sharing knowledge and flagging future opportunities to connect across the country.

This year I participated in the Arts Industry Council of Victoria and continued on the Accreditation Advisory Committee for the Australian Museum and Galleries Association (AMaGA Victoria). It has been a pleasure working with colleagues on this committee convened by Caroline Wall and Toyah Horman, to support galleries and museums as they strive for continuous improvement. I thank the AMaGA Victoria team led by Dr Ashley Robertson for the opportunity.

In November, Senior Exhibitions Coordinator Sherryn Vardy presented her paper *Strengthening First Nations cultural relationships and perspectives in galleries across Australia* at the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) National Conference *More than Materials: Collaborative Approaches in Cultural Heritage Conservation* held at the State Library of Queensland in Meanjin/Brisbane.

Another exciting program I was thrilled to be a part of was the panel *Wilful Subversions: The Future of Touring Exhibitions?* which I co-convened with NETS Victoria Chair Bec Cole as part of *Unruly Objects* at the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ) conference held at the University of Western Australia in Boorloo/Perth in December. Joining us were panelists Zena Cumpston (independent curator/artist), Caine Chennatt (UTAS) and David Cross (Deakin University).

2025 also saw two NETS Victoria supported projects launch in local galleries. In May, Blak Dot Gallery presented *EXCHANGE*, a group exhibition of eight Naarm-based First Nations artists exploring the significance of exchange as cultural obligation, as knowledge transfer, as resilience. The exhibition included a catalogue with contributions from the participating artists—Maree Clarke, Lisa Couzens, Vicki Couzens, Kirsten Garner Lyttle, Brian Martin, Yhonnie Scarce, Frances Tapueluelu and Wani Toaishira—and additional text from Kimba Thompson and Catherine Hunt, Tyson Campbell, and Maya Hodge.

In June, the Walker Street Gallery in the City of Greater Dandenong, presented *HOME 2025: Invisible Cities* which invited audiences to explore how the concept of 'home' shaped identity, belonging and dislocation. Curated by Miriam La Rosa, the exhibition showcased works of refugee, asylum seeker, First Nations and migrant artists—Vernon Ah Kee, Ali Afzali, Barat Ali Batoor, Rushdi Anwar, Atong Atem, Belinda Farinaccia, Carla Gottgens, Emily Jacir, Joseph Williams Jungarayi (Tennant Creek Brio), Soyoun Kim, Karo Moret Miranda, Kent Morris, Adrian Olguin, Maroulla Radisavic, Hayden Ryan, and Ka Yan So.

Following presentations across five Victorian and interstate venues over a period of more than two years, the acclaimed Bunjil Place Gallery exhibition *ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together)*, curated by Nici Cumpston and Zena Cumpston, concluded its national tour at Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA) in November. We acknowledge with gratitude the extraordinary artists, curators, gallery teams and community members who contributed to, supported, and championed this significant project throughout its journey.

NETS Victoria's touring exhibitions are supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the Australian Government through the Visions of Australia program.

On behalf of NETS Victoria's board and staff, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Honourable Jacinta Allan MP, Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Colin Brooks MP, Minister for Creative Industries, Claire Febey, CEO of Creative Victoria, and Karen Sovitslis, Senior Manager and Tania Grant, Manager of the Creative Enterprises team at Creative Victoria.

For their continued support, I would also like to express my thanks to the team at Creative Australia, particularly Adrian Collette AM, CEO, Michelle Newton, Head of Visual Arts, Liz Tomkinson, Manager, Multi-Year Investment and Patrick McCarthy, Manager Strategic Initiatives and Engagement, Creative Workplaces. And sincere thanks to the Visions of Australia team at the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, particularly Ann Campton, Assistant Secretary, and Diana Warnes, Assistant Director Collections and Cultural Heritage, Office for the Arts.

A deeply personal and organisational transition occurred this year. As I write this, I am in my final week as Director of NETS Victoria. It has been an extraordinary honour to work alongside our board, staff, advisors, artists, curators, and regional galleries to build capacity, amplify First Nations voices, and bring contemporary art to communities across Victoria and beyond. I leave knowing that the foundations are strong, the values are clear, and with the continued support of our funding partners, the future for NETS Victoria is bright.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Board and in particular, Chair Bec Cole, the First Nations Advisory Committee, the Artistic Program Advisory Committee, our staff Sherryn Vardy, Elsa Ch'ng, and Victor Griss, and all of our partners. And most importantly, to the artists and curators whose creative brilliance challenges us, inspires us, and reminds us why we do this work.

As I look ahead, my hope is that NETS Victoria will continue to carry forward with courage, reciprocity, and a renewed commitment to transformation under the leadership of Kent Wilson.

Kent brings a wealth of experience from arts, corporate, government, and educational sectors. It is wonderful to leave with the knowledge that the organisation is in safe hands.

Claire Watson

December, 2025



Visitor listens to James Howard's work *Subterranean frequencies* 2023 at the opening of *Between Waves* at University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery.

Photo: Red Handed Productions

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria.



Curator of *Between Waves* Dr Jessica Clark viewing Mandy Quadrio's artwork *Not gone!* 2023 with Aunty Helena Gulash (Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi) at the opening of *Between Waves* at University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery.

Photo: Red Handed Productions

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria.



HOME 25 Invisible Cities exhibition. Performance by Aseel Tayah at Opening Event (Heritage Hill Museum and Gardens, Dandenong, 21 June 2025).

Photo: Nick Addison

Courtesy City of Greater Dandenong

HOME 25 Invisible Cities was presented by the City of Greater Dandenong and was supported by NETS Victoria's 2021 Exhibition Development Fund.

Operations at a Glance

Each year the NETS Victoria team works alongside a number of partner galleries and venues across the state and Australia. These collaborations include numerous hours of dedicated teamwork with the many talented artists, curators, gallery directors and their staff and volunteers who help deliver extraordinary exhibitions throughout the year to our growing regional audiences.

2.4 equivalent full-time staff

45 artists

229 artworks

6 curators

36,520 exhibition visitors

3 exhibitions on the road

12 destinations

3 touring partners

2 projects in development



Installation view: Opening event of *HOME 25: Invisible Cities* exhibition featuring Rushdi Anwar's *The Patterns of Displacement in Context of Home* 2017.

Photo: Nick Addison

Courtesy City of Greater Dandenong

HOME 25 Invisible Cities was presented by the City of Greater Dandenong and was supported by NETS Victoria's 2021 Exhibition Development Fund.

Board and Team

Officers of the Association

Bec Cole (Chair)

Joined February 2020, elected Chair March 2021

Tammy Wong Hulbert (Deputy Chair)

Joined February 2021, elected Deputy Chair August 2022

Amy Cao (Treasurer)

Joined March 2023 until December 2025

Claire Watson (Secretary)

Joined March 2021 until December 2025

Ordinary members

Nicole Monteiro (NGV Representative)

Joined July 2022

Nasalifya Namugala Namwinga

Joined March 2021

David Sequeira

Joined February 2021

David Cross

Joined June 2023

Rachel Arndt

Joined September 2023

Jessica Clark

Joined January 2025

NETS Victoria Team

Claire Watson

Director

From November 2019 until December 2025

Sherryn Vardy

Senior Exhibitions Coordinator

From January 2024

Elsa Ch'ng

Exhibitions Coordinator

From October 2024

Victor Griss

Business and Partnerships Coordinator

From April 2024

Sub Committees

Artistic Program Advisory Committee

David Sequeira (Chair)

Joined November 2021, elected Chair from
March 2022

Myles Russell-Cook

Joined March 2020 until April 2025

Yhonnie Scarce

Joined March 2020 until March 2025

David Fitzsimmons

Joined May 2023

Eugenia Lim

Joined May 2023

Eric Nash

Joined May 2023

First Nations Advisory Committee

Steven Rhall (Chair)

Joined April 2024

Kait James

Joined March 2025

Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group

Steven Rhall

Joined September 2023 until March 2025

Tammy Wong Hulbert

Joined March 2023 until March 2025

Jessica Row

Joined April 2024 until March 2025

Claire Watson

Joined March 2023 until March 2025



Opening of *Between Waves* at University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery.

Photo: Red Handed Productions

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria.



Opening of *Between Waves* at University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery.

Photo: Red Handed Productions

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria.



Mandy Quadrio's speaking at a floor talk on her artwork *Not gone! 2023* for *Between Waves* at University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery.

Photo: Red Handed Productions

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria.

On Tour

The 3 outstanding exhibitions that toured in 2025 reflect the diversity of contemporary art practice in all its forms—drawing, painting, video, installation, ceramics, performance, sculpture, textiles, collage and photography. In partnership with Victoria’s leading arts organisations and curators, our team was responsible for the development, interpretation and delivery of 3 touring exhibitions and 2 supported exhibitions. Presented in 4 states across Australia, these exhibitions have been seen by over 36,520 visitors.

The 3 touring exhibitions were fully supported with expertise and resources by our organisation which ensured that we engaged audiences throughout the year with extraordinary contemporary art, craft and design.

Exhibitions on Tour

Between Waves

Kait James: Red Flags

ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together)

Attendance: 24,425

Associated Exhibitions and Temporary Public Artworks

EXCHANGE

HOME 25: Invisible Cities

Engagement: 12,098

Venues

7 venues presented a NETS Victoria exhibition in 2025

Ararat Gallery TAMA VIC

Flinders University Museum of Art SA

Latrobe Regional Gallery VIC

Mildura Arts Centre VIC

Warrnambool Art Gallery VIC

Western Plains Cultural Centre NSW

University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery QLD

5 venues presented an exhibition/artworks in association with NETS Victoria

Blak Dot Gallery VIC

Walker Street Gallery & Arts Centre, Dandenong VIC

The Drum Theatre VIC

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens VIC

Dandenong Market VIC

1 venue presented temporary public artworks in association with NETS Victoria

Walker Street Gallery & Arts Centre, Dandenong VIC

Between Waves

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) touring nationally with NETS Victoria, curated by Dr Jessica Clark.

Curator: Dr Jessica Clark

Artists: Maree Clarke, Dean Cross, Brad Darkson, Matthew Harris, James Howard, Hayley Millar Baker, Jazz Money, Mandy Quadrio, Cassie Sullivan, this mob

Between Waves amplifies concepts related to light, time and vision—and the idea of shining a light on our times—expressed by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung word ‘Yalingwa’. The exhibition variously explores the visible and invisible energy fields set in motion by these ideas, to illuminate interconnected shapeshifting ecologies within, beyond and between what can be seen.

Through a range of contemporary artforms including video, installation, poetry, projection, photography, painting, sculpture, sound, printmaking, and a digital commission, the invited artists have developed reflective and site-responsive projects which explore and experiment with the intersection of material and immaterial realms of knowledge and knowing.

Participating artists embrace the push and pull dynamics that flow beneath the surface, navigating ideas of presence and absence, the known and unknown, transgenerational and collective consciousness. Together, their reflective and site-responsive new commissions, traverse internal and external worlds, embracing the sensory and cyclical rhythms of light and sound, thinking, and feeling, listening and seeing, interwoven with ideas of material memory.

This project has been supported by Creative Victoria through the Yalingwa Visual Arts Initiative and the NETS Victoria Exhibition Development Fund; and the Australian Government’s Visions of Australia program.

Venues

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) VIC
1 July—3 September 2023

Plimsoll Gallery TAS
8 March—18 May 2024

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre NSW
27 July—29 September 2024

University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery QLD
17 February—5 May 2025

Western Plains Cultural Centre NSW
31 May—7 September 2025

Latrobe Regional Gallery VIC
4 October 2025—11 January 2026

Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre SA
7 February—27 April 2026

Mildura Arts Centre VIC
9 May—12 July 2026



Printmaking workshop with Cassie Sullivan at University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery, 26 April 2025.

Photo: UniSC Art Gallery

Courtesy the artist

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria.



Opening of *Between Waves* at University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery, 22 March 2025.

Photo: Red Handed Productions

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria.

“The touring logistics were seamless and very well coordinated. Installation instructions were clear, and the quality of the packing and crating ensured the works arrived in excellent condition. Communication from the NETS Victoria team was also excellent... We are grateful to NETS Victoria for facilitating such a well-supported and meaningful touring exhibition. Your work is invaluable to regional galleries like ours, and we appreciate the care, professionalism, and generosity that underpins everything you do.”

Staff, University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery

“It was a pleasure to work with NETS Victoria on this exhibition, the assistance and information provided made the exhibition journey from development to de-installation smooth and positive for all staff involved.”

Staff at Western Plains Cultural Centre

Kait James: Red Flags

Kait James: Red Flags is a Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibition, curated by Aaron Bradbrook, and touring nationally with NETS Victoria.

Curator: Aaron Bradbrook

Artist: Kait James

Kait James: Red Flags is Wadawurrung artist Kait James' most ambitious solo exhibition to date. Since 2018, James has been carving out a unique visual language based in the reappropriation of racialised products. Colloquially identified as 'Aboriginalia', these mass-produced, commercial objects range from souvenir tea towels and pennant flags to children's dolls and ceramic figurines. Primarily created from the 1950s through to the 1980s for consumption by non-Indigenous tourists, they depict culturally insensitive and racially stereotyped imagery, designs and motifs.

In a practice of subversion, James embroiders into and on top of these products, embedding language and imagery to forge new narratives linked to contemporary political campaigns and debates. Combining autobiography, incisive analysis and wry humour, James' practice reveals a deep reverence for her culture alongside a glimpse into a shared Aboriginal-Australian experience.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and the Visions of Australia program, and has received development assistance from NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund, supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Venues

Warrnambool Art Gallery VIC
12 October 2024—23 February 2025

Ararat Gallery TAMA VIC
2 August—16 November 2025

Wangaratta Art Gallery VIC
24 January—22 March 2026

Orange Regional Gallery NSW
4 April—14 June 2026

Tamworth Regional Gallery NSW
27 June—16 August 2026

Flinders University Museum of Art SA
6 October—27 November 2026

Plimsoll Gallery TAS
5 June—8 August 2027



Installation View: *Kait James: Red Flags*, Ararat Gallery TAMA.

Photo: MDP Photography

Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc

Presented in *Kait James: Red Flags*, a Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibition, curated by Aaron Bradbrook and touring nationally with NETS Victoria 2024–2027.

“Dear Dream Team, Thank you from the bottom of my heart for handling Kait’s exhibition with such professionalism and respect. Your support and dedication to the project is awe-inspiring, and the final result in Ararat is fantastic! I hope the opening was superb, as it is well deserved. Thanks again.”

Aaron Bradbrook Director of Warrnambool Art Gallery and curator of *Kait James: Red Flags*.



Kait James

Red Flags 2024

Installation View: Ararat Gallery TAMA

porcelain clay slip, pigmented underglaze and clear gloss ceramic glaze, felt, wooden dowel.

240cm (diameter)

Photo: MDP Photography

Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc

Presented in *Kait James: Red Flags*, a Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibition, curated by Aaron Bradbrook and touring nationally with NETS Victoria 2024–2027.



Installation View: Visitor exploring *Kait James: Red Flags* exhibition at Ararat Gallery TAMA.

Photo: MDP Photography

Courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc

Presented in *Kait James: Red Flags*, a Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibition, curated by Aaron Bradbrook and touring nationally with NETS Victoria 2024–2027.

ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together)

ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together) is a Bunjil Place Gallery exhibition, curated by Nici Cumpston and Zena Cumpston, touring with NETS Victoria.

Curators: Nici Cumpston and Zena Cumpston

Artists: Nici Cumpston, Zena Cumpston, David Doyle, Kent Morris, Adrienne Semmens and Raymond Zada.

Barkandji/Barkindji artists share travels together on Country.

ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together) brings together six Barkandji/Barkindji artists: Nici Cumpston, Zena Cumpston, David Doyle, Kent Morris, Adrienne Semmens, and Raymond Zada.

Several trips on Country provided a rich foundation for the collective to create newly commissioned works that explore and illuminate their Ancestral connection and homelands. The artists spent time travelling together, engaging with cultural landscapes, their Elders, community, and each other, resulting in an immersive installation that comes collectively from their hearts. Featuring soundscape, moving image, screendance, carving, weaving, printmaking, and photography, *ngaratya* offers a warm invitation into Barkandji/Barkindji Country and belonging.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program and has received development assistance from NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund, supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Venue

Bunjil Place Gallery VIC
14 May—3 September 2023

Broken Hill City Art Gallery NSW
3 May—28 July 2024

Latrobe Regional Gallery VIC
19 October 2024—16 February 2025

Mildura Arts Centre VIC
19 July—31 August 2025

Flinders University Museum of Art SA
7 October 2025—28 November 2025



Artist and *ngaratya* co-curator Zena Cumpston speaking about her work, *karkala* (*bush bananas*), with artist Raymond Zada to the left. Curator and Artists' Talk, Mildura Arts Centre, Saturday 9 August 2025.

Photo: Luci Callipari-Marcuzzo

ngaratya (*together, us group, all in it together*) is a Bunjil Place Gallery exhibition, curated by Nici Cumpston and Zena Cumpston, touring with NETS Victoria 2023–2026.

“Working as a co-curator alongside my sister Zena, we were very grateful to the NETS team for working in a collaborative way and including us in all decision making. This respectful approach made this a very empowering experience and led to positive outcomes in all aspects of the exhibition planning, development, installation, presentation, programming, venues, administrative, and communication.”

Nici Cumpston



Artist Raymond Zada speaking about his work, *Bloodline*. Curator and Artists' Talk, Mildura Arts Centre Saturday 9 August 2025.

Photo: Luci Callipari-Marcuzzo

ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together) is a Bunjil Place Gallery exhibition, curated by Nici Cumpston and Zena Cumpston, touring with NETS Victoria 2023–2026.

“The NETS team worked really hard to ensure the integrity of the show at every stop. I was never left wondering how things were going and the respect shown for the work and the show was incredible.”

Zena Cumpston



Visitor looking at Zena Cumpston's artworks in *ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together)* at Latrobe Regional Gallery.

Photo: Salty Lens Photography

ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together) is a Bunjil Place Gallery exhibition, curated by Nici Cumpston and Zena Cumpston, touring with NETS Victoria 2023–2026.

“The exhibition was beautifully considered and inspiring. It made me think about seeing in quite a different way. Thank You.”

Anonymous, visitor at Mildura Arts Centre

“FUMA is privileged to be associated with *ngaratya* and congratulates everyone on bringing this remarkable project together. The level of engagement, thoughtful discussion, and shared enthusiasm in the space spoke volumes about the strength of the work and the collaboration behind it... It was a truly memorable occasion and a wonderful celebration of what can be achieved through collective effort, vision, and care.”

Fiona Salmon: Director, Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA)

Associated Exhibitions

EXCHANGE

This project has been proudly supported by: Indigenous Languages & Arts (ILA) & Creative Victoria & Yirramboi. This exhibition received assistance from NETS Victoria's 2020 Exhibition Development Fund, supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Curators: Dr Kimba Thompson and Catherine Hunt

Artists: Maree Clarke, Lisa Couzens, Vicki Couzens, Kirsten Garner Lyttle, Brian Martin, Yhonnie Scarce, Frances Tapueluelu, and Wani Toaishara

EXCHANGE is a group exhibition featuring a dynamic new body of work by eight First Nations artists based in Naarm (Melbourne), Victoria: Maree Clarke, Lisa Couzens, Vicki Couzens, Kirsten Garner Lyttle, Brian Martin, Yhonnie Scarce, Frances Tapueluelu, and Wani Toaishara. Each artist has navigated industry and policy on their own terms, forging practices deeply rooted in culture, history, and mutuality.

EXCHANGE brings together photography, drawing, installation, glass, multimedia, sculpture, and weaving—offering an expansive survey of the ebb and flow of artistic endeavour.

The exhibition explores the exchange between peoples and the transfer of knowledge, materials, and practice. Though exchange may seem routine, for First Nations artists it carries a significance that can be eroded by economic forces, lack of understanding, and insincerity. Ideas gain substance and validity through seeking knowledge and permission to access living traditions.

To explore the physicality of these ideas, artists traverse oceans and Country, interpreting and reinterpreting knowledge and materials at their source. Through collaboration—with those who came before, those practicing now, and those pushing the boundaries of contemporary forms—EXCHANGE reveals both mutual understandings and distorted relationships.

Each exchange carries a myriad of obligations—to return home, to culture, to Country, to archives, to resistance, to language, to practice, and to family...

From there we can range beyond the tenth horizon, secure in the knowledge of the home base to which we will always return for replenishment and revision of the purposes and directions of our journeys. We shall visit our people who have gone to the lands of diaspora and tell them that we have built something: a new home for all of us.

– Our place within, Epeli Hau'ofa

Venue

Blak Dot Gallery VIC
5 April—8 June 2025



Vicki Couzens and Lisa Couzens: *Koorrayarr* 2025

Installation view: *EXCHANGE* at Blak Dot Gallery

Photo: Simon Fazio

EXCHANGE was a Blak Dot Gallery exhibition, curated by Dr Kimba Thompson and Catherine Hunt, supported by NETS Victoria 2025.



Installation view: *EXCHANGE* at Blak Dot Gallery

Photo: Simon Fazio

EXCHANGE was a Blak Dot Gallery exhibition, curated by Dr Kimba Thompson and Catherine Hunt, supported by NETS Victoria 2025.

“We are deeply appreciative of the flexibility shown in extending funding across a two-year period while our physical site was undergoing redevelopment.”

Blak Dot Gallery

“The public response was overwhelmingly positive, with many visitors expressing awe and deep appreciation for both the artists and their works...Observations of visitors revealed moments of reflection, emotional connection, and lively discussion, indicating strong engagement throughout.”

Blak Dot Gallery

HOME 25: Invisible Cities

Proudly presented by the City of Greater Dandenong. This project was assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. This exhibition received assistance from NETS Victoria's 2021 Exhibition Development Fund supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Sector Partners: ACMI, RMIT University.
Program Partners: Dandenong Market, Liquid Architecture.

Curator: Miriam La Rosa

Artists: Vernon Ah Kee, Ali Dad Afzali, Barat Ali Batoor, Rushdi Anwar, Atong Atem, Belinda Farinaccia, Carla Gottgens, Emily Jacir, Soyoun Kim, Karo Moret Miranda, Kent Morris, Adrian Olguin, Maroulla Radisavic, Hayden Ryan, Ka Yan So, Joseph Williams Jungarayi

HOME 25: Invisible Cities invited audiences to explore how the concept of 'home' shapes identity, belonging, and dislocation.

The exhibition was shown across the streets and sites of Dandenong, showcasing works of a selection of refugee, asylum seeker, First Nations and migrant artists.

Located in the most multicultural city in Australia, the roving exhibition was uniquely presented across multiple venues spanning several blocks throughout central Dandenong, such as the cultural precinct (Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, the Drum Theatre, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens), public spaces and the Dandenong Market. This approach mirrors the rationale of *HOME 25*, which tells a shared story through a multiplicity of perspectives.

Visitors experienced *HOME 25: Invisible Cities* through an intuitive exploration of artworks and sites over 14 weeks of a multi-sensory interactive exhibition. Revisiting *HOME 25* in a diverse urban environment rewarded a different exhibition experience each time. As artwork and geography, personal memory, and 'psychogeographical' interpretation of paintings, sculptures, site-specific experimental, and multimedia and sound installations were explored, visitors uncovered more layers of the Invisible Cities. An exhibition featuring stories of displacement, belonging, connection to place and Country.

It challenged viewers to reconsider the boundaries that define us, physical, cultural, and emotional, and to engage with the complexities of belonging in an interconnected world.

Venues

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre; the Drum Theatre; Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens; Harmony Square, and the Dandenong Market VIC

24 June—27 September 2025



Vernon Ah Kee

Lullaby 2019

Presented in *HOME 25: Invisible Cities* 2025.

Photo: Nick Addison

Courtesy City of Greater Dandenong

HOME 25: Invisible Cities was presented by the City of Greater Dandenong and was supported by NETS Victoria's 2021 Exhibition Development Fund.



Atong Atem

Various portraits 2025

Presented in *HOME 25: Invisible Cities 2025*, Harmony Square, Dandenong.

Photo: Nick Addison

Courtesy City of Greater Dandenong

HOME 25: Invisible Cities was presented by the City of Greater Dandenong and was supported by NETS Victoria's 2021 Exhibition Development Fund.



Guide for *HOME 25: Invisible Cities* 2025, Dandenong.

Photo: Nick Addison

Courtesy City of Greater Dandenong

HOME 25: Invisible Cities was presented by the City of Greater Dandenong and was supported by NETS Victoria's 2021 Exhibition Development Fund.

“I just wanted to sincerely thank you for inviting me along to the event. It was an honour to do the Welcome to Country and to participate as a panellist. I truly appreciated the opportunity to share culture, connect with everyone, and be part of such an important conversation.”

Uncle Mark Brown – Bunurong Elder and Senior Cultural Heritage Officer

“I would like to thank you for an amazing show, full of hard work and love and for all the support! It is a fantastic exhibition and [I] am very proud of being part of it all. I have received [an] enormous amount of praise for the work you all put into this and can’t wait for ... more to come.”

Adrian Olguin, exhibiting artist

Touring Soon

Intimate Imaginaries

Intimate Imaginaries is a TarraWarra Museum of Art exhibition, in partnership with Arts Project Australia, touring with NETS Victoria.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and the Visions of Australia program.

Curator: Anthony Fitzpatrick

Artists: Fulli Andrinopoulos, Samraing Chea, Alan Constable, Wendy Dawson, Bronwyn Hack, Julian Martin, Chris O'Brien, Anthony Romagnano, Lisa Reid, Mark Smith, Cathy Staughton, Georgia Szmerling and Terry Williams

Intimate Imaginaries is a major group exhibition featuring artists who currently work out of the internationally renowned studio of Arts Project Australia (APA), a gallery and studio based in Northcote, Victoria, that supports artists with intellectual disabilities. This major exhibition highlights 13 vital contemporary practices that have emerged from this self-described 'boisterous hive of creativity' over the past five decades.

The term 'imaginaries' is commonly used to describe realms of pure invention or flights of fancy, but it can also refer to more everyday creative activity, how we perceive, shape and make sense of ourselves and the world around us. This open-ended conception is one that accords with the ethos of Arts Project Australia where 'art is not taught, but rather the innate creative direction of each artist is nurtured to elicit works of personal meaning and style in this spirit'. *Intimate Imaginaries* brings together bodies of work by a range of artists who each express a compelling, richly inventive and deeply felt worldview.

Many featured works convey the artists' personal perspectives on everyday environments, interactions and phenomena. Other works employ abstract shapes, vivid colour and highly tactile forms of mark making to evoke emotive, intangible and interior states of being. While the exhibiting artists work across a range of media and disciplines – including painting, drawing, ceramics, soft sculpture and video – they all share a distinctive handmade aesthetic, a personal touch which draws us closer to the creative processes embodied in their works.

Venues and further supporters to be announced.



Cathy Staughton with her work *Untitled (after Luna Park Face Witche)* 2024.

Installation view: *Intimate Imaginaries*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, 2024–2025.

Photo: Jacinta Keefe Photography

Courtesy of the artist and Arts Project Australia

Intimate Imaginaries is a TarraWarra Museum of Art exhibition, curated by Anthony Fitzpatrick, touring with NETS Victoria 2026–2029.



Georgia Szmerling,
Untitled (site-specific mural) 2024

Installation view with the artist: *Intimate Imaginaries*,
TarraWarra Museum of Art, 2024–2025.

Photo: Jacinta Keefe Photography

Courtesy of the artist and Arts Project Australia

Intimate Imaginaries is a TarraWarra Museum of Art exhibition,
curated by Anthony Fitzpatrick, touring with NETS Victoria 2026–2029.



A selection of works by Julian Martin.
Installation view: *Intimate Imaginaries*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, 2024–2025.
Photo: Jacinta Keefe Photography
Courtesy of the artist and Arts Project Australia
Intimate Imaginaries is a TarraWarra Museum of Art exhibition, curated by Anthony Fitzpatrick, touring with NETS Victoria 2026–2029.

“It’s very satisfying. You dream of your work being seen by as many eyes as possible. It makes your creations feel worthy of creating. It goes a long way to satisfying your creativity.

Whenever there is a range of diverse viewpoints it’s fertile ground for creativity. It’s not the main reason I do art, but it makes all the effort worthwhile. It’s what I do.

Artist talks as well as showing off your work — you get a lot of feedback from audiences; you get more feedback to support your practice. The more feedback you get the better your work gets.”

Mark Smith, exhibiting artist

Exhibition Development Fund

Journey Among Men

Artists: Mick and Mitchil Harding (Taungurung), Kevin Williams (Waradjuri) and Earl Handy (Mutthi Mutthi), Brendan and Carl Kennedy (Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi and Mutti Mutti), Iluka Sax-Williams (Taungurung, Tibrean), and Lewis Wandin-Bursill (Wurundjeri)

Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) was the recipient of the 2025 Exhibition Development Fund for the full award amount available of \$40,000 for their project *Journey Among Men*.

Conceived as a program to support the mental health and well-being of male members in our First Nations communities, the project will support the mentoring of Victorian-based First Nations men by community Elders, passing on cultural knowledge through the design and production of carved cultural belongings. Importantly, the project will take place on Country.

Journey Among Men is intended to build practical skills and share traditional knowledge of culture and Country through a series of First Peoples-led workshops. The project will culminate in an exhibition at KHT which will showcase works created during the mentored workshops. Development of the exhibition's content, scope, themes and design, and that of the accompanying publication, will be characterised by collaboration, consultation and deep listening, guided by the cultural storytelling and creative approaches of the participating artists.

NETS Victoria Exhibition Development Fund provides seed funding to research and develop new, curated exhibitions of contemporary visual arts, craft and design. The funding supports activities that have a focus on Victorian based artists, curators or organisations. NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund is awarded biennially and is open to independent curators and incorporated not-for-profit arts organisations in Australia (including local councils, public galleries, festivals and other arts organisations). NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.



Iluka Sax-Williams (Taungurung, Tibrean) 2023
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Joshua Scott



Iluka Sax-Williams (Taungurung, Tjibreen)
Woorra Liwik 2022
pokerwork on kangaroo skin (pyrography)
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Christian Capurro

Associated Publication



EXCHANGE

Published by Blak Dot Gallery, this full colour 34-page catalogue designed by Andrew Chan features an essay by Dr Kimba Thompson and Catherine Hunt, and artist statements and biographies from each of the exhibiting artists. The publication and exhibition was proudly supported by Indigenous Languages & Arts, Creative Victoria and Yirramboi. The exhibition received assistance from NETS Victoria's 2020 Exhibition Development Fund supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Reconciliation Action Plan

NETS Victoria was delighted to continue working on our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2023–2025 in early 2025. NETS Victoria is deeply committed to reconciliation within our organisation.

We'd like to thank Isobel Morphy-Walsh and members of the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group for their support in implementing our RAP, and NETS Victoria's Board and Artistic Program Advisory Committee for their commitment to supporting and honouring the world's oldest living culture.

NETS Victoria has the opportunity to work with many First Nations artists, curators, professionals and communities. NETS Victoria thanks them for sharing their knowledge, cultural expressions and stories.

Director of NETS Victoria Claire Watson says "NETS Victoria's vision for reconciliation is that First Nations arts, cultures, histories, and stories are central to our understanding of who we are as a nation and are always honoured and respected".

Key outcomes from our 2023–2025 Innovate RAP include:

- The development of a comprehensive Artistic Program Policy and revisions to our Copyright and loan agreements in consultation with an Indigenous law firm.

- Conducted a review of cultural learning needs within our organisation which resulted in four staff/board/committee members undertaking cultural competency training with the Koorie Heritage Trust.
- Invited a local Traditional Owner or Custodian to provide a Welcome to Country or other appropriate cultural protocol at significant events each year.
- Developed and implemented a First Nations procurement strategy and communicated opportunities for procurement of goods and services from First Nations businesses to staff.
- Developed and implemented a First Nations recruitment, retention and professional development strategy.
- Developed and implemented an engagement plan to work with First Nations stakeholders and organisations.
- Developed, implemented, and communicated a cultural learning strategy document for our staff.



Visitor exploring Maree Clarke's artwork *now you see me: seeing the invisible #1* 2023, photographic microscopy prints on acetate, 30 x 30cm each, commissioned by ACCA.

Installation view: *Between Waves* University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery, 2025

Photo: Red Handed Productions

Courtesy the artist and Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne

Between Waves is an exhibition developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), curated by Dr Jessica Clark and toured by NETS Victoria 2023–2026.

National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria is grateful for the generous support of our valued partners.

NETS Victoria is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

NETS Victoria is a member of NETS Australia. NETS Australia is assisted by the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

NETS Victoria also receives significant in-kind support from the National Gallery of Victoria.

Between Waves, ngaratya (together, us group, all in it together), Intimate Imaginaries, and Kait James: Red Flags have been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.

NETS Victoria is grateful for the generous support of our valued partners.



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National Exhibitions Touring
Support (NETS) Victoria, Inc.

T +61 3 8662 1507
E info@netsvictoria.org

C/- National Gallery of Victoria
The Ian Potter Centre:
NGV Australia
PO Box 7259
Melbourne VIC 8004

www.netsvictoria.org.au

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