

MEDIA RELEASE: 15 November 2021

A WORLD OF WONDER BENEATH THE SURFACE

Visual Arts at Perth Festival
Multiple venue locations across Perth



Image: Isaac Julien, The Lady of the Lake (Lessons of the Hour), 2019, framed gloss inkjet photograph mounted on aluminium

Capturing the depth, imagination and wonder of Wardan (Ocean) are the incredible works featured in this year's **Visual Arts** program for **Perth Festival 2022**.

In major exhibitions across the city, featured artists have created a series of distinct 'worlds' – alternate realities that hold histories, emotions, speculations and dreams that imagine the future. Within these works you'll find cinema that fuses reality and myth, paintings that open portals, dances that destroy false idols, and tidal forces and dramatic storms all revealing submerged truths.

The program opens with acclaimed British filmmaker and installation artist **Isaac Julien** showcasing his multi-channel video work at **John Curtin Gallery**, capturing historical retellings and cross-cultural stories within his unique visual language. For those seeking a dreamlike experience, **The Sunset Lounge** at the **Alex Hotel & Shadow Wine Bar** transports you to an intimate world amongst otherworldly creatures and disarming soundscapes, as created by visionary WA artists **Tarryn Gill** and



Image: Tarryn Gill, *Tricksters*, 2018.
Courtesy the artist and Gallery Sally Dan Cuthbert.

Benjamin Barretto. The exhibition culminates outside the hotel rooms in Shadow Wine bar with a light installation designed by **Nemo Gandossini-Poirier**, inspired by planetary cycles and tidal forces that will create a dining experience to remember.

Undertow, presented in association with **Fremantle Arts Centre**, presents a collection of saltwater stories and imagined futures from a range of artists, each working with different artforms and materials. Works in neon, cyanotype, photographic portraiture and wall-size text explore each artist's relationship with the ocean, sharing personal connection, turbulent histories and transformative ideas around water and belonging.

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery will host two distinct exhibitions this year, with senior Walmajarri artist **Sonia Kurarra** presenting her first major solo Perth show **Portals of Love and Loss**, curated by Emilia Galatis.

Ariel's Song – as inspired by Shakespeare's iconic passage from *The Tempest* – celebrates the transformative and magical work of local artists **Luisa Hansal**, **Jess Tan** and **Wade Taylor** pairing new works with visions of the ocean from the UWA Art Collection.

Audiences can tune-in to a re-reading of the news with **Jessie Bullivant's Bedside Manner** or enjoy a day of workshops, food, dance and storytelling as part of the **Ever Present Family Day** – celebrating First People's arts, culture and community at **The Art Gallery of Western Australia**.

Strangers on the Shore explores the real and mythical cross-cultural narratives of shipwrecks, survival, social contact and Indigenous knowledge of Country. **Our Language** navigates spoken and visual communication with empathy and creativity, exploring what our languages can tell us about the world, featuring artists **Alter Boy**, **Fayen d'Evie**, **Nastaran Ghadiri**, **Josh Ophel** and **Zou Mat**.

Presented at the **Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts** are immersive installations from two Indigenous artists emerging as Australia's leading artistic voices. **Katie West**, a Yindjibarndi interdisciplinary artist, exhibits her multi-sensory installation **We Hold You Close**, using textiles, native plants, sound and scent to explore our deep connection to materials. **Amrita Hepi**, a Bunjalung/Ngāpuhi artist and choreographer, presents **Monumental** - a video installation in which seven dancers reframe a monument dedicated to a single white coloniser to question who and what gets memorialised.



Image: Amrita Hepi, *'Monumental'*, 2020, HD video (still), 16:9, colour, sound. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery

Perth Festival Visual Arts Program Associate Gemma Weston said that under the theme of Warden, this year's artists have an opportunity to open up ideas and visions from beneath the surface of our known realities.

'The ocean is so compelling because it is an entirely different world on our doorstep. Its scale and depth remind us that our human world is so small and fleeting, that we're part of something so much bigger than ourselves.

At its best, I think art can do this too. It can immerse us in an experience that shifts our perspective and helps us to re-imagine our own world and our place in it. My hope is that the Festival's Visual Arts program in 2022 will offer all of the escapism, nourishment, refreshment and recalibration of getting into the sea on a hot Bunuru (Summer) day.'

Visual Arts Program Partner Wesfarmers Arts has extended commissioning opportunities for WA artists and is supporting the exhibitions and an engagement series that gives great depth, richness and accessibility to the 2022 program.

Wesfarmers Arts Manager Helen Carroll said the Festival's Visual Arts program was a major expression of the compelling immediacy and resonance of artmaking in Western Australia and beyond our shores.

'As we head towards the 20th year of our partnership with Perth Festival, I am proud that Wesfarmers can play such an integral role in bringing these exhibitions to fruition and to make them as accessible to as many people as possible,' she said. 'We believe that art can be a beacon to guide us across the waves of uncertainty and find new human connections and new ways of navigating the world.'

Visual Arts Program Partner



Wesfarmers Arts

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

ISAAC JULIEN

John Curtin Art Gallery
Fri 11 Feb - Sun 8 Mar

THE SUNSET LOUNGE, TARRYN GILL, BENJAMIN BARETTO & NEMO GANDOSSINI-POIRIER

Alex Hotel & Shadow Wine Bar
Fri 18 Feb – Sat 5 Mar

UNDERTOW, AMANDA BELL, RON BRADFIELD JNR, SAM BLOOR, SONJA & ELISA-JANE CARMICHAEL, SOUL ALPHABET & ANGELA TIATIA

Fremantle Arts Centre
Sat 5 Feb – Mon 25 Apr

PORTALS OF LOVE AND LOSS, SONIA KURARRA

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery
Sat 12 Feb – Sat 23 Apr

ARIEL'S SONG, LUISA HANSAL, JESS TAN & WADE TAYLOR

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery
Sat 12 Feb – Sat 23 Apr

BEDSIDE MANNER, JESSIE BULLIVANT

Over the Airwaves
Fri 11 Feb – Sun 6 Mar

EVER PRESENT FAMILY DAY, various artists

Art Gallery of Western Australia
Sat 26 Feb

STRANGERS ON THE SHORE, various artists

HOLMES À COURT GALLERY @ NO. 10
Sat 12 Feb – Sat 12 Mar

OUR LANGUAGE, ALTER BOY, FAYEN D'EVIE, NASTARAN GHADIRI, JOSH OPHEL & ZOU MAT DADAA

Sat 5 Feb – Sat 9 Apr

WE HOLD YOU CLOSE, KATIE WEST

PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS
Sun 20 Feb – Sun 24 Apr

MONUMENTAL, AMRITA HEPI

PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS
Sun 20 Feb – Sun 24 Apr

MORE INFO: perthfestival.com.au

Click [here](#) for images. For further information, interviews or images please contact:

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar. They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

ABOUT PERTH FESTIVAL

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For nearly 70 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year. Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020–24.