

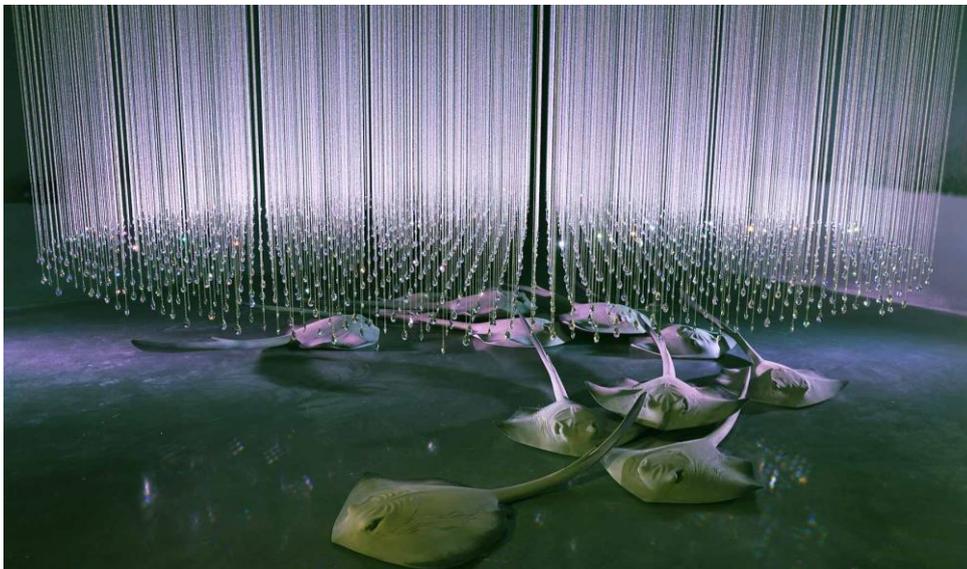
MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday 18 November 2020

WA ARTISTS REFLECT A SPECTRUM OF DIVERSITY

Visual Arts Program Multiple venues across Perth

An almost unprecedented period of creativity by Western Australian artists is reflected in the stunning and diverse array of works presented in **Perth Festival's 2021 Visual Arts Program**.

Inspired by momentous events and currents of thought, visual artists have been working intensely as shutdowns and restrictions have suppressed many collaborative opportunities for artists involved in dance, theatre, music and other activity for the stage.



Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, *Pretty Beach*, 2019, painted wood, silver plate ball chain, crystals, audio.
Cr. The artist and Moore Contemporary

The result is an exciting range of Festival commissions by 30 WA artists working across sculptural, photographic, video, sound, drawing, painting, performance and projection. Perth Festival also has broadened our family of featured galleries to represent the extent of artistic expression across our city.

In tune with the 2021 Festival theme, many of the works reference rivers or use water as a metaphor, and many others explore the link between body and land, which echoes the twin meaning of *bilya* as the river and the umbilical cord that holds the body in place and connects past and future.

The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery's survey of celebrated WA artist **Olga Cironis**, *Dislocation*, will be a highlight, as will the largest-ever assembly of sculpture by **Abdul-Rahman Abdullah** at John Curtin Gallery and the landmark exhibition *the gathering* by First Nations artists from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand at **Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts** alongside *Songs From Patrick William Carter*.

Works will be on display across Perth in other long-time Festival exhibition partners including the **Art Gallery of Western Australia, Fremantle Arts Centre** and **DADAA**. AGWA will showcase award-winning animator **Tee Ken Ng's** zoetropes, video and sound installations from his film clip for **Tim Minchin's *Leaving LA***, DADAA honours the quiet activism of craft-based practice in **Fair Isle** and we see the traditional gallery dynamic flipped on its head as the install crew (all artists in their own right) step into the limelight for **A Forest of Hooks and Nails** at FAC.

For 2021, we also welcome four new co-presenters – **Cool Change Contemporary (*The Hands Should Have No Peace*)**, **Holmes à Court Gallery (*Reflection/Submersion*)**, **Goolugatup Heathcote (*Alluvial Gold*)** and **PS Art Space (*Leyla Stevens' Dua Dunia*)** – to present a compelling portrait of WA's dynamic visual arts scene. And in a Festival first, Perth Festival Lab alumnus **Pip Lewi's intricate texta drawings** will pop up on public screens, digital platforms and other places around town.

'In 2021, we emphasise storytelling, personal identity and autobiography, the importance of craft and the hand-made and on art being a catalyst for conversation – so expect tactile and immersive experiences designed to bring people together,' said **Perth Festival Visual Arts Program Associate Gemma Weston**. 'Works acknowledge the beautiful challenge of communicating our experiences – of belonging, isolation, grief, hope, joy, frustration, anger, solace – and the reward in making a connection.'

Weston said there had been an outpouring of enthusiasm from galleries and artists alike when the Festival decided to take a strong Western Australian focus. 'Even where these exhibitions touch on difficult and dark experiences, that collective enthusiasm from artists and curators has produced what is overall such a celebratory and hopeful program, and I hope it makes a case for the richness that art can bring to our lives,' she said.

Visual Arts Program Partner Wesfarmers Arts has extended commissioning opportunities for WA artists and is supporting the exhibitions and an engagement series that will increase the depth, richness and accessibility of the 2021 program.

Wesfarmers Arts Manager Helen Carroll said Wesfarmers was proud to support WA artists and invest in opportunities for them to create work that could be appreciated by as many people as possible through a network of galleries involved in Perth Festival.

'We have been bringing people and art together through Wesfarmers Arts' partnership with Perth Festival since 2004,' Ms Carroll said. 'Art can be a wonderfully democratic and cohesive force that brings people together. We are thrilled that these 12 exhibitions are presented free to the public, making a vital contribution to the community in which we live and work.'

Visual Arts Program Partner



Wesfarmers Arts

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

EVERYTHING IS TRUE, ABDUL-RAHMAN ABDULLAH

John Curtin Gallery
Fri 5 Feb – Fri 23 Apr

DUA DUNIA, LEYLA STEVENS

PS Art Space
Fri 5 Feb – Sat 27 Feb

DISLOCATION, OLGA CIRONIS

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery
Fri 12 Feb – Sat 5 Jun

SONGS FROM PATRICK WILLIAM CARTER, PATRICK WILLIAM CARTER

Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
Sun 7 Feb – Sun 18 Apr

THE GATHERING, GLENN ISEGER-PILKINGTON

Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
Sun 7 Feb – Sun 18 Apr

ALLUVIAL GOLD, LOUISE DEVENISH, ERIN COATES

Goolugatup Heathcote Gallery
Wed 10 – 13 Feb (performance)
Sat 14 Nov – Sun 14 Feb (exhibition)

WHAT WASHES UP, PIP LEWI

Online and various locations
Fri 5 Feb – Sun 28 Feb

LEAVING LA, TEE KEN NG, TIM MINCHIN

Art Gallery of Western Australia
Sat 30 Jan – Mon 22 Apr

REFLECTION / SUBMERSION, various artists

Holmes à Court Gallery @ No. 10
Sat 6 Feb – Sat 27 Feb

THE HANDS SHOULD HAVE NO PEACE, various artists

Cool Change Contemporary
Sat 6 Feb – Sun 28 Feb

FAIR ISLE, various artists

DADAA

Fri 5 Feb – Sat 27 Feb

A FOREST OF HOOKS AND NAILS, various artists

Fremantle Arts Centre

Wed 3 Feb – Sun 21 Mar

MORE INFO: perthfestival.com.au

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

Stephen Bevis

+61 8 6488 8618 / 0448 927 281

sbevis@perthfestival.com.au

Belinda Sherry

+61 8 6488 8582 / 0415 346 803

bsherry@perthfestival.com.au

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 67 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 2020–23.