



GORDON DARLING FOUNDATION

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

2023

This Annual Report is available in PDF format from the Gordon Darling Foundation website.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



With travel not only back to normal, but at full capacity on most routes, the Darling Travel Grants (DTG's) are very active again. It made me think back to how they started – a browse in our archive held all the reminders.

Founding Chairman, Gordon Darling, sent a memo in September 1999 to all National and State Directors, and even to the Australia Council and Museums Australia. He floated the idea of grants for overseas travel, “targeted mainly at curators”. “The grant is intended to fund a priority requirement of the institution”, he wrote. The response was completely positive.

The Foundation Trustees met and chose the first tranche. A total of 14 DTG's were offered, out of the blue, to all seven State galleries, four National institutions, plus Heide Museum of Modern Art, Powerhouse Museum and the State Library of New South Wales. Each identified a suitable staff member for focused travel, and the delighted recipients set forth overseas.

In 2000, the Trustees added Domestic grants, given to regional galleries and smaller institutions. The choice is made by the State and National Gallery Directors – it is my very enjoyable task to have an annual telephone discussion with each Director, to select recipients for the following year.

In 2017 access to International Travel Grants was changed to competitive entry, a system which is working very well. The criteria are to benefit both the recipient and the institution. Total travel grants since 2000 have reached 453. And we have allocated a total of over \$2.5 million.

Last year's International DTG's resulted in travel to:
Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, UK, and USA (including Hawaii).

The written reports make wonderful reading and reinforce the original 1999 idea from the “big picture” man.

As usual, in 2023 we funded many worthwhile publications around Australia, and I am pleased to report that a record number of eight have received awards.

The Trustees recognise the hard work of our very small office team – Sherrie Antonio, Alister Shew and our part time accountant Seona Nielsen.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Darling".

Marilyn Darling AC
Chair

The Board of Trustees



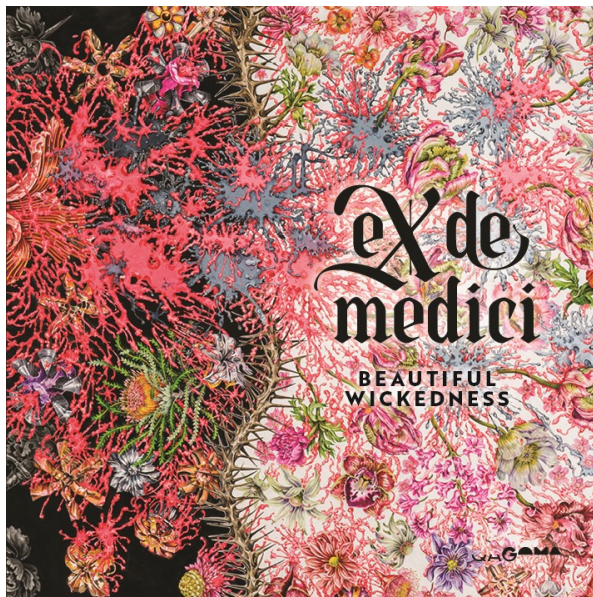
Philip Bacon AO, Gerard Vaughan AM, Fiona Menzies, Marilyn Darling AC (Chair),
Alison Crook AO, Ron Radford AM

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Catalogue and Publication Grants

In 2023, the Foundation continued to support a variety of exhibition catalogues and scholarly publications, from wide-ranging surveys of contemporary artists, to new looks at careers of past eras, and examinations of important places and periods in Australian art history. Many of the books supported this year are still in preparation, but as usual, we are featuring a selection of those that have been published in 2023.

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art *eX de Medici: Beautiful Wickedness*



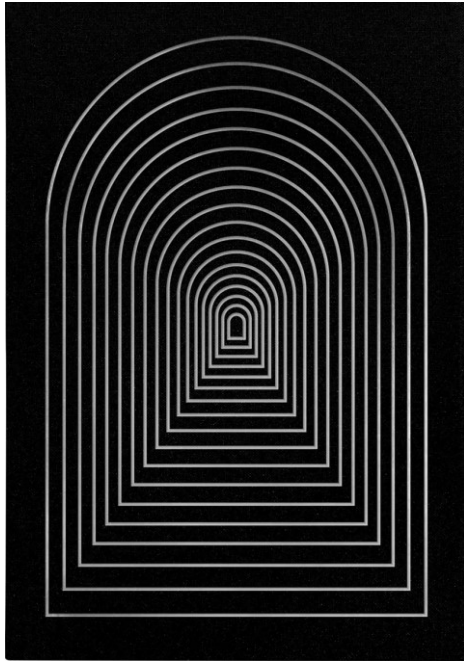
QAGOMA's career survey *eX de Medici: Beautiful Wickedness* (24 June - 2 October 2023) was the most significant exhibition of work yet by celebrated Australian artist eX de Medici, exploring her central concerns including the fragility of life, global affairs, greed and commerce, and the universal themes of power, conflict, and death. Artworks included de Medici's dazzling, panoramic watercolours, and the works of decorative art that these paintings have inspired. The accompanying hard-cover, 230-page publication added scholarly context to images of the artist's vibrant, intricate work, and was popular enough to sell out completely by the conclusion of the exhibition.

Museum of Australian Photography *ZAHALKAWORLD: an artist's archive*



In the first major survey of photographer Anne Zahalka's 40-year career, *ZAHALKAWORLD - an artist's archive* (10 June - 10 September 2023) brought together key bodies of work from across her practice, presented alongside items from her collection of materials that have informed and inspired. These archival materials were incorporated into a recreation of her house-studio within the gallery space, inviting audiences into the artist's working life and creative process to explore the illusionary worlds she is renowned for making. The publication further explored the ideas and inspirations behind Zahalka's practice and her working process, including a closer look at the new photographic installation *Kunstkammer*, which went on to win the Bowness Photography Prize for 2023. It was also a finalist in the Australian Graphic Design Association awards for publications.

Powerhouse Museum
1001 Remarkable Objects



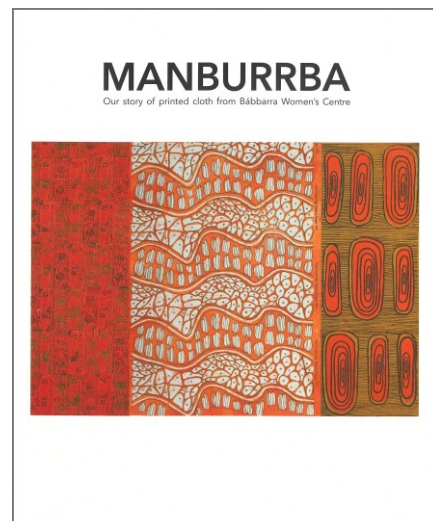
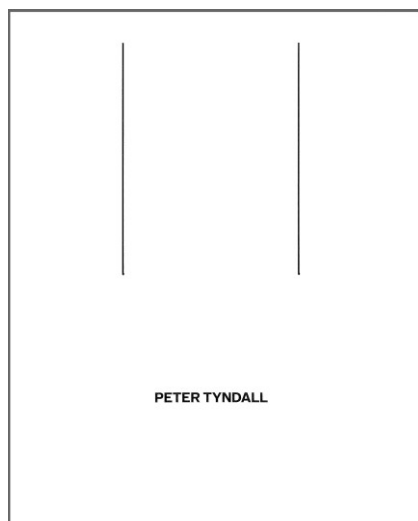
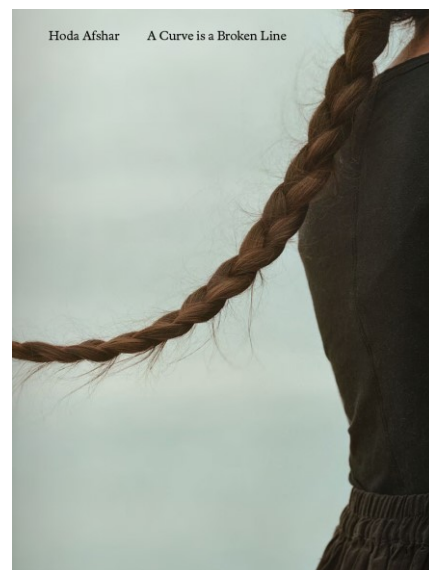
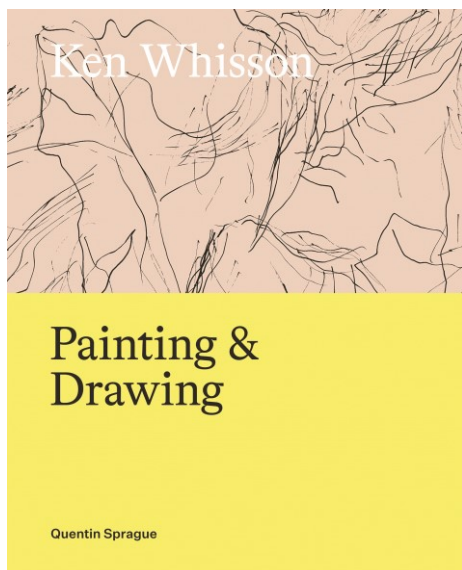
Curated by Leo Schofield AM alongside curatorium members Eva Czernis-Ryl, Ronan Sulich and Mark Sutcliffe, *1001 Remarkable Objects* (26 August 2023 - 4 February 2024) shone a spotlight on a selection of items from the vast Powerhouse collection, each of them deemed “remarkable – whether by virtue of rarity, visual appeal, social history or an ability to invoke wonder”. These were presented in unexpected juxtapositions across 25 rooms, created by exhibition designers Pip Runciman, Julie Lynch, Ross Wallace and Damien Cooper. The lavish 620-page publication documents this extraordinary array of material culture, bringing together jewellery, advertising signage, furniture, fashion, machinery, armour, clocks, musical instruments, and much more, with essays by the curatorium members and other specialists – a fitting celebration of the diversity of the collection as the Powerhouse undergoes its building renewal program across four sites.

Award recipients

We are always pleased to hear when grant recipients receive awards for the projects we have supported - 2023 brought accolades for the following, all of which featured publications assisted by the Foundation.

- *Radical Utopia, The Design Archaeology of a Creative City* (RMIT Culture): Winner, Small Project of the Year (Galleries), Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards.
- *Daughter of the Lightning Snake | Nongirrma Marawili* (Maitland Regional Art Gallery): Winner, Exhibition catalogue (Level A Small), Australian Museums and Galleries Association Multimedia and Publication Design Awards.
- *Collective Movements: First Nations Collectives, Collaborations and Creative Practices* (Monash University Museum of Art): Winner, Best University Art Museum Exhibition Catalogue, Art Association of Australia and New Zealand Art Writing and Publishing Awards.
- *Beating About the Bush* (Art Gallery of Ballarat): Winner, Medium Project of the Year (Galleries), Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards.
- *On Bunurong Country: Art and Design in Frankston* (McClelland): Collaborative Community History Award, Victorian Community History Awards.
- *Peter Tyndall* (Buxton Contemporary), *Sixty: The Journal of Australian Ceramics 60th Anniversary 1962 – 2022* (Australian Design Centre) and *ZAHALKAWORLD: an artist's archive* (Museum of Australian Photography) - Finalists, Publications category, Australian Graphic Design Association Awards.

A further selection of recent publications supported by the Foundation:



Left to right, top to bottom:

Ken Whisson: Painting & Drawing
Drill Hall Gallery / Miegunyah Press, 2023

Brent Harris: Surrender & Catch
Art Gallery of South Australia, 2023

Hoda Afshar: A Curve is a Broken Line
Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2023

Peter Tyndall
Buxton Contemporary, 2023

Sun & Shadow: Art of the Spinifex People
Spinifex Arts Project / Upswell Publishing, 2023

Manburrba: Our story of printed cloth from Bábbarra Women's Centre
Charles Darwin University Art Gallery, 2023

**GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2023
(IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)**

1.	Queensland Art Gallery Gallery of Modern Art	QLD
2.	Redland Art Gallery	QLD
3.	Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	TAS
4.	Art Gallery of South Australia	SA
5.	Museum of Australian Photography	VIC
6.	Australian Museums and Galleries Association	ACT
7.	Adelaide Contemporary Experimental	SA
8.	West Space	VIC
9.	Art Gallery of Western Australia	WA
10.	Art Gallery of New South Wales	NSW
11.	Centre of Visual Art, University of Melbourne	VIC
12.	State Library of New South Wales	NSW
13.	Ian Potter Museum of Art	VIC
14.	Newcastle Art Gallery	NSW
15.	David Roche Foundation House Museum	SA
16.	National Gallery of Australia	ACT
17.	Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory	NT
18.	National Art School	NSW
19.	Centre for Contemporary Photography	VIC
20.	Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material	ACT
21.	Deakin University Art Collection and Galleries	VIC
22.	Ngununggula	NSW
23.	Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces	VIC
24.	Araluen Arts Centre	NT
25.	Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre	NT
26.	Griffith University Art Museum	QLD
27.	Flinders University Museum of Art	SA

DARLING TRAVEL GRANTS / INTERNATIONAL 2023

1. **National Gallery of Australia, ACT - Dr Deborah Hart**
UK and France: Researching the life and work of Ethel Carrick.
2. **Australian Museum, NSW - Heather Bleechmore & Kyra Kim**
Egypt: Studying conservation and collection care at the Grand Egyptian Museum and Cairo Museum.
3. **Museum of Contemporary Art, NSW - Lucy Latella**
South Korea and Japan: Attending the Gwangju Biennale, and visiting key contemporary art museums to develop networks and exhibitions.
4. **Sydney Opera House, NSW - Micheal Do**
New York City: Undertaking a two-week residency at MoMA.
5. **Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, NT - Bryony Nainby**
Indonesia and Singapore: Viewing collections and exhibitions, meeting artists and curators, building new relationships with the cultural sector.
6. **Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, QLD - Sophia Sambono**
Indonesia, New Zealand and Hawai'i: Pursuing research and networking opportunities in the Asia Pacific region from a First Nations curatorial perspective.
7. **Salamanca Arts Centre, TAS - Joe Bugden**
Scotland and Ireland: Researching the ways in which cultural facilities operating in heritage buildings balance access and inclusion priorities with heritage preservation.
8. **Craft Victoria, VIC - Eliza Tiernan**
Italy: Researching craft and design practice and exhibitions.
9. **Gertrude Contemporary, VIC - Tracy Burgess & Mark Feary**
New York City and State, Philadelphia: Gaining an overview of emerging trends in contemporary art, and meeting key staff from comparable peer organisations to Gertrude.
10. **Heide Museum of Modern Art, VIC - Lesley Harding**
New York City, England, Denmark, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dusseldorf, Paris: Developing exhibition prospects and visiting a range of modernist art museums and sculpture parks.
11. **McClelland, VIC - Lisa Byrne**
USA: Visiting a number of sculpture parks and galleries whose operations align with McClelland.
12. **Monash University Museum of Art, VIC - Melissa Bedford**
UK and Italy: Meeting with specialist museum educators and attending a week-long intensive in the Reggio Emilia approach to education.
13. **Platform Arts, VIC - Sarah Jones**
Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Berlin: Developing partnerships with publishers, designers and curators towards the first outcomes of Public Platform, an in-house publishing / public art program.
14. **Shepparton Art Museum, VIC - Melinda Martin**
Helsinki, London, Paris: Developing exhibitions and researching aspects of museum operations including programming, visitor engagement and retail spaces.
15. **Geelong Gallery, VIC - Jason Smith**
Singapore, Dundee, Bilbao: Developing international networks following Geelong's designation as a UNESCO City of Design.

DARLING TRAVEL GRANTS / DOMESTIC 2023

1.	National Gallery of Australia	ACT
2.	Ngununggula	NSW
3.	New England Regional Art Museum	NSW
4.	Cowra Regional Art Gallery	NSW
5.	Logan Art Gallery	QLD
6.	NorthSite	QLD
7.	Country Arts SA	SA
8.	Art Gallery of South Australia	SA
9.	Devonport Regional Gallery	TAS
10.	Shepparton Art Museum	VIC
11.	Bendigo Art Gallery	VIC
12.	Art Gallery of Ballarat	VIC
13.	Goldfields Arts Centre	WA
14.	Collie Art Gallery	WA

FINANCIAL

LDAssurance Pty Ltd carried out the audit of the Foundation's 2023 accounts in February 2024.