

GORDON DARLING FOUNDATION

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Last September, a very large and handsome publication was launched. Produced by the Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne, its title, *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art* certainly captures attention. Edited by Professor Marcia Langton AO and Judith Ryan AM, this book is ready for the exhibition accompanying the reopening of the Potter in 2025. The Gordon Darling Foundation (GDF) is a proud publication partner.

This superb book made me think of university museums in Australia and how, with limited promotional funds, their exhibitions are often not as well attended as they should be.

GDF supported two other university museum exhibition catalogues last year. Flinders University Museum of Art, South Australia produced *If you don't fight ... you lose: politics, posters and PAM*, to accompany an exhibition celebrating the evolution of PAM (Progressive Art Movement) in the 1970s. A great read as well as nostalgic posters throughout.

Thirdly, *Chinese Toggles: Culture in Miniature*, produced by the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney, for a collaborative exhibition with the Powerhouse Museum, who hold the remarkable Morrison collection. Toggles are a relic of pre-Western dress in China – used as a counterbalance for a pouch fastened round the waist.

So – put university museums on your visit list. What's more, admission is normally free of charge.

Overall in 2024, we awarded 29 general grants – 24 of these towards publications – 14 international travel grants, and 16 domestic travel grants, as listed at the end of this report.

The Foundation was also very appreciative to be the recipient of the 2024 Patrons Award from the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA). The National Council of AMaGA voted to recognise 'the outstanding contribution the Foundation has made to the sector'. We were delighted to accept.

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 black ink that reads "Marilyn Darling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marilyn Darling AC
Chair

The Board of Trustees



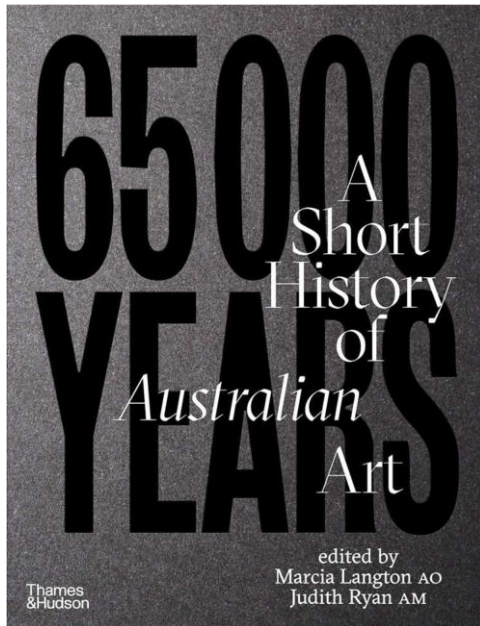
Philip Bacon AO, Gerard Vaughan AM, Marilyn Darling AC (Chair), Alison Crook AO, Ron Radford AM, Fiona Menzies

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Catalogue and Publication Grants

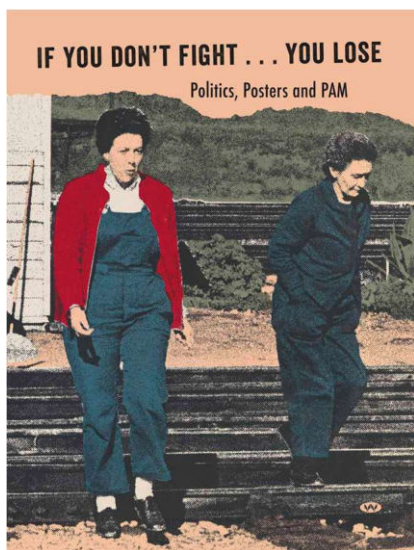
As remarked upon by the Chair in her report, the Foundation has recently supported several notable catalogues accompanying exhibitions at university museums, each serving not only as a record of the exhibition, but as significant works of research in themselves.

University of Melbourne / Thames and Hudson *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art*



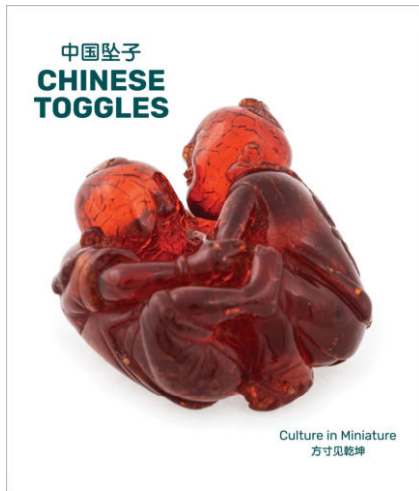
A project that began with the University of Melbourne's consideration of its own historical collections, expanding over time to include work from numerous other public and private collections, the publication *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art* compiles essays by 25 leading scholars, examining the history of First Peoples' art with a focus on truth-telling. In addition to essays on the art of Arnhem Land, Groote Eylandt, the Central and Western Deserts, and the Kimberley, are examinations of 19th century Aboriginal artists, of the portrayal of Aboriginal people by colonial artists, and of scientific racism. The *65,000 Years* exhibition, curated by the book's authors, Distinguished Associate Provost Professor Marcia Langton AO and Senior Curator Judith Ryan AM, with Associate Curator Shanyssa McConville, will open at the Potter Museum of Art in May 2025.

Flinders University Museum of Art / Wakefield Press *If you don't fight... you lose: politics, posters and PAM*



The Progressive Art Movement group (PAM), active in Adelaide from 1974 to 1977, grew out of the Flinders University Politics and Art course during a period of political volatility, student radicalism and industrial unrest. Artists including Ann Newmarch, Mandy Martin, Robert Boynes, Andrew Hill, Pamela Harris, Peter Mumford, Christine McCarthy, Robin Best and Jim Cane lived their activism by demonstrating about art, working as artists on the factory floor, and creating posters for political causes. *If you don't fight ... you lose: politics, posters and PAM*, published with Wakefield Press, documents Flinders University Art Museum's exhibition of the same name, shown from 6 May to 5 July 2024, and features reproductions of 55 of PAM's political posters alongside essays by the exhibition curators, Catherine Speck and Jude Adams, as well as Julie Ewington and Suzanne Close.

Chau Chak Wing Museum (with Powerhouse Museum)
Chinese Toggles: Culture in Miniature



L: Toggle depicting a child crouching over a melon; R: Toggle in the shape of a polished ivory ball. Powerhouse Collection, Gift of Alastair Morrison, 1992

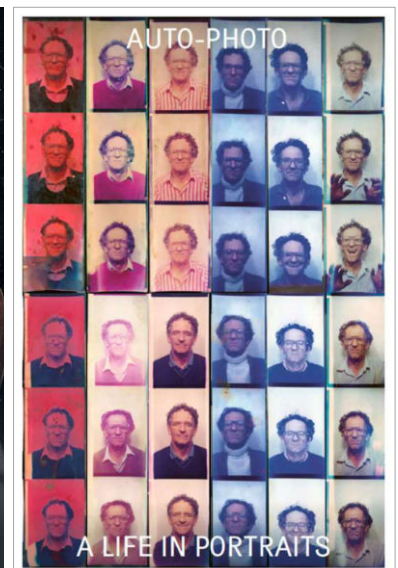
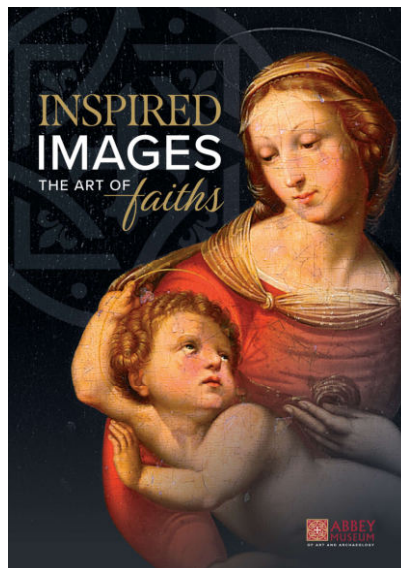
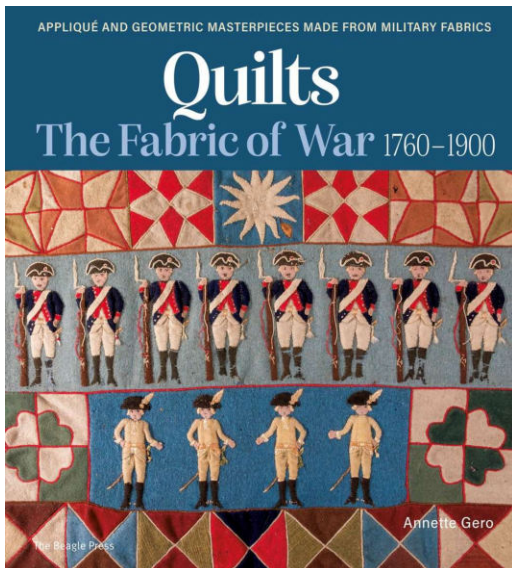
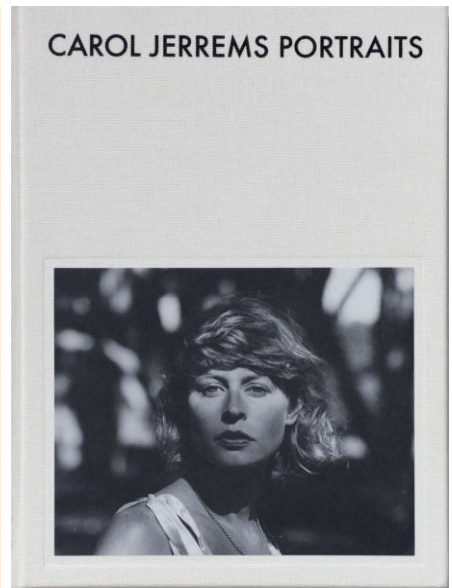
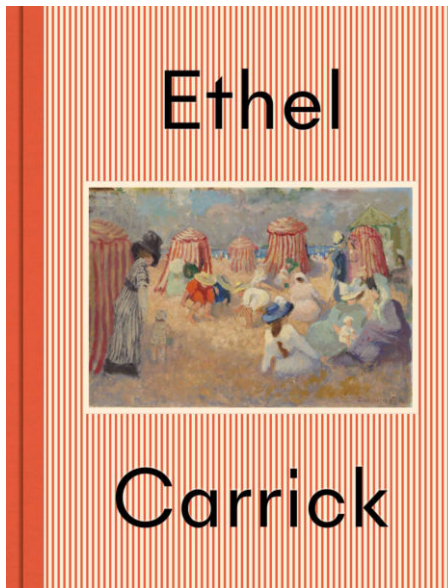
Edited by Dr Chen Shuxia (China Gallery Curator, Chau Chak Wing Museum) and Min-Jung Kim (Curator of Asian Arts, Powerhouse Museum), *Chinese Toggles: Culture in Miniature* showcases one of the world's largest collections of Chinese toggles (*zhuizi*), held by the Powerhouse and exhibited at the Chau Chak Wing Museum in 2023-2024. Richly illustrated with images of these small but remarkable objects, the book also offers a detailed examination of *zhuizi*, including in-depth analysis of their materials and manufacture.

Publication award recipients

As the Foundation aims to support projects that will be considered first-class examples of art scholarship and publishing, we are always gratified when this excellence is recognised by peers in the form of selection for awards. In 2024, several publications supported by the Foundation were awarded as follows:

- *Cressida Campbell* (National Gallery of Australia): Winner, Excellence in Print Award, Group 2, Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) Awards.
- *Milton Moon: Crafting Modernism* (Art Gallery of South Australia): Winner, Best Small Exhibition Catalogue, Art Association of Australia and New Zealand Art Writing and Publishing Awards.
- *Hoda Afshar: A Curve is a Broken Line* (Art Gallery of New South Wales) and *1001 Remarkable Objects* (Powerhouse): Joint winners, Best Large Exhibition Catalogue, Art Association of Australia and New Zealand Art Writing and Publishing Awards. *1001 Remarkable Objects* was also selected as Best Designed Fully-illustrated Book over \$75 at the Australian Book Design Awards, and the exhibition as Critics' Choice Best Museum Exhibition in the Time Out Sydney Arts and Culture Awards.

A further selection of recent publications supported by the Foundation:



Left to right, top to bottom:

Nusra Latif Qureshi: Birds in Far Pavilions
Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2024

Ethel Carrick
National Gallery of Australia, 2024

Carol Jerrems: Portraits
National Portrait Gallery, 2024

Quilts: The Fabric of War 1760 - 1900
David Roche Foundation / Beagle Press, 2024

Inspired Images: The Art of Faiths
Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, 2025

Auto-Photo: A Life in Portraits
Centre for Contemporary Photography / Perimeter Editions, 2024

**GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2024
(IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)**

1.	Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery	QLD
2.	McClelland	VIC
3.	Heide Museum of Modern Art	VIC
4.	Museums and Galleries Queensland	QLD
5.	Women's Art Register	VIC
6.	Maitland Regional Art Gallery	NSW
7.	Hans Heysen Foundation	SA
8.	Gippsland Art Gallery	VIC
9.	Orange Regional Gallery	NSW
10.	Bank Art Museum Moree	NSW
11.	Museum of Australian Photography	VIC
12.	Art Gallery of New South Wales	NSW
13.	JamFactory	SA
14.	National Portrait Gallery	ACT
15.	Benalla Art Gallery	VIC
16.	TarraWarra Museum of Art	VIC
17.	Chau Chak Wing Museum	NSW
18.	Museum of Chinese Australian History	VIC
19.	Mundaring Arts Centre Inc	WA
20.	S.H. Ervin Gallery	NSW
21.	Bundanon Trust	NSW
22.	Australian Museums and Galleries Association	ACT
23.	Mudgee Arts Precinct	NSW
24.	Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology	QLD
25.	Lismore Regional Gallery	NSW
26.	PHOTO Australia	VIC
27.	Art Gallery of South Australia	SA
28.	Horsham Regional Art Gallery	VIC
29.	Royal Society of Tasmania	TAS

DARLING TRAVEL GRANTS / INTERNATIONAL 2024

- 1. National Portrait Gallery, ACT - Bree Pickering**
London and Edinburgh: Visiting National Portrait Galleries and meeting with their Directors and staff, and meetings at V&A and Tate Modern.
- 2. Canberra Glassworks, ACT - Aimee Frodsham**
Berlin, Prague, Novy Bor, Venice, Murano, Copenhagen, Småland: Visiting centres of outstanding glass art production, and attending two glass art conferences.
- 3. Australian National Maritime Museum, NSW - Mathew Le Breton Poll**
Auckland, Honolulu, Rotterdam: Attending the Commonwealth Association of Museums Conference, Festival of Pacific Arts and International Congress of Maritime Museums.
- 4. Australian National Maritime Museum, NSW - Viktoria Berglinden**
Copenhagen, Stockholm, Sicily, Rome, Pisa: Researching presentation methods for the presentation of historic boats, towards designing the long-term display for the Barangaroo Boat at the ANMM.
- 5. Australian Design Centre, NSW - Lisa Cahill**
New York City: Visiting the Museum of Art and Design, to view their Burke Prize exhibition and meet with staff, and visit other peer museums.
- 6. Museum of Contemporary Art, NSW - Keith Munro**
Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Montgomery: Attending the CIMAM Annual Conference and visiting a number of museums and galleries, including those dedicated to American Indian art and racial justice, and meeting with curators and artists.
- 7. QAGOMA, QLD - Geraldine Kirrihi Barlow**
Venice, Berlin, Reykjavik, Istanbul: Working alongside artist Olafur Eliasson at his studio, to develop an exhibition for QAGOMA, and visiting the Venice Biennale.
- 8. HOTA Home of the Arts, QLD - Jodi Ferrari**
Los Angeles, New York City, Boston, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco: Visiting museums that have prioritised engagement with children to learn from their approaches and programs, to inform the development of HOTA's Children's Gallery.
- 9. Museums and Collections, University of Melbourne, VIC - Alisa Bunbury**
New York City, Washington DC, New Haven, Poughkeepsie, Albany, San Francisco, Los Angeles: Undertaking research towards a major exhibition at the Potter Museum of Art.
- 10. RMIT Galleries, VIC - Helen Rayment and Julia Powles**
Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, Panjim: Scoping a bilateral creative exchange program for curators and artists, facilitating residencies and exhibitions in India and Australia.
- 11. Robin Boyd Foundation, VIC - Josephine Briginshaw**
London, Netherlands, Antwerp, Brussels, Milan, Vienna: Visiting 20th-century house museums, architecture archives and centres for contemporary design and architecture.
- 12. Museums Victoria, VIC - Celia Mallard**
New York City and London: Investigating fundraising practices and methodologies at leading museums and other institutions.
- 13. Linden New Art, VIC - Vincent Alessi**
London, Birmingham, Berlin, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam, Ghent, Venice: Visiting a range of art institutions similar in size and scope to Linden, researching new approaches to the development and presentation of contemporary art.
- 14. Art Gallery of Western Australia, WA - Robert Cook**
Mexico City, Miami, Philadelphia, New York City: Meeting with artists who will be exhibiting at AGWA during 2025-26.

DARLING TRAVEL GRANTS / DOMESTIC 2024

1.	Drill Hall Gallery	ACT
2.	Newcastle Art Gallery	NSW
3.	Artspace	NSW
4.	Manning Regional Art Gallery	NSW
5.	Museum and Art Gallery of the NT	NT
6.	Rockhampton Museum of Art	QLD
7.	HOTA Home of the Arts	QLD
8.	Artspace Mackay	QLD
9.	Outback Regional Gallery	QLD
10.	Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery	SA
11.	Guildhouse	SA
12.	Contemporary Art Tasmania	TAS
13.	Benalla Art Gallery	VIC
14.	Koorie Heritage Trust	VIC
15.	Bunbury Regional Art Gallery	WA
16.	Albany Town Hall Galleries	WA

FINANCIAL

LDAssurance Pty Ltd carried out the audit of the Foundation's 2024 accounts in January 2025.