

GORDON DARLING FOUNDATION

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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

TELEPHONE (03) 9820 3168
BOX 7496 • ST KILDA ROAD PO • MELBOURNE VIC 3004
E-MAIL gdarling@bigpond.net.au
WEBSITE www.gordondarlingfoundation.org.au

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



On July 15 2025, the Trustees of the Gordon Darling Foundation marked the 100th meeting since the Foundation's inception in 1991. August 31 2025 was the 10th anniversary of the death of our founder Gordon Darling, and we trust that the Foundation has honoured his wishes in the last decade.

We continued our successful pattern of focused support, awarding 26 general grants in 2025, of which 20 were for publications – four won awards.

Travel grants are increasingly popular. We awarded 17 domestic travel grants and 14 international grants, listed at the end of this report. The written reports from recipients demonstrate the value of the program.

Much less happily, we have frequently noticed, with increasing concern, galleries and institutions which have suffered financial setbacks, major staff cuts and even closure.

One highly successful activity, funded by the Federal Government and managed by the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) is *Sharing the National Collection* (STNC).

GDF funded the Head of the NGA program to attend the Oxford Cultural Leaders Program, where she concluded that STNC is by far the most generous loans and outreach program currently in operation.

Regional and remote galleries are able to request artworks from the NGA collection, to hang for a period on their walls. The immediate impact on visitation is dramatic. Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre borrowed Claude Monet's *Meules, milieu du jour* [*Haystacks, midday*] and saw an increase of 30,000 visitors over the two-year loan. At Wanneroo Regional Gallery, 25km from Perth, the display of 50 works by Andy Warhol produced a 480% increase in visitors in three months, of which 64% were new visitors.

It reminds me of the line "Show it and they will come".

Show the public great art – and put art before issues.

I would like to record my appreciation for the high-calibre input of the GDF trustees. And as always to recognise the hard work of our very small office team – Sherrie Antonio, Alister Shew and 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



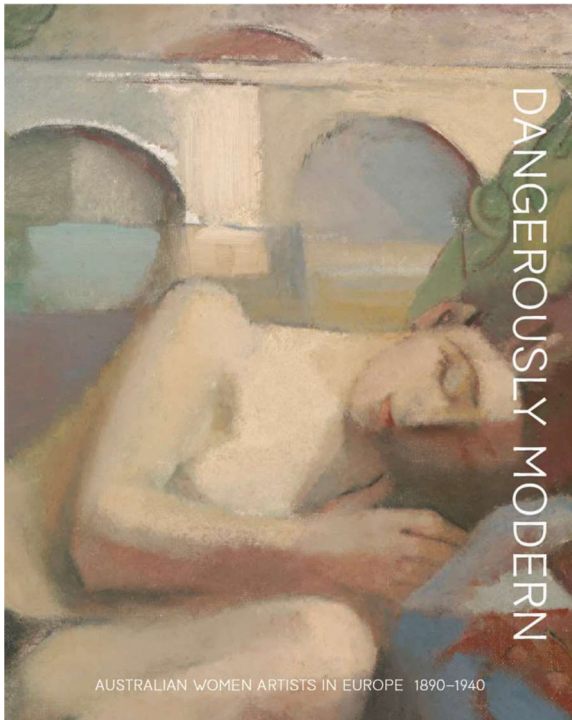
Ron Radford AM, Marilyn Darling AC (Chair), Gerard Vaughan AM, Alison Crook AO, Philip Bacon AO, Fiona Menzies

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Catalogue and Publication Grants

As always, a large proportion of the applications submitted to the Foundation are seeking support to produce exhibition catalogues, artist monographs and publications examining aspects of Australian art history, and as in recent years, we are featuring a selection of these publications released in 2025.

Dangerously Modern: Australian Women Artists in Europe 1890-1940 **Art Gallery of South Australia / Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2025**



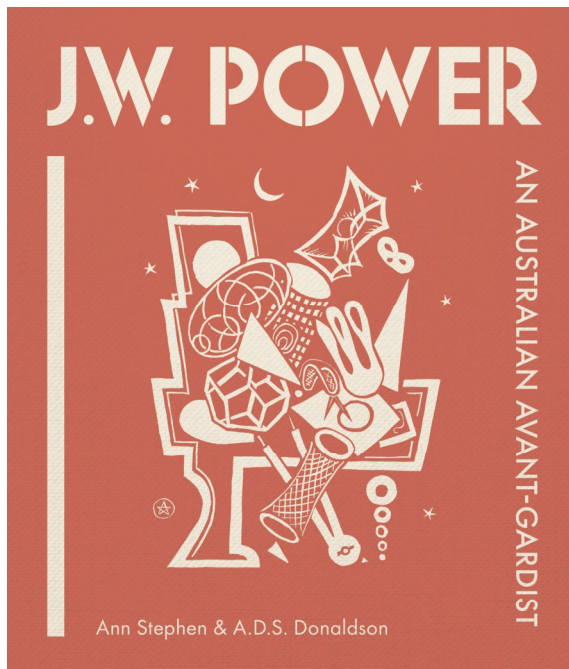
The Art Gallery of South Australia collaborated with the Art Gallery of New South Wales to present *Dangerously Modern: Australian Women Artists in Europe 1890-1940*, a major exhibition and publication focusing on the vital role of Australian women artists in the creation and transmission of international modernism. Over 200 works were selected for the exhibition (shown at AGSA, 24 May to 7 September 2025, and at AGNSW, 11 October 2025 to 15 February 2026), to give an account of the wave of women artists who left Australia for Europe at the turn of the 20th century, drawn by the development of modernism taking place in London, Paris and beyond, including Nora Heysen, Dorrit Black, Margaret Preston, Ethel Spowers, Anne Dangar and Grace Crowley. The catalogue featured essays by almost 30 contributors, and sold out its 8,000-copy print run.

Turner & Australia **Gippsland Art Gallery, 2025**



Turner & Australia, curated by Simon Gregg (Director, Gippsland Art Gallery) and shown from 7 June to 24 August 2025, was the first major study of the influence of J.M.W. Turner (1775–1851) on Australian art, presenting over 200 artworks from national, state, regional and university art collections, including 11 works by Turner himself. This supporting catalogue includes images of all those works, as well as many others (including major pieces by Turner in overseas collections) to explore his influence in greater depth. Scholarly contributions are made by John Borrack, Jane Clark, Dr Alison Inglis AM, Dr Ted Gott, Simon Gregg, Sasha Grishin AM, FAHA, Dr Sheridan Palmer, Dr Juliette Peers, Dr Ron Radford AM, and Tony Smibert AM.

J.W. Power: An Australian Avant-gardist
National Library of Australia, 2025



Sydney-born J.W. Power (1881-1943) is best known today as a benefactor whose gifts led to the founding of the Power Institute at the University of Sydney in 1968, and the establishment of the Museum of Contemporary Art in 1991. Lesser-known is the contribution he made as an artist in the avant-garde art worlds of London and Paris in the 1920s and 1930s – a period examined in depth in this monograph by Dr Ann Stephen, FAHA and Dr A.D.S. Donaldson, who also co-curated the accompanying exhibition at the University of Sydney's Chau Chak Wing Museum, *J.W. Power: Art, War and the Avant-garde* (19 July 2025 to 8 February 2026). The project also drew extensively on the National Library of Australia's collection of Power's sketchbooks and his library of art books.

Publication award recipients

The Foundation is pleased to hear when supported publications are recognised with awards, whether for the quality of their scholarship or the graphic design. In 2025, the following accolades were received:

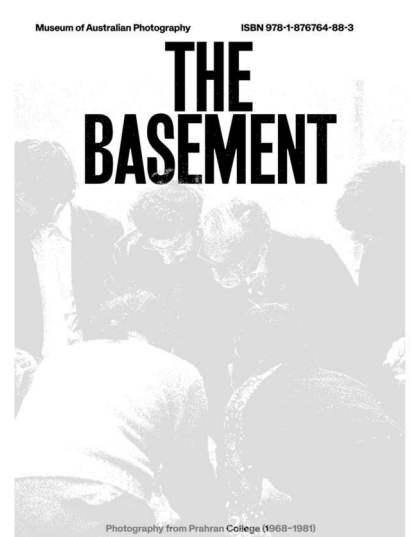
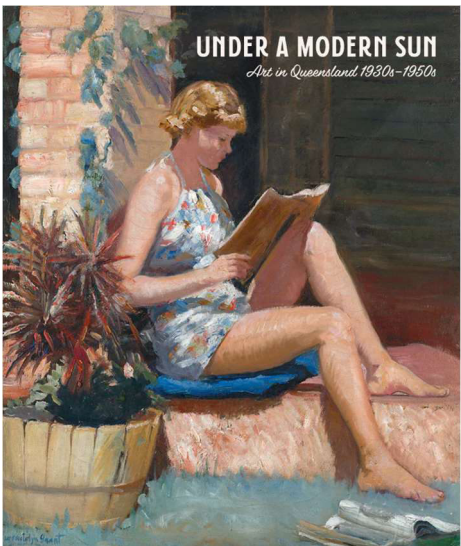
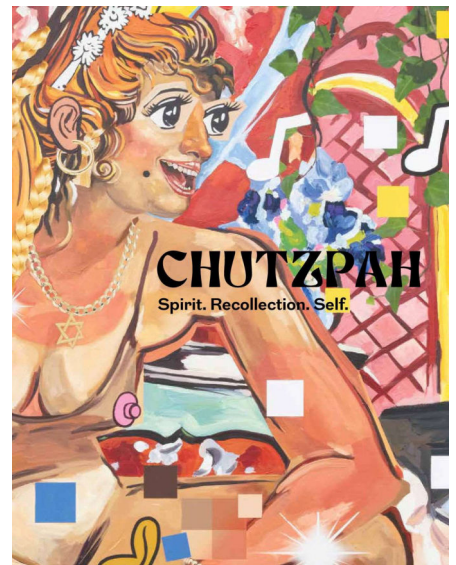
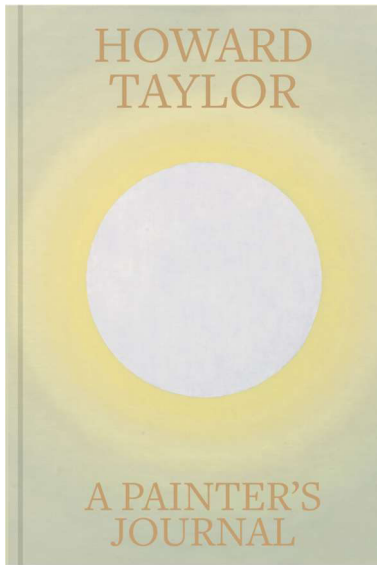
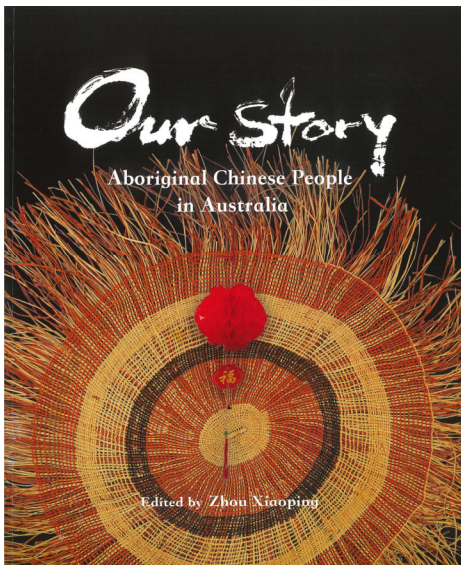
Art Association of Australia and New Zealand Art Writing and Publishing Awards:

- *Ian Burn: Collected Writings 1966–1993* (Power Publications): Highly Commended, Best Anthology.
- *Chinese Toggles: Culture In Miniature* (Chau Chak Wing Museum / Powerhouse / Power Publications): Winner, Best University Art Museum Exhibition Catalogue.
- *Nusra Latif Qureshi: Birds in Far Pavilions* (Art Gallery of New South Wales): Highly Commended, Best Large Exhibition Catalogue.

Australian Graphic Design Association (AGDA) Awards:

- *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art* (Potter Museum of Art / Thames and Hudson): Finalist, Publications category.

A further selection of recent publications supported by the Foundation:



Left to right, top to bottom:

Our Story: Aboriginal Chinese People in Australia
Museum of Chinese Australian History, 2025

Howard Taylor: A Painter's Journal
Art Gallery of Western Australia, 2025

Chutzpah: Spirit. Recollection. Self.
Jewish Museum of Australia, 2025

Under a Modern Sun: Art in Queensland 1930s-1950s
Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, 2025

Keeping Things Together: 50 Years of the Women's Art Register
Women's Art Register, 2025

The Basement: Photography from Prahran College (1968-1981)
Museum of Australian Photography, 2025

**GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2025
(IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)**

1.	Midpul Art Gallery at Charles Darwin University	NT
2.	City of Fremantle Art Collection	WA
3.	Writing & Society Research Centre, Western Sydney University	NSW
4.	Queensland Art Gallery Gallery of Modern Art	QLD
5.	Duldig Studio	VIC
6.	Jewish Museum of Australia	VIC
7.	Manly Art Gallery and Museum	NSW
8.	Iltja Ntjarra Art Centre	NT
9.	Australian Ceramics Triennale	NSW
10.	Art Gallery of Western Australia	WA
11.	Mossenson Art Foundation	WA
12.	Adelaide Contemporary Experimental	SA
13.	National Gallery of Australia	ACT
14.	Grainger Museum	VIC
15.	GLAAS	VIC
16.	Robert Cripps Institute for Cultural Conservation	VIC
17.	Australian Tapestry Workshop	VIC
18.	Drill Hall Gallery	ACT
19.	InPlace	VIC
20.	National Art School	NSW
21.	Art Gallery of New South Wales	NSW
22.	APY Art Centre Collective	SA
23.	Goulburn Regional Art Gallery	NSW
24.	Hans Heysen Foundation	SA
25.	Potter Museum of Art	VIC
26.	Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material	TAS

DARLING TRAVEL GRANTS / INTERNATIONAL 2025

- 1. National Gallery of Australia, ACT - Tracy Cooper-Lavery**
UK: Attendance at Oxford Cultural Leaders Program, and meetings with colleagues at national institutions in London.
- 2. Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, NSW - Megan Robson**
USA: Attending Hawai'i Triennial and developing partnership between MCA and the Hawai'i Contemporary organisation, and a research tour of several contemporary art spaces with significant public art/sculpture programs.
- 3. Murray Art Museum Albury, NSW - Blair French**
Paris, Turin, Dusseldorf, Cologne, Milan: Attending the annual conference of the International Committee for the Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM), the Paris Photo 2025 Fair and accompanying programs, and visits to contemporary art institutions and artist-run initiatives.
- 4. Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, NT - Emily Collins**
Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore: Research, exhibition/collection visits and networking to support dynamic, innovative curating with MAGNT's Collection of Southeast Asian Art and Material Culture for future exhibitions, and to foster creative exchanges to inform Museum programs.
- 5. Museum of Brisbane, QLD - Christine Clark**
Sharjah, UK, France, Singapore: Study tour of leading city-focused Biennials and city museums.
- 6. History Trust of South Australia, SA - Adam Paterson**
UK, USA, Canada: Research tour to inform the renewal of the History Trust's Migration Museum, visiting and meeting with colleagues at a number of peer museums that have developed strong relationships with communities and artists.
- 7. JamFactory, SA - Caitlin Eyre**
Sweden, UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany: Visiting key European craft and design museums with significant collections of historical and contemporary jewellery, engaging with contemporary jewellery makers, and researching best practice methods for the display of jewellery collections.
- 8. Art Gallery of South Australia, SA - Gloria Strzelecki**
USA: Visiting museums to research artists exploring the spiritual in their practice, working towards a future exhibition at AGSA.
- 9. Heide Museum of Modern Art, VIC - Kendrah Morgan**
UK, Italy: Research and development for exhibitions on the artists of the Bloomsbury Group and Omega Workshops, and on Giorgio de Chirico, both considered important international influences on the Reeds' artistic community.
- 10. Museum of Australian Photography, VIC - Anouska Phizacklea**
France, Japan: Attending Arles International Photo Festival, and visiting key organisations to build relationships, including Musée du Quai Branly, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, and the KYOTOGRAPHIE Festival.
- 11. McClelland, VIC - Lisa Byrne**
France, Denmark, UK: Visiting and meeting with colleagues at a number of European sculpture parks, including work towards the establishment of a reciprocal artists' residency with the Dragon Hill residency in Mougins.
- 12. Rural City of Wangaratta, VIC - Simone Nolan**
UK: Attendance at Oxford Cultural Leaders Program.
- 13. Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC - Emma Busowsky**
USA: Research and development for two major exhibitions planned for Bendigo Art Gallery after its redevelopment.
- 14. Footscray Community Arts, VIC - Bernadette Fitzgerald**
Indonesia: Travel to participate in the Australia Indonesia Art Forum's Indonesian Art Study Tour, a week-long tour of local art scenes, visiting museums, galleries, art spaces, collectives and studios.

DARLING TRAVEL GRANTS / DOMESTIC 2025

1.	Museum of Australian Democracy	ACT
2.	Maitland Regional Art Gallery	NSW
3.	National Art School	NSW
4.	UNSW Galleries	NSW
5.	Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory	NT
6.	Maningrida Arts and Culture	NT
7.	UQ Art Museum	QLD
8.	Ipswich Art Gallery	QLD
9.	Museum of Brisbane	QLD
10.	Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre	SA
11.	Carrick Hill	SA
12.	Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	TAS
13.	Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery	VIC
14.	Museum of Australian Photography	VIC
15.	Gippsland Art Gallery	VIC
16.	Mundaring Arts Centre	WA
17.	Wanneroo Regional Gallery	WA

FINANCIAL

LDAssurance Pty Ltd carried out the audit of the Foundation's 2025 accounts in February 2026.