



UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 30th SEPTEMBER, 9:00AM AEST

Melbourne Art Fair Previews 2026 Gallery Line-Up and Introduces FUTUREOBJEKT, Melbourne Art Fair's Inaugural Design Salon

- Since 1988, Melbourne Art Fair has stood at the forefront of contemporary art in the Asia-Pacific — one of the region's longest-running fairs.
- Expanding Australia's growing appetite for collectible design, FUTUREOBJEKT will present works by more than 30 Australian and international designers and craftspeople.
- Tickets on sale from Thursday, 9 October at 9am.

Melbourne, 30th September 2025 — Since 1988, Melbourne Art Fair has been the catalyst for the industry: a place where art and ideas collide. Today it announces the first details of its 19th edition, including the debut of FUTUREOBJEKT — a 600-square-metre salon devoted to collectible design that will further cement Melbourne's position as a creative force in the region.

From 19–22 February, Melbourne Art Fair 2026 takes possession of the vast industrial chambers of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. More than fifty of the region's most formidable galleries and Indigenous owned art centres will converge, presenting works that shift from the monumental to the ephemeral, the serious to the spectral.

Beyond the gallery walls, the Fair stretches its legs with an ambitious program including large-scale installation and sculpture, video, and a Conversations series designed to stir and provoke.

Melissa Loughnan, Fair Director said *“I’m incredibly proud to be helming Melbourne Art Fair as we head into our 19th edition in February. We’re settling well into our annual rhythm for the event and are excited to take this opportunity to celebrate the history of the Fair while we also look to introduce exciting new interventions and programs that speak to our future ambitions”.*

Galleries

Melbourne Art Fair’s unique curatorial approach will see over 50 galleries return to the Fair in 2026, each encouraged to utilise the platform of Melbourne Art Fair to celebrate contemporary artists through solo exhibitions and thoughtfully curated group presentations. The next edition of Melbourne Art Fair welcomes back a number of Australia’s leading galleries to present an exciting new collection of exhibitions and presentations, including:

- **1301SW/STARKWHITE** (Gadigal Country/Sydney; Naarm/Melbourne; Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland; Tāhuna/Queenstown)
- **Ames Yavuz** (Gadigal Country/Sydney; Singapore)
- **Nasha Gallery** (Gadigal Country/Sydney)
- **Neon Parc** (Naarm/Melbourne)
- **Niagara Galleries** (Naarm/Melbourne)
- **Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery** (Gadigal Country/Sydney)
- **Sophie Gannon Gallery** (Naarm/Melbourne)
- **Sullivan&Strumpf** (Gadigal Country/Sydney; Naarm/Melbourne; Singapore)

Melbourne Art Fair is excited to welcome debut participants to the Fair in 2026 including:

- **Grace** (Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland),
- **Mary Cherry** (Naarm/Melbourne),
- **PALAS** (Gadigal Country/Sydney),
- **S_y_d_n_e_y_S_y_d_n_e_y_** (Gadigal Country/Sydney).

Supported through the **William Mora Indigenous Art Centre Program** the 2026 Fair will host six of Australia’s most important Indigenous arts centres. Since 2022, the William Mora Indigenous Art Centre Program has created a dedicated platform for Indigenous art centres at Melbourne Art Fair, recognising both the Fair’s role in connecting artists with audiences and the centrality of First Peoples artists to contemporary art discourse. The program offers opportunities for artists from

remote communities to enter the commercial sphere, amplifying their voices within the broader contemporary art context. The William Mora Indigenous Art Centre Program is funded by the Australian Government through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program and generously supported by Morgans Financial Limited.

FUTUREOBJEKT

In celebration of the audacity and refinement of Australia's collectible design scene — long punching above its weight — Melbourne Art Fair unveils FUTUREOBJEKT for its 2026 edition. Conceived as both stage and salon, FUTUREOBJEKT is a platform for discovery: a place where collectors encounter the new, the daring, and the exquisitely made.

Spanning industrial and object design, interiors, architecture, and craft, FUTUREOBJEKT brings together galleries and designers at the heart of the Fair. At its centre, a dedicated design lounge will offer more than respite: it will become a theatre for conversation, hosting a program of talks and events that invite audiences to delve deeper into design's most provocative ideas.

Peter Jopling AM KC, Chairman of Melbourne Art Foundation said

"Melbourne has strong design credentials and there is a new generation of designers, manufacturers, architects, and makers who have an eagerness to champion and build on this city's design heritage. They, like us at Melbourne Art Foundation, see an opportunity to create a southern hemisphere design and manufacturing hub that becomes a major source of commerce and civic pride. With FUTUREOBJEKT we want to create a space that supports this, champions our own design talent and heritage, provides opportunities for the market to grow, and new talent to take flight."

The full list of FUTUREOBJEKT exhibitors will be announced in November 2025.

Program Highlights

VIDEO

VIDEO offers a program dedicated to the presentation of moving-image art from contemporary artists at the fore of the medium, presented by local and international galleries. Melbourne Art Fair is thrilled to welcome **Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel** as curator of VIDEO in 2026.

Director of Lafayette Anticipations in Paris, Lamarche-Vadel has curated landmark exhibitions with artists including Martine Syms, Cyprien Gaillard, Marguerite Humeau, Martin Margiela, and Issy Wood, as well as international collaborations with MoMA PS1, the Stedelijk, and the Château de Versailles. Previously curator at

Palais de Tokyo and the 2020 Riga Biennial, she is a regular advisor and juror for leading institutions and art fairs including the Venice Biennale and Art Basel Paris.

Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel, Curator of VIDEO 2026 said *"I'm delighted to be this year's curator of VIDEO for the Melbourne Art Fair, an event that brings together a broad range of regional and international figures. I've been long interested in the Oceanian and South East Asian artistic communities, and I'm grateful for this opportunity to meet more artists, galleries and institutions, which all contribute to the extraordinarily fertile art scene."*

BEYOND

Established in 2018 by then Fair Director Maree Di Pasquale, BEYOND was conceived as a platform for exhibiting galleries to expand the breadth of their programs into the realm of large-scale installation and institutional practice. In 2026, BEYOND will once again transform the monumental exhibition spaces of the MCEC with three ambitious installations and spatial interventions, curated by Fair Director Melissa Loughnan. The program brings together Judith Wright (Sophie Gannon Gallery (Naarm/Melbourne)), Brenda L. Croft (Niagara Galleries (Naarm/Melbourne)), and Fiona Hall (Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery (Gadigal Country/Sydney)) — artists whose practices are as expansive as the spaces they will inhabit. Each presentation is supported by a \$2,500 grant from Melbourne Art Foundation, underscoring the Foundation's commitment to ambitious, boundary-pushing work.

"It's a pleasure to return to my curatorial origins as curator of Melbourne Art Fair 2026's BEYOND sector, working with galleries and artists to realise these larger-than-life feats. The forthcoming instalment promises high impact, and drama." **Said Melissa Loughnan, Fair Director.**

PROJECT ROOMS

PROJECT ROOMS is a non-commercial platform, supported by Melbourne Art Foundation, for discovering artists that push the boundaries of art practice with groundbreaking multi-disciplinary works. Melbourne Art Fair is pleased to announce that the 2026 Project Rooms will be presented by **correspondences** (Naarm / Melbourne) and **play_station** (Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington)

Tickets for Melbourne Art Fair 2026 go on sale on Thursday, 9 October from 9am, with First Release ticket prices available until 31 October.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit
[www.melbourneartfair.com.au/tickets.](http://www.melbourneartfair.com.au/tickets)

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITOR

Melbourne Art Fair is owned and produced by the **Melbourne Art Foundation**, a systemically significant non-profit Australian arts organisation that leads the way in building audiences and markets for the work of Australia's living artists. Melbourne Art Fair has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and Creative Victoria.

Melbourne Art Fair 2026 - Schedule of Events

Press Preview

Thursday, 19 February

11am-12pm

VIP Preview Day

Thursday, 19 February

Champagne Bollinger Preview: 12pm-5pm

Vernissage: 5pm-9pm

Public Days

Friday, 20 February: 12pm-8pm

Saturday, 21 February: 10am-6pm

Sunday, 22 February: 10am-5pm

ABOUT MELBOURNE ART FAIR

For four days each February, Melbourne Art Fair transforms the city into a meeting place for the curious and the devoted. Leading galleries and Indigenous-owned art centres converge with collectors, artists, and those simply drawn to the hum of new ideas. The air is thick with conversation, drinks are poured, stories are traded, and somewhere in the crowd, someone falls in love with an idea that will follow them home.

For more than thirty-eight years, Melbourne Art Fair has been a defining fixture on the Australasian cultural calendar, supporting and promoting living artists through the staging of a world-class contemporary art fair. It is a place to wander, to pause, to talk and to see the world, briefly, through someone else's eyes. Presenting works from the region's most respected artists and galleries, and their newest, most exciting counterparts, the Fair stimulates critical and commercial attention, ensuring that the conversations that begin here continue to resonate long after the lights go out.

This is art.

This is Melbourne.

www.melbourneartfair.com.au

ABOUT MELBOURNE ART FOUNDATION

Melbourne Art Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2003 to promote and support contemporary art and living artists. Committed to bringing artists, galleries, collectors, and the art loving public together, the Foundation leads the way in building audiences and a market for Australia's living artists. It weaves together commercial, social, cultural, and environmental threads to support the rich cultural tapestry of the Australian visual arts community. The Foundation sponsors a range of programs anchoring Melbourne Art Fair as a cultural benchmark including commissions, special projects, exhibitions, conversations, and performances.

www.melbourneartfoundation.com

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