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Melbourne Art Fair Announces FUTUREOBJEKT Exhibitors and Inaugural Design Commission in Partnership with National Gallery of Victoria

- 20 galleries and studios to present as part of Melbourne Art Fair's new collectible design salon, FUTUREOBJEKT.
- Melbourne Art Fair announces Anna Varendorff as the recipient of the inaugural Melbourne Art Fair x National Gallery of Victoria Design Commission.
- Presented by Broached Commissions, the 2026 VIP Lounge Commission will celebrate female artists and their inspiration from nature throughout history.

Melbourne, 17th November 2025 - Alongside over 60 of Australia's leading art galleries, Melbourne Art Fair today unveils the exhibitor lineup for the debut edition of FUTUREOBJEKT, a collectible design salon at the 2026 Fair (19-22 February).

FUTUREOBJEKT is the new collectable design salon conceived by Melbourne Art Fair as a platform for the most compelling ideas in contemporary design, architecture, and the crafted objects. The program brings a sharpened curatorial lens to the design landscape, amplifying the voices, practices and material narratives shaping culture today.

Envisioned as both stage and showcase, FUTUREOBJEKT assembles leading studios, galleries and makers whose works challenge convention, celebrate material intelligence, and propose new ways of living with design. Anchored by a central Design Lounge and framed by a tightly curated Talks program, it offers collectors, architects, designers and the design-curious a space to discover, connect and engage. A fair-within-a-fair, built for encounter, disruption and the thrill of the not-yet-known.

Mary Wenholz, CEO of Melbourne Art Fair said "Our vision for FUTUREOBJEKT is to create a consistent platform that supports collectible design here in Australia, while also strengthening the connection between the design and art markets and offering a truly unique visitor experience for those who will join us at the Fair in February. Australia is known for punching well above its weight when it comes to exceptional design talent, and as the global collectible design market continues to grow, we feel strongly about creating opportunities for this talent to be celebrated at home".

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20 galleries and studios will each present a highly-curated selection of works; from new collections designed exclusively for Melbourne Art Fair, to covetable works from some of the world's best known design talents. Each of the FUTUREOBJEKT exhibitors has been invited by Melbourne Art Fair in recognition of their distinctive bodies of work, commitment to celebrating Australian design and craftsmanship, and in some cases, their deep connection to renowned international designers whose work they represent on Australian soil.

Works on show will include a new limited-edition collection of Murano glass lamps by Melbourne-based **Volker Haug Studio**; **Don Cameron** will showcase a considered mix of rare vintage design pieces together with new works of his own; Australian-design retailer **Mobilia** will present a focused edit of works by Paris-based designer **Joris Poggioni**; and **Studio Gardner** will make its Melbourne Art Fair debut with works by **Jumandie Seys**, **Pauline Esparon** and **Studio Utte**.

CHRISTOPHER BOOTS will reimagine some of the lighting studio's most well recognised pieces in new and limited-edition finishes while **CRAFT Victoria** presents a series of works by designers **Isabel Avendano-Hazbun**, **Claire Ellis** and **Locki Humphrey** that explore new and unexpected materials. In a collaborative move, independent studios **Cordon Salon**, **Rosanna Ceravolo**, **Jordan Fleming** and **Marta Figueiredo** will join forces to present a shared booth, a collective expression of emerging Australian design voices in dialogue.

"FUTUREOBJEKT has been born out of a collective itch to celebrate Australian design and recognise the momentum our talent is gaining both at home and overseas. It's clear, people want design that's ambitious, cheeky, and not afraid to sit at the adult table. There's a real hunger for this new platform, and we're excited to be able to deliver it" said **Andy Kelly, Director, Collectible Design at Melbourne Art Fair**.

The full list of FUTUREOBJEKT exhibitors can be found below, with further details to be announced in January.

The full list of exhibitors for FUTUREOBJEKT is:

Adam Cornish (Naarm/Melbourne)
Alta Forma (Naarm/Melbourne)
Agency Projects (Naarm/Melbourne)
Agglomerati (London)
Adam Goodrum (Gadigal Country/Sydney)
Beci Orpin & Softer Studio (Naarm/Melbourne)
CHRISTOPHER BOOTS (Naarm/Melbourne)
Cordon Salon, Rosanna Ceravolo, Jordan Flemming & Marta Figueiredo (Naarm/Melbourne)
CRAFT Victoria (Naarm/Melbourne)
Dalton Stewart and Annie Paxton (Naarm/Melbourne)
Don Cameron (Gadigal Country/Sydney)
denHolm (Naarm/Melbourne)
Mobilia (Naarm/Melbourne, Gadigal Country/Sydney, Boorloo/Perth)
OIGÅLL Projects (Naarm/Melbourne)
OKO OLO & Charlie White (Gadigal Country/Sydney, Naarm/Melbourne)
Sozou Studio (Naarm/Melbourne)
Studio Gardner (Gadigal Country/Sydney)
Tom Fereday (Gadigal Country/Sydney)
Volker Haug Studio (Naarm/Melbourne)
Zachary Frankel (Naarm/Melbourne)

Distinguishing FUTUREOBJEKT from the main gallery program, exhibitions for the design salon will be mounted in a custom-designed space across 600-square metres set within the main fair footprint. This bespoke booth design utilises modular galvanized steel frames, most commonly used in residential builds, and enzyme-washed silk organza screens. The juxtaposition of hard and soft textures in the space has been designed to create a distinct atmosphere for FUTUREOBJEKT and hint at the interior environment that many of these design pieces will live within. At the centre of the exhibition will be a dedicated Design Lounge, offering a space for reflection and conversation amidst the bustle of the art fair.

Inaugural MAF x NGV Design Commission

Melbourne Art Fair will build on the tradition of supporting practicing artists and designers through the introduction of a new **Design Commission** for the 2026 edition of the Fair. Commissioned in partnership with the **National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)**, the inaugural Melbourne Art Foundation x National Gallery of Victoria Design Commission exists to support the realisation of a significant design work that will be unveiled at the fair before entering the NGV collection.

The recipient of the inaugural MAF x NGV Design Commission is Melbourne-based artist and designer, Anna Varendorff. Trained as a metalsmith, Varendorff's practice spans jewellery, sculpture, product and lighting designs. Defined by pared-back tubular forms, graceful arcs and slender brass or steel lines, her works culminate in refined objects that merge craft discipline with industrial clarity.

"The commission has given me a chance to create work at a scale that I wouldn't normally have the ability to. It's an opportunity to expand my ideas and hopefully amplify the final experience of the work" **said Anna Varendorff, recipient of the MAF x NGV Design Commission 2026**

For the Commission, Varendorff will present her most ambitious composition to date of her iconic U lights and vases, expanding her hallmark of tubular forms into a striking installation of ceiling lights, suspended vases and monumental floor vessels. The suspended elements are fabricated from aluminium U-shapes, mirrored in pairs — one upright, one inverted — to create rhythmic compositions that can both hold floral and cast light. Spanning ceiling and ground, the installation is anchored by monumental floor vessels that echo the suspended forms above, grounding the work with scale and gravity.

"The NGV is pleased to continue our successful collaboration with the Melbourne Art Fair Foundation to elevate the role of collectible design in the Australian contemporary collecting ecosystem. Working together, and with the support of the Australian Fund for Living Australian Artists, we have invested together in an ambitious destination work by Anna Varendorff. This project offers Anna the opportunity to push her practice forward, both conceptually and spatially. We are excited to see this commission presented at the 2026 Melbourne Art Fair after which time it will beguile audiences when it is represented, as part of our contemporary design collection, at the Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia in 2026" **said Ewan McEoin, Senior Curator, Contemporary Art, Design and Architecture at National Gallery of Victoria.**

The MAF x NGV Design Commission is purchased with funds from the Victorian Foundation for Living Australian Artists, 2025.

2026 VIP Lounge Commission

For Melbourne Art Fair 2026, **Broached Commissions** is creating a VIP Lounge focused on floral art; from 18th Century paintings on vellum to AI digital speculations on flora. The space will be conceived as a living archive of how women artists, from the 18th century to today, have rendered the natural world as both scientific inquiry and emotional landscape.

The lounge will combine living floral installations with the artworks. **Floral art by Hattie Molloy** will entwine with sculptural furniture by **K5** and the warm acoustics of **Bang&Olufsen** sound systems, creating a contemplative refuge amid the fair's intensity.

Across the exhibition, artworks by artists that represent how the natural world has been utilised as a reflection, rebellion and rebirth across centuries and continents will be placed within Molloy's floral arrangements, an immersive relationship between staged and artistic explorations of nature. An ambient soundscape of abstracted natural environments, produced by artist **k8 mo55**, will inhabit the lounge, unifying it as an immersive experience.

"We are excited to curate a VIP Lounge around a set theme and work with Hattie and K8 mo55 to add more sensory layers to the space. Our desire was to bring warmth and calm to the space." **said Lou Weis, founder of Broached Commissions.**

Artists include **Claudia Martinez Garay** (Peru, b.1983); **Barbara Regina Dietzsch** (Germany, 1706–1783); **Maria Fernanda Cardoso** (Colombia, b.1963); **Fiona Hall** (Australia, b.1953); **Bianka Rafaella** (UK, b.1992); **Sofia Crespo** (Argentina, b.1991); **Patricia Piccinini** (Australia, b.1965 in Sierra Leone); **Imogen Cunningham** (USA, 1883–1976); **Ana Mendieta** (Cuba/USA, 1948–1985); **Yanyun Chen** (Singapore, b.1986).

Participating Galleries and donors of work: **Sullivan + Strumpf** (Naarm/Melbourne, Gadigal Country/Sydney, Singapore), **Flowers Gallery** (Hong Kong, London), **Broached art collection** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery** (Gadigal Country/Sydney) and **Arader Galleries** (New York City). All the works will be for sale.



Brahman Perera for Champagne Bollinger: A Spatial Intervention at Melbourne Art Fair

For the inaugural **Champagne Bollinger Bar** at Melbourne Art Fair 2026, designer and Fair Ambassador **Brahman Perera** will deliver a measured spatial intervention, a calibrated environment that sits between architecture, object and social encounter.

Perera's approach is grounded in material rigour and spatial clarity. The bar is conceived as a sculptural insertion within the Fair: defined geometry, refined tactility, and an intentional sense of threshold. Tonal, textural and lighting cues are orchestrated to create a moment of deceleration.

There will be no theatrics here. Instead, quiet precision: surfaces that invite touch; volumes that frame bodies and conversation; atmosphere shaped through proportion and restraint. The Champagne Bollinger Bar operates as both anchor and interlude, offering visitors a rhythm shift between exhibition, dialogue and pause.

The collaboration reflects Perera's ongoing practice, one that privileges human scale, intimacy, and the nuanced choreography of space.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.melbourneartfair.com.au/tickets.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Melbourne Art Fair 2026 Galleries

Galleries presenting at Melbourne Art Fair in 2025 include: **1301SW/STARKWHITE** (Naarm/Melbourne, Gadigal Country/Sydney, Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, Tāhuna/Queenstown), **Alcaston Gallery** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Ames Yavuz** (Gadigal Country/Sydney, Singapore), **Art Collective WA** (Boorloo/Perth), **Arts Projects Australia** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Australian Tapestry Workshop** (Naarm/Melbourne), **CAVES** (Naarm/Melbourne), **cbOne** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Charles Nodrum Gallery** (Naarm/Melbourne), **D'La Contemporary** (Naarm/Melbourne, Gadigal Country/Sydney, New York), **Daine Singer** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Egg & Dart** (Dharawal Country/Wollongong), **Fine Arts**, Sydney (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Fox Jensen & Fox Jensen McCrory** (Gadigal Country/Sydney, Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland), **Galerie Christian Lethert** (Cologne), **Gertrude** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Jan Murphy Gallery** (Meanjin/Brisbane), **Justin Miller Art** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **MARS Gallery** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Martin Browne Contemporary** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Michael Reid Sydney + Berlin** (Gadigal Country/Sydney, Berlin), **MOORE CONTEMPORARY** (Boorloo/Perth), **NandaHobbs** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Neon Parc** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Niagara Galleries** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Nicholas Thompson Gallery** (Naarm/Melbourne), **PIERMARQ*** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery** (London), **Redbase Art Gallery** (Gadigal Country/Sydney, Yogyakarta, Indonesia), **Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Sophie Gannon Gallery** (Naarm/Melbourne), **S_y_d_n_e_y_S_y_d_n_e_y** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **STATION** (Naarm/Melbourne, Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Sullivan+Strumpf** (Naarm/Melbourne, Gadigal Country/Sydney, Singapore), **Tolarno Galleries** (Naarm/Melbourne), **William Mora Galleries** (Naarm/Melbourne).

Committed to creating a platform that supports the next generation of artistic practice, Melbourne Art Foundation provides subsidised spaces for young galleries established after 2018;

Animal House Fine Arts (Naarm/Melbourne), **APY Art Centre Collective** (Naarm/Melbourne, Gadigal Country/Sydney, Tarntanya/Adelaide), **AVA** (Boorloo/Perth), **Cassandra Bird** (Gadigal Country/Sydney, Paris), **day01.** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Emilia Galatis Projects** (Whadjuk boodjar/Perth), **Five Walls** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Foënder Galleries** (Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland), **Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Grace** (Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland), **Haydens** (Naarm/Melbourne), **LAILA** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **LON Gallery** (Naarm/Melbourne), **MAGMA Galleries** (Naarm/Melbourne), **Mary Cherry Contemporary** (Naarm/Melbourne), **N.Smith Gallery** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Nasha Gallery** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **PALAS** (Gadigal Country/Sydney), **Sumer** (Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland), **The Little Machine** (Tarntanya/Adelaide), **The Renshaws'** (Meanjin/Brisbane), **Void_Melbourne** (Naarm/Melbourne).

Supported through the **William Mora Indigenous Art Centre** program the 2026 Fair will host six Indigenous arts centres: **MOA Arts** (Mua, Mualgal Country/Moa Island), **Munupi Arts & Crafts Association** (Pirlangimpi Community/Melville Island), **Papunya Tjupi Arts** (Papunya), **Jilamara Arts and Craft Association** (Milikapiti Community, Melville Island), **Ikuntji Artists** (Haasts Bluff, Ikuntji), and **Walkatjara Art Uluru** (Mutitjulu community, Uluru). The Program is funded by the Australian Government through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program and generously supported by Morgans Financial Limited.

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 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

ABOUT NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

Founded in 1861, the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is the most visited and oldest public art institution in Australia. The organisation currently spans across two venues NGV International on St Kilda Road and The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia at Fed Square. Once completed, The Fox: NGV Contemporary, will form the third site for the organisation, enabling the NGV to present significant works of contemporary art and design. www.ngv.vic.gov.au

ABOUT ANNA VARENDORFF

Anna Varendorff is an artist and designer whose practice spans jewellery, sculpture, product and lighting design. Since 2013, she has worked under the moniker ACV Studio, producing design works that are at once minimal and expressive, achieving cult recognition in Melbourne and beyond. Trained as a metalsmith, Varendorff fabricates with precision in metal, yet her works retain a poetic lightness. Defined by pared-back tubular forms, graceful arcs and slender brass or steel lines, they culminate in refined objects that merge craft discipline with industrial clarity.

Varendorff completed a Master of Fine Art at Monash University in 2015. She has exhibited extensively around Australia and overseas. She has exhibited at Australian Centre for Contemporary Art as part of NEW16; at CAVES at The Substation; and at TCB Art Inc., Bus Projects, Craft, c3 Contemporary Art Space, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and Anna Pappas Gallery, among others. In 2018, ACV Studio's Glass Half Full Vase received a Wallpaper* Design Award for Design of the Year, cementing her reputation as one of Australia's most distinctive contemporary designers. www.acvstudio.com

ABOUT BROACHED COMMISSIONS

Broached is a research and narrative-driven production house. We commission and create collectible design and provide creative direction for public art and interior commercial spaces, such as hotels and hospitality.

Broached has had survey shows at the UCCA (Beijing) and NGV Ian Potter Centre (Melbourne). Their work is collected by museums and private collectors globally and they were the first Australian design house to show at Design Miami in 2019. Broached is committed to a narrative focused critique not just of history, but the role of design in defining each moment in history. To achieve this Broached has established a global network of relationships with curators and designers who they collaborate with regularly.

Broached was founded in 2010 by Creative Director Lou Weis and includes Lincoln Perdrisat as Designer. www.broachedcommissions.com

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