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WELCOME

Fall in love with art at the National Art School.

Situated in the heart of Sydney on Gadigal land, the National Art School campus is a vibrant and creative space located in the former Darlinghurst Gaol. For over 100 years this iconic site has been reimagined as a space of art education. Our graduates are some of Australia's leading artists and creatives who are shaping the global and national arts and cultural ecology.

At the National Art School we can help you realise your artistic vision through our unique studio-focused learning experience. As a dedicated and independent art school we are solely focused on fine art, offering Bachelor of Fine Art, Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours)*, Master of Fine Art and Doctor of Fine Art degrees.

Within our degree programs we push creative and experimental boundaries and prioritise your individual learning and artmaking experience. We also deeply value art's traditions and histories and

can support you to develop a specialised and skilled art practice. Across the key areas of study in Art History and Theory, Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photomedia, Printmaking and Sculpture, our teaching staff are all active artists and historians who are leading experts in their field. They are also passionate and dedicated art educators, and you will be supported to develop your own artistic practice through learning critical material, conceptual and technical skills.

At the National Art School we value difference, independence and collaboration. We foster a strong sense of community and connection; through your study experience you will form lifelong friendships and establish important professional networks.

We look forward to welcoming you to the National Art School as you join the next generation of artists and inspire others through your art.



DR KRISTEN SHARP Director and CEO, National Art School

^{*}Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) degree to be offered from 2026, subject to accreditation.







visual art is the sole focus

Join a progressive and inclusive art school where creativity and critical thinking thrive

Be inspired and supported by our vibrant community of artists, art professionals, lecturers, professional staff and fellow students

Benefit from small class sizes with the guidance of esteemed practicing artists

Develop your practice in dedicated artist studios with visual artsbased facilities

Join a graduate community that includes many of Australia's most celebrated artists

Exhibit your work on and off campus, learn from international visitors and expand your professional network

Apply for international residencies and scholarships to gain industry access and experience

WHERE CAN THE NATIONAL ART SCHOOL TAKE YOU?

A NAS degree is designed to develop highly skilled arts practitioners who can work independently or collaboratively across many different professional roles. An emphasis on the development of practical studio skills and independent practice underpinned by comprehensive theoretical knowledge means our graduates are highly suited to a range of specialist and generalist careers in the visual arts. In addition to working as artists and curators, our graduates work in the related fields of arts administration, the museums and galleries sector, arts marketing and sales, arts policy and consultancy, and a broad range of technical and arts production roles. Many BFA graduates also use their degree as the basis for entry into specialist postgraduate degrees, and into Visual Art teaching.

Some of our celebrated recent graduates include Ebony Russell, winner of the 2022 Meroogal Women's Art Prize; Natasha Walsh, Mosman Art Prize and Kilgour Prize winner, Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship recipient, and multiple Archibald Prize finalist; and Luke Thurgate, Dobell Drawing Prize, Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award and Tom Bass Figurative Sculpture Prize finalist who has exhibited at regional galleries around Australia.



BACHELOR OF FINE ART

The BFA course is designed to support the development of the creative independence, knowledge and experience required for a successful career as a practicing artist or arts sector professional. The course is delivered full-time over three years and includes a comprehensive investigation of a broad range of art making disciplines supported by rigorous theoretical enquiry.

Art History & Theory is delivered as a core subject throughout all three years of the course in addition to specialised studio-based study in Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photomedia, Printmaking and Sculpture.

Our focus on high course contact hours with small class sizes ensures every student receives individual guidance. Their independent exploration of art making is informed by a comprehensive knowledge of the historic and theoretical underpinnings of that practice, as well as the dynamic range of contemporary possibilities for art practice today informed by Australian First Peoples, national and international perspectives.

NAS lecturers are a diverse team of more than 100 accomplished and experienced art practitioners, many of whom have received major awards, and exhibited at world-renowned galleries, museums and art fairs including the Venice Biennale, Art Basel and the Archibald Prize. Their extensive professional insight creates a rich, dynamic and immersive learning environment dedicated to fostering the individual talents of each student.

BFA Year 1

Students are introduced to a broad range of foundational studio practices spanning

the five key studio areas of Ceramics, Painting, Photomedia, Printmaking and Sculpture.

Studio Foundation study is augmented with core study in Drawing, Art History & Theory, and our Professional Studies program that introduces students to the key principles of study and practice.

BFA Year 2

Students elect a studio area they will study as an area of specialisation in conjunction with continued core study in Art History & Theory.

Studio specialisations in Drawing, Ceramics, Painting, Photomedia, Printmaking or Sculpture provides an opportunity for students to engage in exploration of the materials and modalities of art making within these studio areas with increasing depth and complexity, as they develop an increasingly independent approach to art making.

In addition to core studies in Art History & Theory and study in studio specialisation, students engage in a Professional Studies program and select elective study options from a broad range of subject offerings across key areas of study in both second and third year.

BFA Year 3

This final year of study places increasing emphasis on self-directed practice within students' chosen Studio Specialisation, supported by core study in Art History & Theory and continued elective study.

Students are assigned individual studio spaces where they are supported to pursue their individual enquiry. To complete their degree all students present a major body of work developed throughout the year for assessment.

Students also undertake a Professional Studies unit to help prepare for life beyond art school. All completing BFA students are included in the annual Graduate Exhibition held in the main NAS Galleries and exhibition spaces and across campus.













of an extended range of subject and pictorial concerns. The third year extends the notion of independent practice and is designed to accommodate each student's development. It is reflective of individual processes, conceptual approaches, material interests and

working methodologies.



Study is integrated with studio demonstrations, tutorials, critiques and excursions to relevant exhibitions to provide scope and contextual depth to students' creative experience. Students are encouraged to broaden their technical skills and understanding of photographic history and theories as they explore the medium. As students' progress, increasing emphasis is placed on individual experimentation and investigation to encourage individual artistic development, creative confidence and critical awareness.

PRINTMAKING

From the middle of the 15th century when Gutenberg's printing press revolutionised culture, through the 1960s when Andy Warhol's screen-prints shook up the art world to contemporary digital experimentation, printmaking continues to play a vital role in art and culture today. The BFA course covers the full range of printmaking processes including relief, intaglio, screenprinting, lithography and digital in our extensive printmaking studios. The course combines technical instruction and critical discourse to direct students toward the discovery of a personal visual language. Working with a variety of media and approaches, students generate a wide range of artwork from images to objects and digital artefacts, including multiples, artist's books, installations, 3D prints, stopmotion videos and traditional prints.



This energetic hands-on program provides students with conceptual and technical approaches to sculptural practice. In the first two years of study, students gain experience in modelling, casting, carving; construction in various materials including steel, wood and textiles; and installation and site-responsive practice. In their final BFA year, students undertake self-directed projects that nurture development of individual interests and sensibilities. All projects are informed by a depth of historical and contemporary art references, and the development of an expanded sculptural sensibility is nurtured through rigorous critical engagement.

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Professional Studies seminars are offered throughout the BFA in direct preparation for life in the field following graduation. These develop knowledge and awareness of issues across the contemporary professional art industry, such as basic business principles and legal issues around visual arts practice. Students learn how to identify project funding, prepare applications, plan for project delivery and make the most of professional opportunities including grants and residencies. They also gain an important understanding of the primary art market including various gallery systems and curatorial models.



Darani Ngalawada First Peoples Centre

In 2024, the NAS First Peoples Centre Darani Ngalawada was established. In Gadigal language Darani Ngalawada loosely translates to Under the White Gum Trees We Remain, and this title encapsulates both deep historical connection of Gadigal people to this site and the continuing history of First Peoples engagement and success at NAS. The Darani Ngalawada name was identified through an inclusive roundtable process with NAS students, staff and local community.

The Centre plays a crucial role in the development of culturally inclusive policy and procedure at NAS with particular focus on the inclusion of First Peoples knowledge, perspectives and practices throughout the school's curriculum and academic operations for the benefit of all NAS staff and students. The centre plays a crucial role in enabling engagement and success at NAS by providing mentorship and learning support and outcomes to students to establish pathways to their professional futures.



CAMPUS LIFE

'IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO BE A
PART OF THE NATIONAL ART
SCHOOL COMMUNITY. IT'S AN
INCREDIBLE LOCATION WITH
A HISTORY AND A STYLE OF
TEACHING WHICH I REALLY
RESPONDED TO.'

MASON KIMBER, NAS graduate

The National Art School, on the site of the former Darlinghurst Gaol, stands on Gadigal land. NAS acknowledges the Gadigal traditional owners on whose lands, water and skies we meet, work and share. We pay our respects to all Gadigal elders, past and present, and honour the diversity, history and creativity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from the beginning.

The heritage-listed NAS campus is part of the creative and cultural Oxford Street precinct and a significant part of Sydney's heritage. Building on the original gaol began 200 years ago in 1822, and in 1922 the art school moved into the site. For the past century, NAS has been a strong artistic presence in the heart of the city, providing not just tertiary art education but a major exhibition program, public short courses, popular school programs and cultural events.

The culture of the campus is lively, progressive, and collaborative. We have a deep and vibrant connection to the arts industry and creative sector that feeds back into the NAS community, giving students and staff a wider perspective outside the curriculum, a strong sense of purpose and broad understanding of the role of an artist.



'HERE AT NAS, YOU HAVE ARTISTS SPEAKING TO ARTISTS, WE HAVE THE SAME PERSPECTIVES AND SHARE A CONNECTION. THE ENVIRONMENT IS CONDUCIVE TO CREATIVITY, IT THRIVES ON THIS CAMPUS.'

LESLEY WENGEMBO, NAS graduate

ART FORUM

Art Forum is a weekly lecture program presenting invited guests talking about their curatorial, artistic and research projects to NAS staff, students and the broader arts community. Art Forum has featured many Australian and international guests including Richard Bell, John Kaldor, Alexie Glass-Kantor and many other prominent voices in the art world.

NAS GALLERIES

NAS has three professionally run public exhibition spaces including the central NAS Gallery, the Rayner Hoff Project Space and the Building 25 Project Space. The NAS Galleries presents up to four major exhibitions each year with ambitious group and solo exhibitions by Australian and international artists that foster critical appreciation of art and innovative art practice. Exhibitions are accompanied by scholarly publications and a dynamic range of public programs that provide a rich context for the interpretation and understanding of art. The Galleries also present professionally curated annual graduate student exhibitions, a major event each year that attracts thousands of visitors to enjoy and purchase student artworks and discover the emerging contemporary artists of the future

ARCHIVE AND COLLECTION

NAS has a unique and nationally significant art collection that documents the School's history as well as the site of the former Darlinghurst Gaol. The collection includes many rare gems and art treasures by past and present alumni, lecturers and students who have studied

and worked at the School. The archive and collection documents the creative and historical activities associated with NAS and its historic site.

NAS SHORT COURSES

NAS Short Courses offer a comprehensive range of programs held on-campus and online for students of all levels of experience and ages 16 and over.

Covering diverse artistic disciplines and theoretical topics, courses range from the popular twice-yearly five-day Summer and Winter School intensives; two-day weekend workshops; four-day residential art camps; and eight-week courses across Terms One to Four throughout the year.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT

'THE STUDIO-BASED APPROACH AT NAS IS FUNDAMENTAL, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT MOST ARTISTS ARE DOING. IT'S A REALLY GOOD FOUNDATION FOR YOUR CAREER.'

ALICE XU, Master of Fine Art student

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services provides a comprehensive range of support for students for all academic and administration related issues. From your first day of orientation right through your course to graduation day, our dedicated team is here to help.

STUDENT WELLBEING AND COUNSELLING

NAS provides a free and confidential counselling and wellbeing services on campus to support the development and wellbeing of students. This includes assistance with study skills; stress management; family and relationship concerns; and vocational goals; as well as health and mental health matters.

FACILITIES

In keeping with NAS's focus on hands-on studio-based learning, the campus has a comprehensive range of workshop and studio facilities supported by dedicated technicians that enable essential practical learning across traditional and contemporary art making practices.

STUDIOS

As undergraduate students progress through the Bachelor of Fine Art degree and commence independent projects within their chosen area of studio specialisation, each student is assigned an individual studio space where they can develop their work.

WORKSHOP

Students from all disciplines have access to the NAS workshop, which is designed to encourage experimentation and broaden knowledge of the variety of tools and processes available to enable their individual art practice.

PARKERS ART SUPPLIES

Parkers Art Supplies have a store conveniently located on campus for all art supply needs.

PRINT LAB

The Print Lab is a professional digital print facility on campus available to students, alumni and the wider arts community. The Lab provides expert assistance to students for the printing and presentation of their work, including Digital Scanning Workshops.



GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

RESIDENCIES

FRANCE: Onslow Storrier Studio at La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris

The Onslow Storrier National Art School Paris Studio is located at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Four residencies of three-month periods are offered each year to NAS alumni and staff.

ITALY: The British School at Rome

The British School at Rome (BSR) is a centre of interdisciplinary research excellence in the Mediterranean supporting the full range of arts, humanities, and social sciences. The successful applicant receives studio accommodation for three months and inclusion in the BSR's annual fine art catalogue.

UNITED KINGDOM: The Prudence MacLeod Prize

With support from Prudence MacLeod and the Lansdowne Foundation, NAS is launching a pilot program that supports an emerging Australian artist to undertake a six-month residency at Acme Studios, London. This opportunity is designed to support an emerging artist at a vital time in their career, providing a step forward into an expanded, international context.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mark Henry Cain Memorial Travel Scholarship

The Mark Henry Cain Memorial Scholarship supports a student to travel and study for a period of six to eight weeks in the UK, as well as a scholarship valued at \$10,000. It is open to NAS Master of Fine Art students.

INTERNSHIPS

NAS Aboriginal Art Centre Internship Program

This internship provides graduating students with an opportunity to acquire practical arts management experience and training in an active Aboriginal community art centre environment. Applications are open to all students at the conclusion of their final year of study in the Bachelor of Fine Art and Master of Fine Art program.

PRIZES

NAS provides a multitude of prizes and awards each year to our graduating students, with a total value of \$200,000 per year.



EXHIBITIONS

The Grad Show

Each year, NAS celebrate the work of our graduates with two campus wide exhibitions: The Grad Show for BFA graduates, and The Postgrad Show for MFA and DFA postgraduates. Alumni, collectors, gallerists, and art-lovers alike flock to campus to see the next wave of Australia's best emerging talent.

NAS also works with diverse industry partners to create special exhibition opportunities for our graduates in a range of spaces including the regional gallery sector.

EMANATE at New England Regional Art Museum

EMANATE is a biennial exhibition curated by New England Regional Art Museum to celebrate the work of emerging artists who have recently graduated from NAS. EMANATE showcases the works of approximately 10 graduate students, drawn from across the full range of disciplines taught at NAS.

Sydney Contemporary

Sydney Contemporary is Australasia's largest annual commercial art fair. NAS participates each year to exhibit the work of selected graduates. This is a vital opportunity for our promising emerging artists to show and sell their work to new audiences, increase their profile in the commercial gallery sector and enhance their industry networks. Inclusion in Sydney Contemporary has launched the careers of many NAS graduates.

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL HISTORY

The National Art School stands on Gadigal land, on the site of the former Darlinghurst Gaol. NAS acknowledges the Gadigal traditional owners on whose lands, water, and skies we meet and share. We pay our respects to all Gadigal Elders, past and present, and honour the diversity, history, and creativity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from the beginning.

In 1822 building began on Darlinghurst Gaol, one of Sydney's earliest prisons which opened in 1841 and operated until 1914. The National Art School moved into the former gaol buildings in 1922, as part of Sydney Technical College, later East Sydney Technical College. NAS gained autonomy as an educational institution in 1996 and the art school took over the whole Darlinghurst site as sole occupant in 2005.

In 2019, NAS signed a 45-year lease to remain on the site and was designated a State Significant Organisation by the NSW Government; in 2021, the former Darlinghurst Gaol and National Art School received an NSW heritage listing as Sydney's oldest surviving gaol complex. In 2022, NAS celebrated a double centenary: 100 years of teaching art on this significant site, and 200 years since building began on the Gaol.

Today, NAS is an independent and strong institution with a distinguished identity built from the remarkable achievements and work of our staff and graduates dating back to the earliest classes offered in the 1840s. NAS is one of only two independent tertiary art schools operating in Australia and continues to offer fine art degrees with intensive studio-based teaching in small classes. The School has nurtured generations of outstanding and respected artists and producing many successful alumni who have made a vital contribution to Australian and international art culture.

'STUDYING AT THIS CAMPUS IS IMPORTANT, THERE IS A LOT OF HISTORY HERE - HISTORY OF DARLINGHURST, KINGS CROSS, THE GAOL, EMBEDDED HISTORY - AND I FEEL A PART OF THE HISTORY.'

BRODIE CULLEN, NAS graduate

NAS Students Diana and Sally Medworth preparing for the 1949 Art Student's Ball (detail, edited), National Art School Collection, gift of Klaus Friedeberger, 2013





STAY INFORMED

Come to NAS Open Day where you can attend Course Information Sessions, talk to lecturers and current students, explore the studios and experience first-hand what it's like to study at NAS. Catch our end of year Graduate Exhibitions to see the outstanding work produced by students. Check out our website, sign up for regular updates and follow us on social media. Reach out to our Future Students Advisor for more information.

admissions@nas.edu.au

HOW TO APPLY

Bachelor of Fine Art applications can be made directly to the University Admissions Centre (UAC) for students with HSC or equivalent Australian qualifications. International applicants with an International Baccalaureate, or a qualification equivalent to the Australian HSC can apply for the BFA via UAC as well. All other applicants must complete and submit an application form directly to NAS. Full admission requirements and application guidelines are available on the website, nas.edu.au

PORTFOLIO AND INTERVIEW

One of the most important parts of your application is submitting a strong portfolio to showcase your work and interests, so it's worth spending time on it to best demonstrate your creative skills and ideas. You can find tips on preparing your portfolio at nas.edu.au/open-day-online. Interviews between new applicants and NAS staff take place on campus in early December. This is your opportunity to talk about your art practice and why you want to study at the NAS. As part of this interview, we review your portfolio and discuss how you see your work developing.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We accept applications for our BFA Scholarships through the UAC Equity Scholarships. Review scholarship application processes and deadlines via our website.

NAS First Peoples Scholarship

The NAS First Peoples Scholarship covers the full tuition fees for students entering the BFA program. Two full-tuition scholarships are offered each calendar year for the duration of the degree.

All photography by Peter Morgan unless otherwise stated.

