

Future Studios: Aboriginal Student Pathways Program into the Visual Arts

Adelaide Contemporary Experimental

Lion Arts Centre
North Terrace
(West End)
Kaurua Yarta
Adelaide SA 5000

ACE tampinhi, ngadlu Kurna yartangka
panpapanpalyarninhi (inparrinhi). Kurna
miyurna yaitya mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku.
Parnaku yailtya, parnaku tapa purruna, parnaku
yarta ngadlu tampinhi. Yalaka Kurna miyurna
itu yailtya, tapa purruna, yarta kuma puru
martinhi, puru warri-apinhi, puru tangka
martulayinhi.

ACE respectfully acknowledges the traditional
Country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide
Plains and pays respect to Elders past and
present. We recognise and respect their cultural
heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land.
We acknowledge that they are of continuing
importance to the Kurna people living today.



Government of South Australia
Arts South Australia



CONTEMPORARY
ARTS
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AUSTRALIA

ACE is supported by the South Australian Government through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments. ACE is also assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. ACE is a member of Contemporary Arts Organisations Australia.

About Adelaide Contemporary Experimental



Opening Celebration, *A river that flows both ways*: Selected works from the 23rd Biennale of Sydney: *rivus* (2023), Adelaide Contemporary Experimental. Photography by Thomas McCammon.

Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE) is South Australia's leading independent contemporary visual arts organisation located in Adelaide's iconic Lion Arts Centre precinct. Through exhibitions, studios, public programs, education, professional development opportunities and publications, ACE expands the edges of contemporary visual art practice, embraces diversity and provides a space for artists to take risks.

Since its inception, ACE's program has explored many timely issues, driven by the question: what is urgent to discuss today and who should be telling these stories?

We recognise that contemporary art takes many forms, and have built a reputation for presenting new and important processes and methodologies for artistic practice. ACE engages students and educators in dialogue with contemporary art and artists, providing access to minority perspectives, powerful models for creative and critical thinking, and viable career pathways. The program caters to secondary and tertiary education, extending to professional learning for recent graduates and art educators.



ACE Studio Program



Open Studios (2023), Teresa Busuttill's studio, Adelaide Contemporary Experimental. Photography by Thomas McCammon.

The annual ACE studio program offers annual and short term rent-free CBD-based studios for selected South Australian professional artists working in contemporary visual arts. As the only opportunity of its kind in the state, the ACE Studio Program is an invaluable pathway for local professional artists to gain national recognition and opportunities.

Situated alongside the ACE Studio Program dedicated studios will host the young artists, with the proximity to the ACE Studio Program providing the opportunity for the young artists to work alongside the professional ACE studio artists and witness how they spend their time in their studios to better understand the nature of studio practice.

Future Studios



Open Studios (2023), Jennifer Mathew's studio, Adelaide Contemporary Experimental. Photography by Thomas McCammon.

The ACE Future Studios is a free program that will provide fully-supported CBD-based studios to young South Australian artists for a one week intensive period and mentoring across the year. This unique industry placement nurtures creativity and practical skills with the support of mentor artists and ACE staff and gives young artists an understanding of professional studio practice.

The young artists will gain an understanding of the impact of studio work and the daily activities involved in a professional artistic practice. They will also experience working alongside their peers, as well as ACE studio artists, in a professional studio setting at a highly regarded contemporary gallery and art organisation.

Following the week-long intensive the young artists will be supported and guided by the Future Studios Coordinator in the development

and completion of artwork for presentation in the Future Studios exhibition that will be held at ACE in conjunction with the annual Studios exhibition. The young artists will also be offered additional artist workshops, career information sessions, and supported to apply for other presentation opportunities throughout the year.

The young artists will also be provided with art materials appropriate to their individual artistic practice to enable experimentation and reduce any barriers to participation. A public transport travel allowance will be offered to eligible young artist participants.

Aboriginal Student Pathways



Teen Protest Art Workshop: Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! (2022), delivered as part of Tikari Rigney's First Nations Curatorial Residence, Adelaide Contemporary Experimental. Photography by Thomas McCammon.

From 2025 ACE will continue to partner with the Department for Education Student Pathways to deliver a dedicated program for Aboriginal student artists.

Key to the success of the program will be the employment of a First Nations Education and Studios Coordinator who will work with the Aboriginal student artists across the intensive weeks, deliver a suite of professional development opportunities and career pathways sessions, and support the student artists on the development of their artworks for presentation in the end of year Future Studios Exhibition at ACE and other presentation opportunities. The First Nations Education and Studios Coordinator will ensure cultural safety for the student artists. Additional First Nations artists will be engaged to deliver half day workshops during their intensive week.

All ACE staff working with the students will have current Working With Children checks and First Aid Certificates.

Key Deliverables

Studio Intensive

Students will be provided with fully supported CBD-based studios for a one-week intensive. This unique industry placement nurtures creativity and practical skills with the support of mentor artists and ACE staff, and gives young artists an understanding of the activities involved in professional studio practice.

The young artists will gain an understanding of the impact of studio work and the daily activities involved in a professional artistic practice. They will also experience working alongside their peers, as well as ACE studio artists, in a professional studio setting within a highly regarded contemporary gallery and art organisation.

The young artists will also be provided with art materials appropriate to their individual artistic practice to enable experimentation and reduce any barriers to participation. A public transport travel allowance will be offered to the participants.

Exhibition Tours and Industry Information Sessions

Students will be invited to attend exhibition tours and information sessions across the year where they can gain greater insight into the artworks and the artist practice. These sessions will include a curator tour of *Our Mob* at Adelaide Festival Centre (AFC) and introduction to the pathways for First Nations artists/artworkers within AFC, curator tour of the Tarnanthi exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) and introduction to the pathways for First Nations artists/artworkers at AGSA, and regional information sessions with Country Arts SA and Ku Arts for regionally-based students to learn about arts industry pathways in the regions. Sessions with Carclew and Helpmann Academy will provide information on funding opportunities and post-tertiary support.

ACE Exhibition Tours and Introduction to Artists

ACE will exhibit several First Nations artists in our 2025 exhibition program and the students will be invited in for exclusive artist and curator talks with these artists across the year. There will also be First Nations artists in the annual ACE Studio Program and the short-term residency program where students will have the opportunity to meet and witness them at work.

Key Deliverables

Tertiary Pathways Information Sessions

Students will be invited to tour the campuses of tertiary institutions offering visual arts training and meet key staff. Students will also be provided with information on each course available, comparisons between tertiary institutions, and testimonials from First Nations artists who have graduated from the different institutions.

Exhibitions

Following the week-long intensive the young artists will be supported and guided by the Future Studios Coordinator in the development and completion of artwork for presentation in the Future Studios exhibition that will be held at ACE. In 2025 the Future Studios will be exhibited in ACE's front gallery alongside the Tarnanthi Festival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art exhibition, *Islands are Mountains*, in the main gallery.

In addition to the ACE exhibition, the students will be supported to apply to the Adelaide Festival Centre's *Our Young Mob* exhibition. Further exhibition opportunities will be identified across the year and the young artists will be supported to make applications or to mount group exhibitions.

Students will be able to attend open school holiday workshops to work on their artworks and get support from the Future Studios Coordinator.

Workshops

A range of workshops will be offered to the students across the year to support artwork development for exhibition, information on tertiary pathways, and learn from First Nations artists and arts workers about their career journeys.

Future Studios Week Intensive Timetable

Day 1

Activity	Time
Kaurna Welcome	10am–11am
ACE Studio Induction	11am–11.30am
Jam Factory tour	12pm–1pm
Lunch break (provided)	1pm–1.30pm
Artist Workshop (2 hours)	2pm–4pm
Check-in and pack up	4pm–4.15pm

Day 2

Activity	Time
Check-in & collaging and mindmapping	10am–11am
Artist Workshop (2 hours)	11am–1pm
Lunch break (provided)	1pm–1.30pm
UniSA School of Art tour	2pm–3pm
AC Arts Campus tour	3pm–4pm
Check-in and pack up	4pm–4.15pm

Day 3

Activity	Time
Check-in	10am–11am
Artist Workshop (2 hours)	11am–1pm
Lunch break (provided)	1pm–1.30pm
ACE exhibition tour	2pm–3pm
Creative research and experimentation	3pm–4pm
Check-in and pack up	4pm–4.15pm

Day 4

Activity	Time
Check-in	10am–11am
Artist Workshop (2 hours)	11am–1pm
Lunch break (provided)	1pm–1.30pm
Studio tour (TBC)	2pm–3pm
Creative research and experimentation	3pm–4pm
Check-in and pack up	4pm–4.15pm

Day 5

Activity	Time
Check-in	10am–11am
Curator Studio Visit with ACE Artistic Director – talk about your works	11am–12pm
Creative research and experimentation	12pm–1pm
Lunch break (provided)	1pm–1.30pm
Creative research and experimentation	2pm–3pm
Studio pack-up	3pm–4pm
Check-in and finish	4pm–4.15pm



Journal: studio activities & outcomes

Initial planning

Create a mind map of your ideas:

- What materials do you want to work with?
- What concepts do you want to explore?
- Will it be achievable in the one-week time period?

Reflect on what it is you want to gain from this week:

- What are your expectations coming into this program?
- What is it that you want to achieve within the week?
- What do you want to learn from this experience?

Daily Journaling

You have been given a journal to keep across the course of this week. An artists journal is an important space to keep notes on your conceptual development, material experimentations and inspiration as a practicing artist.

Across the course of this week you are expected to create journal entries every day which document these things.

This could include:

- Notes from your check-ins with the Future Studios Coordinator
- Notes from your workshops with artists
- Lists of things you want to achieve during each day
- Documentation of idea generation and experimentations
- Your thought process while experimenting with a medium/concept
- Artists or artworks you find inspiring

Your journal is an important documentation both for us to understand your thought process behind your work/practice, and also to act as a reference for yourself when reflecting on your experience during this week.

Learning Outcomes

Key Deliverable	Program Activity	Learning Outcomes
Studio Intensive	Welcome to Kurna Country by Kurna leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cultural knowledge
	<p>Workshops with First Nations artists working across a range of mediums in contemporary and experimental contexts.</p> <p>There will be 4 workshops per intensive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cultural knowledge – Artwork skills and techniques – Conceptual thinking – Industry pathways – Tertiary pathways – Communication of ideas
	Guidance from the Project Coordinator in other mediums students may want to explore, e.g. oil painting, soft sculpture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Artwork skills and techniques
	Time for exploration and experimentation to explore techniques and mediums learnt in workshops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Artwork skills and techniques – Conceptual thinking – Self-directed learning
	Artist journals to track ideas and record information about techniques and mediums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Artwork skills and techniques – Conceptual thinking – Self-directed learning
	Studio tours to learn about other studio spaces and how they function and what they offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Industry pathways
Exhibition Tours and Industry Information Sessions	Curator tour of <i>Our Mob</i> and Adelaide Festival Centre career opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Industry pathways – Cultural knowledge
	Curator tour of Tarnanthi exhibitions and Art Gallery of South Australia career opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Industry pathways – Cultural knowledge
	Country Arts SA and Ku Arts sessions in regional areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Industry pathways
	<p>ACE exhibitions including First Nations artists in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2025 Adelaide Festival exhibition – <i>Shared Skin</i> – <i>Push/Pull</i> performance program – Tarnanthi exhibition Islands are Mountains – 2026 Adelaide Festival exhibition Kumarangk in partnership with Country Arts SA (artists making large scale weaving works in the ACE short- term studios in early 2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cultural knowledge – Artwork skills and techniques – Conceptual thinking – Industry pathways – Communication of ideas
Tertiary Pathways Information Sessions	Tours of campuses, meeting key staff, information and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tertiary pathways
Exhibition Outcomes	<i>Our Young Mob</i> exhibition at Adelaide Festival Centre (application process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Curation and presentation – Communication of ideas
	Future Studios exhibition at ACE	
	Additional presentation outcomes to be explored (e.g. SALA)	
Workshops	First Nations artist-led workshops delivered in addition to the week-long intensive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cultural knowledge – Artwork skills and techniques – Conceptual thinking – Industry pathways

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