

Nexus Arts



# Nexus Arts Annual Report



June 2022





Noriko Tedano,  
Image Credit: Lauren Connolly



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Koleh,  
Image Credit: Alex Robertson

## Vision

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Australian contemporary arts truly represent our intercultural society, promoting social cohesion through diversity & excellence of practice.

## Mission

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Nexus Arts fosters contemporary intercultural creative practices, engaging and developing both artists and audiences.



# Activity Highlights

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+ Nexus Arts presented 97 artists from 31 different cultural backgrounds across our curated programs, more than doubling our KPI around diversity of cultural backgrounds.

+ We presented 387 artists across 90 shows in our Venue, in a broad range of genres and disciplines.

+ We welcomed 6623 visitors to our exhibition program, both in person in our Gallery and digitally.

+ We launched the Toolkit 'You're Welcome: A Guide for Arts Organisations to Increase Cultural Diversity in Our Audiences'.

+ We maintained cultural diversity among our leadership group, with 75% of Board Members from culturally diverse or First Nations backgrounds, significantly higher than the 10% national average for arts leaders.

+ We worked with multiple project partners, including the Adelaide Festival Centre, Flinders University Museum of Art, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, OzAsia Festival, City of Marion, City of Unley, Illuminate Adelaide, and WOMADelaide.

+ We founded the Nexus Arts Orchestra, a 16-piece intercultural ensemble of global artists who by the end of 2021 had performed to audiences of over 10,000 across 4 sold-out events.

+ We supported 15 artists to develop funding applications through our Arts South Australia-supported Write Up pilot program, and more through our Interplay and Studio Residency programs.

+ We established the Nexus Arts Artistic and Cultural Advisory Group, providing input, advocacy and specialised knowledge in guidance of the organisation's aims, and reviewing the breadth and diversity of representation of culturally diverse and First Nations communities in the organisation's activity.

+ We presented 4 Nexus artists at the iconic Her Majesty's Theatre for the performance 'Hear Now', in association with the Adelaide Festival Centre.

+ We worked with Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) to deliver the first Adelaide Artist Lab, a 5-day intensive supporting 12 artists from various disciplines in a range of creative workshop activities, as part of OzAsia Festival.

+ Our community raised almost \$11,000 in support of Afghanistan in a fundraising event held in September 2021.





Time and Trace,  
Image Credit: Aaron Schuppan



# Chairperson's Report

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2021 once again tested the resilience of our Australian society with continued challenges aplenty. It is commendable and, frankly, astonishing that Nexus Arts was able to achieve such strong levels of presentation and development activities throughout the year, demonstrating the commitment of our staff and the importance of services provided. I note several activities that exemplify the investigative, collaborative, and supportive ethos of the organisation.

The launch in June of the Toolkit 'You're Welcome: A Guide for Arts Organisations to Increase Cultural Diversity in our Audiences' is the outcome of a landmark research project led by Nexus Arts and supported by the Government of South Australia, Multicultural Affairs. The Toolkit was launched by The Honourable Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia. The

launch was attended by The Honourable Jing Lee, MLC, Assistant to the Premier, who then praised the work in a speech to the Parliament of South Australia, stating:

*As honourable members are very much aware, interculturalism is very close to my heart and I am very pleased to highlight the wonderful work that Nexus Arts is doing to engage with and explore the participation of multicultural audiences for arts events across South Australia. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate...the whole team for their significant contributions to increasing diversity in our state and for presenting the most welcoming and successful launch event.*

The Write Up program, providing assistance to artists from culturally diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds to prepare applications to funding bodies, continued in 2021. This program was funded through strategic investment from Arts South Australia, recognising the important role that Nexus Arts plays in addressing equity of access to these important funding opportunities.

The new Nexus Arts podcast 'Why This?' interrogates personal pathways into the arts industry, illuminating personal and universal experiences. This foray into digital communications will allow for continued expansion in this area, and I look forward to seeing future episodes and new directions.

Continued partnerships with organisations including OzAsia Festival, the Adelaide Festival Centre, and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and new relationships with Illuminate Adelaide, WOMAdelaide, and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) ensure our organisation is well-placed to continue in its impressive growth trajectory.

I commend the Nexus Arts leadership team for their continued reliable and passionate stewardship of the organisation. I thank my fellow Board members for their service, and I congratulate all those involved with the organisation on their commitment.

**Dr Adrian Vicary, Chair of the Board**



# Artistic Director's Report

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In another challenging year, Nexus Arts continued with passion and persistence in our important work in support of Australian artists from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds and the promotion of an intercultural understanding of Australian contemporary arts. Not only did we continue, but we grew, and we succeeded, with 2021 bringing new funding, partnerships, and projects that see us drive forward in pursuit of our Vision. We achieved all this while holding close our values of compassion, inclusion, passion, and learning, and I am so proud of what we accomplished.

With these values always at our core, we delivered presentation and development programs despite the ongoing disruptions of COVID-19, including Interplay and an expanded Studio Residency program. We formed a new flagship ensemble, the Nexus Arts Orchestra, which brings together 16 global artists in a truly unique expression of interculturalism. We presented work at venues including Her Majesty's Theatre and the Entertainment Centre, significantly raising our profile. Throughout all this activity, we centred our artists and our community, as we always do; celebrating artistry, connection, and cohesion.

Highlights were many, but one that stands out for me was the fundraising performance held on 4 September in the wake of the crisis in Afghanistan as US and allied troops withdrew, where our artistic and audience communities came together and raised an incredible \$11,000 with a COVID-maximum attendance of 100 people. The warmth and compassion in the room and the generosity of our artists who came together, compelled by the desire to do what they could to help, was truly demonstrative of the community that we have built at Nexus.

I am very pleased that in 2021 we established the Nexus Arts Artistic and Cultural Advisory Group, with 7 artists from across Australia invited to join for a two-year term. The purpose of the Group is to review on the breadth and diversity of representation of culturally diverse and First Nations communities in the organisation's activity, and to provide input, advocacy and specialised knowledge in guidance of the organisation's aims. This is an important strategic development for Nexus Arts, and I look forward to working with the Group in support of our organisational development.

I would like to profoundly thank our invaluable staff for their work with Nexus Arts. We are a small but mighty team, and the passion given to the organisation is what it thrives on. We are nothing without our staff, and I am lucky to have you all by my side. Special mentions must go to our Executive Director, Blythe Chandler, for her dedication to the organisation and for her co-leadership of Nexus Arts throughout 2021, and Lisa Catinari, who left us in early 2021 after many years of service. My thanks also to the Board, especially our Chair, Adrian Vicary for his dedication to the organisation over many years.

To conclude, I offer a personal reflection on the satisfaction brought to me through my work with Nexus Arts. This is mirrorlike organisation: what one gives to it is reflected back at oneself, and I have been humbled by the responses from artists and audiences to our efforts. I look forward to continuing this work in 2022.

**Emily Tulloch, Artistic Director**





Maryam Rahmani, Interplay,  
Image Credit: Morgan Sette



# Artistic Program 2021

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## Nexus Arts Gallery

Nexus Arts Gallery presented 8 exhibitions in 2021: 6 multimodal, 1 in person only and 1 digital. These included, for the first time, 3 studio residency opportunities, funded by the Arts Recovery Fund. The exhibition program was as follows:

1. The Migrated Words | Studio Resident Abraham Mohammadi, presented as part of Adelaide Fringe.
2. Time and Trace | curated by Chiranjika Grasby, with Shane Mankitya Cook, Fuko Suzuki, and Lewis Goh.
3. East Wind | curated by Jonathan Kim, with Truc Truong, Bin Bai, Seiichi Kobayashi, Meng Zhang, Fang-Yi Kuang, and Jonathan Kim.
4. NEST: A Place Called Home | Studio Resident Tailor Winston, presented as part of SALA Festival.
5. (Be)longing | Fruzsí Kenez.
6. Dhawun Guwaala-y | presented by Dominique Chen, Samuel Chen and Nexus Arts, with Tom Blake, Peter Breen, Dominique Chen, Samuel Chen, Libby Harward, Janine Mckintosh, BJ Murphy, Darryl Rogers, Cynthia Schwertsik, Tor Maclean, and Debbie Taylor-Worley. Online exhibition only.
7. Untitled.Showa | Maya Kanamori, Chie Muraoka, and Sandy Edwards, presented by OzAsia Festival
8. Once upon a time, there was a little girl | Studio Resident Meng Zhang

Associated activities included artist talks, in-conversations, and performative responses, with one highlight being a closing night event for Abraham Mohammadi's The Migrated Words featuring a performative response by Elyas Alavi and Noriko Tadano.

## Interplay

The Interplay development program, funded by the

Music Development Office, ran from February to December, providing individual and group support, mentoring, and content creation for 8 artists/ensembles. The program concluded in a performance series which ran as follows:

- 19 November: Gene Phoa / San Ureshi
- 26 November: Maryam Rahmani / Elizabeth Ruyi
- 3 December: Noriko Tadano / Koleh
- 10 December: Adrian Schmidt Mumm / GRECO REPTIL \*postponed to 2022 due to COVID uncertainty.

Interplay artists expressed their satisfaction with the program with evaluative comments including “best support ever” and “an extremely valuable and memorable experience”.

## Nexus Live

Our flagship music presentation program returned in 2021 with two planned performances, one of which was sadly cancelled due to the July lockdown.

- 22/23 July – Utter: Stories Told by a Ghost, a Book, and a Room, by Iran Sanadzadeh, Dylan Crismani, Cazna Brass, Derek Pascoe, Sebastian Collen, and Chris Petridis. Presented by Nexus Arts as part of Illuminate Adelaide \*cancelled due to SA Government lockdown
- 11 September – Noriko Tadano and Adam Ritchie, new work commissioned by Nexus Arts for Nexus Live

Further Nexus Live performances planned for 2021 were rescheduled to 2022 due to ongoing challenges regarding inbound travel.

## Hear Now

In association with the Adelaide Festival Centre, this Music @ The Maj performance featured 4 Nexus Arts artists: Dhungala Baarka (Nancy Bates and Allara) with Adam Page, Farhan Shah, Radial Quartet (featuring Zhao Liang and Jarrad Payne, formed for a Nexus Live commission in 2019), and -



# Artistic Program 2021



Lazaro Numa. This was an incredible opportunity for both these artists and our organisation to present on a wonderful, high-profile stage, and the performance was very warmly received. Enormous thanks to Board member Terri Dichiera for initiating and driving the partnership.

## Nexus Arts Orchestra

The Nexus Arts Orchestra is a 16-piece ensemble of global artists, directed by Julian Ferraretto. The Orchestra performed at 3 major events in 2021: the Australia Day Council of SA's flagship event at the Entertainment Centre; at the Capri Theatre for the City of Unley's 150 years celebration, and at the Domain Theatre presented by the City of Marion. The ensemble comprises Noriko Tadano (shamisen), Zuhir Naji (oud), Alain Vălodze (guitar), Maryam Rahmani (santur), Zhao Liang (guzheng), Satomi Ohnishi (percussion), Bortier Okoe (percussion), Jack Overall (cello), Karen De Nardi (viola), Robin Anthony (violin), Abdul Nanou (violin), Lazaro Numa (trumpet), and Vonda Last, Farhan Shah, and Jennifer Trijo on vocals: a truly unique lineup of performers who come together in a visible and meaningful expression of contemporary interculturalism.

## Summer Nights and Echoes

With a project grant from the Music Development Office we presented two series curated by guests: Lazaro Numa (Summer Nights) and Chelsea McGuinness (Echoes).

### 1. Summer Nights at Nexus Arts

- 4 February – Viva Mexico, with Lorena Salavarrieta
- 12 February – Baila Cuba, with Lazaro Numa
- 18 February – Cantemos Todos, with Juan Muñoz

### 2. Echoes: A Jazz Vocal Series

- 23 April – Eliza Dickson and Jo Lawry
- 28 May – Chelsea Lee and Anita Wardell
- 25 June – Chelsea McGuinness & Lauren Henderson

These performances were well-attended and of exceptionally high calibre, and introduced Nexus -

Arts audiences to several great new artists of note.

## OzAsia Festival

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 was unfortunately most evident during OzAsia Festival, where the majority of our performance program was cancelled due to artists being unable to travel in to South Australia. The events that proceeded as planned were *Untitled.Showa*, detailed in the Exhibition Program above, and the following:

- AEON<sup>+</sup>: TITAN ARUM, by Justin Shoulder
- Pinoy Street Party, led by Kuya James

An OzAsia highlight was the Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) Artist Lab, a 5-day intensive supporting 12 artists from various disciplines in a range of creative workshop activities. Nexus was delighted to be one of the presenting partners, alongside ActNow Theatre, Brink Productions, State Theatre Company South Australia and Vitalstatistix, the Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts Flinders University, and OzAsia Festival.

## Floods of Fire

The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's 'Floods of Fire' project is a large-scale, multi-faceted creative endeavour involving 9 Nexus artists. In 2021, these artists heard their collaborative compositions come to life in rehearsals with the ASO, and a further performance stage is planned for 2022.



Bortier Okoe,  
Image Credit: Alex Kwong



Lazaro Numa,  
Image Credit: Alex Kwong

# Treasurers' Report

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Throughout 2021 Nexus Arts has demonstrated its versatility in adapting and responding to the changing demands of operating under the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 regulations. Nexus Arts maintains that access to quality arts and culture is fundamental in supporting diverse communities to participate equally in society, fostering social inclusion. Nexus Arts' performance venue is almost unique in the Adelaide arts landscape. For over 35 years Nexus Arts has worked consistently to create performance and presentation opportunities, develop programs, and to advocate for inclusion of culturally and linguistically diverse artists and communities within mainstream arts. In 2021 eight different community groups or organisations utilised our Venue, along with many individual artists from culturally diverse backgrounds. We remain committed to optimising the use of our performance venue to benefit Adelaide's artists and audiences.

Nexus Arts Venue remains committed to the safety and wellbeing of our artists, our audience, and our staff. We have put in place a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy to ensure that we are doing everything that we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. In line with government requirements, Nexus Arts Venue operated at reduced audience capacity throughout 2021. Despite this, the 2021 season saw box office sales significantly increase on 2020 levels, with box office intake increasing by 433%. The versatility of our Venue continues to render us a sought-after location, with income from venue hire increasing by 46% on the previous year. Bar sales have not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels, owing no doubt to reduced audience capacities, with 2021 sales down by 32% on 2019 despite a 27% increase on the previous year. In 2021 Rose Kentish Wines and South Australian brewery Sparkke provided us with sponsored stock to an -



# Treasurers' Report

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approximate value of \$1670, as we entered into a partnership together.

Nexus Arts continues to provide a diverse program of activities that consistently operate within budget. During 2021 we presented 90 performance events, representing almost 400 artists, over 70 nights which provided employment opportunities for our Venue staff. Access to JobKeeper payments allowed us to retain a number of our experienced pool of Venue staff, although a need for new recruitment was identified at the end of 2021 in preparation for the busy Adelaide Fringe 2022 period. During a particularly eventful and challenging 2021 Adelaide Fringe season, the professionalism of our Venue front of house, bar, and technical staff ensured that we maintained the standard of high-quality program and services we have come to expect from Nexus Arts.

Funding from the Government of South Australia's Arts Recovery Fund enabled us to employ a Digital Access Coordinator in 2021. One of the key recommendations from this appointment was improving the services Nexus offers to the Deaf (many of whom identify as linguistically diverse) and disabled communities. This provided the basis for a compelling argument to completely redevelop our website, and we were able to source additional Recovery Fund funding to do so. We engaged creative website development firm Freerange Future to ensure AAA accessibility conformance for the website. An additional Expand Together grant from Multicultural Affairs was used to include the integration of a translation widget to provide more captioning and improved functionality for the communities we service. The Digital Access Coordinator role provided the impetus to eventually employ someone with lived experience to transition into an Access role in 2022.

The organisation's overall income was comparable to the previous year with an increase of 2%, with a recorded net surplus of \$88,966 for the year (down from \$156,787 in 2020, due largely to JobKeeper payments ending). Self-generated income for 2021 was up by 60% on 2020, due to more social activity being permitted. Cognisant of our continued need

to diversify income streams, from 1 July 2022 we look to recruit a 0.4FTE Development Manager to improve financial stability through increased income generation from sponsorship, fundraising, and further promotion of Nexus Arts' events. Nexus Arts will nonetheless continue to seek avenues to increase our sustainability and reduce costs through partnering with other likeminded organisations, as we have done throughout our recent history.

We are grateful to the Department of Premier and Cabinet for its ongoing support of our organisation. The extension of our Arts Organisations Funding Agreement for a further year in 2021, to ease the burden of applications during another difficult year, provided some security. Further, we also received grants from the Department for Innovation and Skills through the Music Development Office, the Department of Premier and Cabinet through Multicultural Affairs, the City of Adelaide, the Adelaide Fringe Festival, and the Australia Council for the Arts, allowing us to support the immensely talented artists with whom Nexus is privileged to work in delivering our program of events. With this funding support, Nexus Arts in 2021 both consolidated and expanded its diverse program of intercultural visual arts and contemporary music, providing paid opportunities for industry professionals across our programs. Nexus Arts has actively sought partnerships and opportunities that provide artists with new ways of working, and/or to present their work to different audiences. We continue to raise our profile through relationships with organisations such as the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Flinders University Museum of Art, as well as presenting at major events such as WOMADelaide (confirmed for 2022). We have commissioned new creative content that builds representation of the rich cultural heritage that many creative South Australian practitioners bring to their experience with Nexus Arts. We are honoured to support and promote contemporary intercultural creative practices that engage and develop both artists and audiences.

**Roland Ah Chee & Brendan Connolly,  
Co-Treasurers**

# Financial Statement



## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
SALES REVENUE	239,613	84,214
GRANT REVENUE	357,293	436,497
COST OF SALES	(269,212)	(151,972)
GROSS PROFIT	327,694	368,739
FINANCE INCOME	1	35
DONATIONS	757	797
MARKETING EXPENSES	(6,550)	(8,359)
OCCUPANCY COSTS	(17,825)	(11,034)
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	(194,119)	(144,713)
OTHER EXPENSES	(20,992)	(48,070)
FINANCE EXPENSES	-	(608)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	88,966	156,787
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	88,966	156,787



# Financial Statement



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	\$	\$
Cash & Cash Equivalents	593,735	409,582
Trade & Other Receivables	36,216	786
Inventory	5,063	8,059
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>635,014</b>	<b>418,427</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	\$	\$
Property, Plant & Equipment	34,771	49,018
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>34,771</b>	<b>49,018</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>669,785</b>	<b>467,445</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	\$	\$
Trade & Other Payables	15,246	28,138
Employee Benefits	16,356	20,714
Other Financial Liabilities	245,259	126,078
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>276,861</b>	<b>174,930</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	\$	\$
Employee Benefits	1,011	135
Other Financial Liabilities	69,451	58,883
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>70,462</b>	<b>59,018</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>347,323</b>	<b>233,948</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>322,462</b>	<b>233,497</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	\$	\$
Retained Surplus	322,462	233,497
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>322,462</b>	<b>233,497</b>



# Financial Statement

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## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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	2021	2020
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Receipts from customers and funding agencies	691,763	647,041
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(506,792)	(321,253)
Net Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<b>184,971</b>	<b>(325,788)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment	(818)	(15,174)
Net Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<b>(818)</b>	<b>(15,174)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVS HELD</b>	<b>184,153</b>	<b>310,614</b>
<b>CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>409,582</b>	<b>98,968</b>
<b>CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVS AT THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>593,735</b>	<b>409,582</b>



# Board of Governance

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## Board of Governance

**Adrian Vicary** (Chair)  
**Terri Dichiera** (Co-Deputy Chair)  
**Boram Lee** (Co-Deputy Chair, Member from 25 May)  
**Roland Ah Chee** (Co-Treasurer)  
**Brendan Connolly** (Co-Treasurer)  
**Diana Glenn**  
**Kate Moskwa**  
**Suhail Bhardwaj**  
**Neha Madhok** (to 30 April)  
**Michael Pagsanjan** (to 27 April)

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## Staff

**Emily Tulloch** – Artistic Director  
**Blythe Chandler** – Executive Director  
**Alice Castello** – Visual Arts Coordinator (to 19 February);  
Administration & Gallery Coordinator (from 20 February)  
**Aaron Schuppan** – Venue & Media Manager  
**Naomi Keyte** – Artist Development Officer  
**Dani Reynolds** – Digital Engagement Officer  
**Matthew Schultz** – Head Technician (from 3 February)  
**Sofia Torchia** – Marketing Coordinator (from 1 April to 3 November)  
**Marwa Abouzeid** – Project Coordinator (to 30 June)  
**Zeina Abdul Karim** – Marketing Coordinator (to 26 March)  
**Lisa Catinari** – Office Administrator (to 19 February)  
**Zach Caporale** – Head Technician (to 2 February)





Tailor Winston, 'Nest'  
Image Credit: Morgan Sette





**Nexus Arts**  
**Fax: 08 8212 3276**  
**Phone: 08 8212 4276**  
**E: [info@nexusarts.org.au](mailto:info@nexusarts.org.au)**







[nexusarts.org.au](https://nexusarts.org.au)

