



Acknowledgement to country

The Art is... festival, committee and staff would like to acknowledge the five traditional owner groups of our beautiful Wimmera Lands. In our work and play we take time to respect and consider the land, our environment, the aboriginal culture and here we pay our respects to all aboriginal people as well as Elders past, present and emerging.

Art is... 2020 Committee

Chair: Robbie Millar

Vice Chair: Gill Venn /Alistair Shaw

Secretary: Cheryl Linke

Treasurer: Marion Matthews /Gill Venn

General Committee: Susan Surridge, Jillian Pearce, Gill Venn, Alistair Shaw, Hannah French, Tim Dunmill, Gail Harradine, Ron Marks, Jacqui Schultz, Alafair Weiser, Debb Jubb, Andrea Cross, Martin Perkins, Ben Fowler, Mary French, Dave Jones, Shana Miatke, Mark Radford, Simone Dalton

Art is... Staff

Festival Director: Sarah Natali

Special Projects and Volunteer Co-ordinator: Elaine Uebergang / Alistair Shaw

Finance Officer: Alison White

Design: Sara Bowers – Studio 8 Designs

Art is... Sponsors and Supporters

The Art is... festival appreciates the ongoing support of all our partners, supporters, and friends. The festival remains a community co-created festival if you would like to support the festival in any way please get in touch.

Project Funding Partners:



Cultural Partners:

Writers Victoria, GrampianArts, Redrock Books and Gallery, Centre for Participation, Horsham Agricultural Society.

Media Partners:

The Weekly Advertiser, ABC Wimmera and Studio 8 Designs

Supporters:

Shelton and Lane, Baa3400, Framewave, St Brigid's College, Horsham College, Wimmera CMA, Lynch Technology, Harvey Norman, Rural Energy, Triple H, Morrow Motor Group

Theme

2019 saw the final reiteration of the footprint series: Moving together, Making our Mark and Moulding our Future. For a variety of reasons not least because of the expense and confusion of consistently changing our branding, and at best due to the extension of the funding we receive through Creative Victoria Organisational Investment Program into 2021; the Festival committee decided to keep our theme and branding consistent and developed the idea of Art is... Unexpected on top of the Footprint branding. A change of colour scheme kept this fresh with a citrus colour scheme.

Unexpected: a surprising disruption to the everyday....

For a brief moment in your busy life, pause and see something as if for the first time. In the 25th year of Art is... we dare you to be surprised, delighted or challenged.

Join us in observing the unexpected in the everyday, exploring the world with a childlike sense of wonder and excitement as we make footprints through our land.

Then the pandemic hit...

As the world closed their borders and people started to hunker down in their homes the festival team were just starting to finalise the festival program. Regional Arts Victoria were the first to announce that all their staff would be working from home until the end of May. We read a lot of news and had to take mini breaks from the media - times were stressful.

There was a push to cancel; as events, like Dark Mofo, announced the suspension of their 2020 program. The turning point for the Art is... 2020 festival going ahead was when Sarah our Festival Director attended a ministerial webinar organised by Creative Victoria with the Minister for the Arts Martin Foley. He spoke about the Arts as lifelines for many people and that our sector had a responsibility to begin creative support for people during the pandemic and to think of new ways of operating during a pandemic while supporting artists and creatives as we could. Covid-19 certainly changed our delivery model.

The Board approved a reduced online program, and we changed our festival theme to Art is... Still Happening. We adapted logos and extended the festival to be over the whole of winter. This gave our staff time to develop the infrastructure to deliver an online program... remember when no one had heard of zoom? It was a challenge, but our artists pivoted and we delivered a festival.

Further complications:

The matter was further complicated when four days in our festival director was called back to the UK. In other years we would have struggled to deliver but the online nature of our program meant that Sarah was able to not only enjoy the British Summer but still supervise the ongoing program delivery. Although we were told she didn't really like getting up at 3am to do so!

Launch

Our Launch was held online over zoom. Councillor Mark Radford adapted "Don't Worry be Happy" for the occasion and Ron Marks traditional owner and Wergaia man delivered an online welcome. Staff from RAV were able to attend as were some of our artists– the world suddenly seemed much smaller. Minute Secretary and long-standing volunteer Cheryl Linke gave us her picks of the program.



Literary Events

Poets Alone Together

This event brought four diverse and gifted Australian poets together to deliver some of their work and then participate in a discussion and Q&A. The event was moderated by Kate Cuthbert from Writer's Victoria who gave the most beautiful acknowledgement not only to country and our Indigenous heritage but to the horror that was occurring in America that week the protests/riots against police brutality and the mainstream recognition of the Black Lives Matter campaign.

WINTER HORSHAM 2020

POETS ALONE TOGETHER A PANEL DISCUSSION

Join us over Zoom for a panel of readings, discussion and a question and answer session featuring four gifted Australian poets. Their poetry uses different lenses, genres, formats and styles. A unique opportunity to celebrate and engage with the diversity available in our own literary backyard.

THURSDAY 4 JUNE, 7-9:00PM

Please be online from 6:55pm for a 7pm start. Register at www.artiswimmera.com/writing and you will receive a zoom invite on the day.

ART IS... UNEXPECTED Still Happening

AMY BODOSSIAN
Critically acclaimed cult spoken word star, cabaret artist and obsessive compulsive diva Amy Bodossian is a raw, eccentric, and totally unique Australian performer who has been captivating audiences for over fifteen years with her distinctive mix of song, spoken word, comedy and personal revelations. <https://amybodossian.com/about/>

JESSICA WALTON
Jessica is a queer, disabled writer and teacher. She is the author of picture book: *Introducing Teddy* (Bloomsbury 2016), as well as a range of short stories published in anthologies for kids and teens. In 2017 Jess completed a Write-ability Fellowship with Writers Victoria focused on writing poetry about disability, cancer and pain.

OMAR SAKR
Omar Sakr is an award-winning Arab Australian poet, the son of Lebanese and Turkish Muslim migrants. His debut collection, *These Wild Houses* (Cordite, 2017) was shortlisted for the Judith Wright Calanthe Award and the Kenneth Slessor Prize. His new book, *The Lost Arabs* (UQP, 2019), has been shortlisted for multiple awards and released internationally. <https://omarsakr.com/>

BELLA LI
Bella is the author of *Argosy* (Vagabond Press, 2017), which won the NSW and VIC Premier's Literary Awards for Poetry, and *Lost Lake* (Vagabond Press, 2018), shortlisted for the QLD Literary Award for Poetry. Her writing and artwork have been published widely, including in *Best Australian Poems*, *Archives of American Art Journal* and *The Kenyon Review*.
photo credit Leah Jing Malinuk

The evening will be moderated by Kate Cuthbert, Program Manager at Writers Victoria. She worked for more than a decade in trade publishing, notably initiating the Escape Publishing imprint of Harlequin Australia, and serving as its Managing Editor. She is also an award-winning book reviewer and critic and is currently pursuing a PhD examining rural settings in Australian popular fiction.

WRITERS VICTORIA **CREATIVE VICTORIA**
All about writers

For more info on all events, check out:
www.artiswimmera.com

The online format of this event doubled our audience from the 2019 event and meant that we were able to look further afield for our panel. Our authors shared their work and performed some of their pieces too. The event fed very nicely into our next online event.

Get it Out there Poetry Slam

Participants and allies alike were invited to put on their creative hats and share a poem that they had either written or that they had permission to share. These poems were submitted and formed into a downloadable PDF book . Our poetry slam / sharing poetry was delivered via technology -we had a good crowd with audience zooming in from Scotland, England, New Zealand, Newcastle, Perth and Melbourne and we saw some local faces that we hadn't seen before.

Thank you to Indrani Perera who collated the publication and to Amy Bodission who created a lovely atmosphere in which people were able to share their work.

You can download the Get it out there Poetry Book at www.artiswimmera.com/poetryslam

THE ART IS...FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

GET IT OUT THERE

Poetry Slam

25TH JUNE 7PM-9PM VIA ZOOM
ARTISWIMMERA/RSVP

Share some of your own work, bring a favourite poem or come and enjoy.

We have performers if you want to write and have someone else perform.

If you would like to share your work and happy for us to do so we will put into a little publication of the event that participants can have as a keepsake. [Register your poem](#) by the 5pm on the 22nd June

For more information, visit www.artiswimmera.com/poetryslam
If you have any questions or concerns, contact 0428 810 296 or email artis@artis.wimmera.com.au

Workshops

We were still able to deliver three of our proposed *Art is... for you to create* workshops – Many thanks to the tutors who worked to adjust their styles and adapt to teaching over zoom.

Ilka White – Braided Rag Rugs



Ilka White created Rag Rugs in two-day long workshops. We were fully subscribed for both courses and participants learnt how to make either an oval or round rug as well as being shown how to create patterns and to finish off.

Lorette Broekstra – Children's Picture Book Illustration

Lorette Broekstra delivered an online course in Children's book Illustration over four evenings. Participants learnt various techniques and participants enjoyed creating an eight-page picture book.



A page from participant Felicity Brown's book: *Blue Banded Bee goes Home*.

Amy Bodossian – Unleashing your Poetic Voice

This workshop had participants bursting, rapping, and delving deep to each compose and deliver four poems over the course of the day. One of the participants went on to win a prize at an unpublished poetry competition. Amy created a wonderfully reflective and safe space and we loved her so much that she will be our featured poet in 2021.

The Great Gizmo’s Circus School



We had planned a whole community engagement delivery in schools with Colin Bogaars to deliver drumming and a parade at our community Winter Warmer. Sadly, this activity could not be converted to online format.

Colin did a magic act and turned into the Great Gizmo and delivered an online Circus school from his back yard. We were delighted to have participants, not just from the Wimmera but also from South Australia and Melbourne. Of the 16 groups that participated all enjoyed and there was an encouraging atmosphere of adults and children alike as we learnt to balance things on our fingers, spin things and flip a cap.

We didn’t get the timing quite right with this workshop as the delivery coincided with the lifting of regional lockdowns which certainly reduced our numbers with six no shows and no last-minute bookings.

Create a Solar Garden

We engaged community artist Nicola Clarke and videographer Jacqui Schultz to create a webinar on creating a solar garden from recycled plastic milk bottles. We really enjoyed this activity, and it will remain on our *you tube channel* and website. You can find the link at www.artiswimmera.com/solar-garden



Visual Art

Galleries on the Side

Galleries on the Side returned under the supervision of Alistair Shaw who ran this project first from his family home in New Zealand, and then from hotel quarantine from Melbourne. Again, the joys of Covid!

This year we not only had Galleries on the Side but we had Galleries on the Wall - an online gallery where participants could submit a photograph of their work. We were blown away by the number of entries at nearly 100.



Peta Adamson *Road to Rup* (Etching)2020

Overall Winner, "Best in Show": Peta Adamson, "Road to Rup", (etching)
Highly Commended: Michael Moerkerk, "CURRENT" (sculpture/installation)
Encouragement Award: David Louison, "White Hart Hotel" (painting,)
People's Choice Award: Angela Walker, "Dance in the Gums", (painting)
Youth Award: Izabella McIntyre, "Beauty and the Beast" (linocut)

The Art is... Bald Prize.

2020 saw the reincarnation of the Photo Muster into the Art is... bald prize – for Photography
Entries were accepted digitally through our website which seemed to appeal to our audience.

Winners were all local to the Wimmera but the photographs were taken worldwide. Thank you to Mark Radford for his passion in pushing photography in Horsham.



The Don – By Helen Hobbs

Future Surface

This was a Regional Arts Victoria and Horsham Youth Council funded project. Artist Hannah French was engaged to deliver a series of animation workshops looking at climate change mitigation and adaptation. Unfortunately, this was too tricky to deliver with the Pandemic. We will deliver a revision of the planned project in 2021.

We did however have a February workshop which taught participants how to use animation software and an online tool – Eyejack to augment their work. We partnered with The Weekly Advertiser to showcase augmented reality comic books where we give you a trigger image and the next screens of the comic will be unlocked through Eyejack software on your phone. Go to www.artiswimmera.com/future-surface-comics to view the others.

FUTURE SURFACE

What is Future Surface? In 2020, the Art is... festival brings us Art is... Unexpected: a surprising disruption to the everyday. The Future Surface project brings us the Unexpected through Augmented Reality - and you can try it out now.

How do I see the Augmented Reality?
Get the EYEJACK app on to your phone.
Open the app, scan the QR code,
then hold your phone over the image.

Strange Creature by Kate Rowe

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 www.theweeklyadvertiser.com.au Page 11

25 years of Art is...

2020 was the 25th Anniversary of the Art is... festival and our founding member Gill Venn (still treasurer and an active support to both committee and staff) delivered *a looking back on* exhibition at Redrock Books and Gallery. There were photos of us all looking somewhat fresher faced and she even created a Balehenge jigsaw puzzle. Photographs could be taken away for a gold coin donation – motivations were different for purchasing pictures – But I know a certain artist who discovered a photograph of her aged 14 dressed as a farmyard animal! - Good times!



(thanks to The Weekly Advertiser for photograph of Gill)

Gill Venn Celebrates 25years of Art is.. with a lovely glass of Gin at the launch of the festival.



Drive in Concert

As a festival that was affected by Covid we were eligible for the Strategic Investment Fund stage 1 from the State Government and our funders Creative Victoria. We used this money to partner with The Horsham Agricultural Society and get a Victorian first and put on first drive-in concert in Victoria. Ticket sales were fair – although we were in the height of the first wave, so all were a bit cautious about venturing out.

It was a big undertaking and involved Ronnie Thomas and Tim Hobbs giving up a fair few hours of their time to work out how to bounce signals around Horsham past trees so that we could have the music reach not only people in their cars at the concert but across the Wimmera.



Fortunately, as ever we can rely on the kindness of our community - Rural Energy lent us their cherry picker so the radio station could put their antenna on top and Morrow Motor Group gave us their Truck as a stage for the night.

The night was well received, and we would consider doing a similar event again. Elizabeth opened followed by festival favourite Alice Skye and we finished the night with local group All the Kings Men – who streamed live to facebook – wish we'd thought of that! All in all, a great night.



Timothy Hobbs of Triple H creating that fantastic sound beaming across the Wimmera and to the cars with as little delay as possible (0.764 seconds actually – Epic!)

THE ART IS...FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

DRIVE-IN MUSIC CONCERT

SATURDAY 27 JUNE AT 7.30PM
GATES OPEN AT 6.30PM
MAYDALE RESERVE, HORSHAM SHOWGROUNDS

Here's what the State Government says about drive-in events (modified for this event but no change in content).

As customers are mostly in their cars, there are no restrictions on numbers attending drive-in events. Customers are not permitted to be seated outside of their car. Operators should ensure that physical distancing is maintained in busy areas like takeaway food stalls and that there is frequent cleaning of bathroom facilities.

Can I have passengers in my car?

You should avoid carrying passengers in your car, unless they live in your household. If you do need to carry passengers in your car, you should frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces

Business Victoria has advised you may have 2 people in your car unless you are from the same household. This is up to the driver to enforce. We have collected driver names and numbers so we can assist with contact tracing if required.

Please stay in your car unless going to the toilet or getting food.

Please follow social distancing rules.

TICKETS \$ 30 PER CAR
(social distancing rules apply)
bookings essential.artiswimmera.com/rsvp

2020 Art is... still happening – An unexpected year.	
Performances	
Self-entrepreneuried events	Attendance
Official Opening	27
Poets Alone Together	46
Poetry Slam	24
Drive in Concert	70 vehicles
Art is... for you to create – workshops	
Unleashing your Creative Voice	4
Braided Rag Rugs July	11 (1 over capacity)
Braided Rag Rugs August	14 (3 over capacity)
Children's picture book Illustration	15 (At capacity)
Circus Skills workshop	16
Unstructured garment making	Cancelled
Smoke and Word	Cancelled
Drumming workshops	Cancelled
Art is... in far off schools -Workshops	Cancelled
Events	
Grey Matters	Cancelled
Art Play Sunday	Cancelled
Walking the Wimmera	Cancelled
Immersion Day	Cancelled
Winter Warmer	Cancelled
Co-productions/co-presentations	
Art Matters performance	Cancelled
Dinner at Baa 3400	Cancelled
Palais de Pixel –	Cancelled
Simply Music Concert	Cancelled
Toro and Rose	Cancelled
Horsham Cinema Film Festival	Cancelled
Exhibitions/Entries	
Entries to the Competitions	
Galleries on the side	97 Entries 48 votes in People's Choice Award
Art-is-Bald	26 Entries 122 votes in People's Choice Award
Create a Solar Garden	No stats available
Poetry Slam Booklet	24 Entries in a produced booklet
Self-curated / initiated exhibitions	No. of Exhibition Days
Galleries on the side	60
Art is... Bald	31
Create a Solar Garden	365
25 years of Art is...	14
Road Kill at the Goat	Cancelled

See you all in 2021... in some format anyway - Covid permitting.