



## Exhibition Program 2025

Guidelines & Support Material



## About the Art Program

The Art Program is an art in health service which uses the visual arts - in all its forms - to help improve the lives of patients, families, carers and staff.

Working in partnership with the health and the arts sectors, we provide accessible and meaningful opportunities for arts engagement and exchange that aid patient's physical, mental and emotional recovery.

For some children, art offers a refuge from the intense emotions associated with illness, giving them a way to express their feelings and allowing them respite from what they are going through. It also helps in reducing their anxiety and isolation, perception of pain and improving overall mental health.

Fully funded by Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF), the Art Program employs the use of temporary exhibitions, projects, workshops, and a permanent collection of diverse artworks to create a vibrant, reassuring and colourful place of healing and culture, where children and young adults feel safe and happy.

## COVID-19: A Changing Hospital Landscape

To protect staff, patients and their families, there are currently restrictions in place to ensure no one is placed at risk when coming to Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

In response, artwork delivery to the Hospital, exhibition installation, artwork collection and other aspects are now scheduled through discussion with participating exhibitors and are informed by the changing restrictions placed on the Hospital.

**We expect these restrictions will continue to impact how we work. Please consider these restrictions when applying.**



"Contemporary Still Life: Entertaining Paraphernalia" by Xanga Connelley (Autumn 2022)



## The Exhibition Program

The Hospital contains five exhibition sites across three floors of the Hospital. These exhibition sites are situated in the busy corridors of the Hospital and are transformed every three months with a rotating exhibition schedule of selling and non-selling shows.

**This year we are excited to implement seasonal themes across the Art Program calendar findings ways to build intentional lines of connection and synergy across all aspects of the Art Program through workshops, projects, seasonal exhibitions and permanent collection works.**

Our seasonal exhibition program will feature works by patients, children and young people, independent and emerging artists, mid-career and senior artists, community groups, institutions and curated group shows. These exhibitions will offer patients a window to an many worlds that are diverse, energising, imaginative, educational and inspiring. At times, they also introduce contemporary art to new audiences.

Exhibitions are also the main avenue for the Art Program to raise money for the Hospital; a portion of each sale is taken as commission (25%) and contributes to the fundraising efforts of SCHF.



## Seasonal Themes

### Season One: Story (Autumn) March – May 2025

It matters what stories we dream new stories with – Jessie French, Artist (Naarm, Melbourne)

Real, imagined, folktale or fable, storytelling embraces the diversity of perspectives. Season One: Story hopes to offer a rich insight into culturally, socially and geographically significant storytelling methods by looking towards the ways stories enrich our social, emotional, mental and physical wellbeing. By embracing the rich diversity of human experience, we hope to amplify the various ways we live and make sense of the world through the important stories we tell.

### Season Two: Light (Winter) June – August 2025

Light is a feeling  
Light is an energy  
Light is a metaphor  
Light is matter.

Delving into the many different qualities, powers and manifestations of light as a material, source and emotion, Season Three: Light contemplates the importance of elevation and illumination in the healing journey.

### Season Three: Connectedness (Spring) September – November 2025

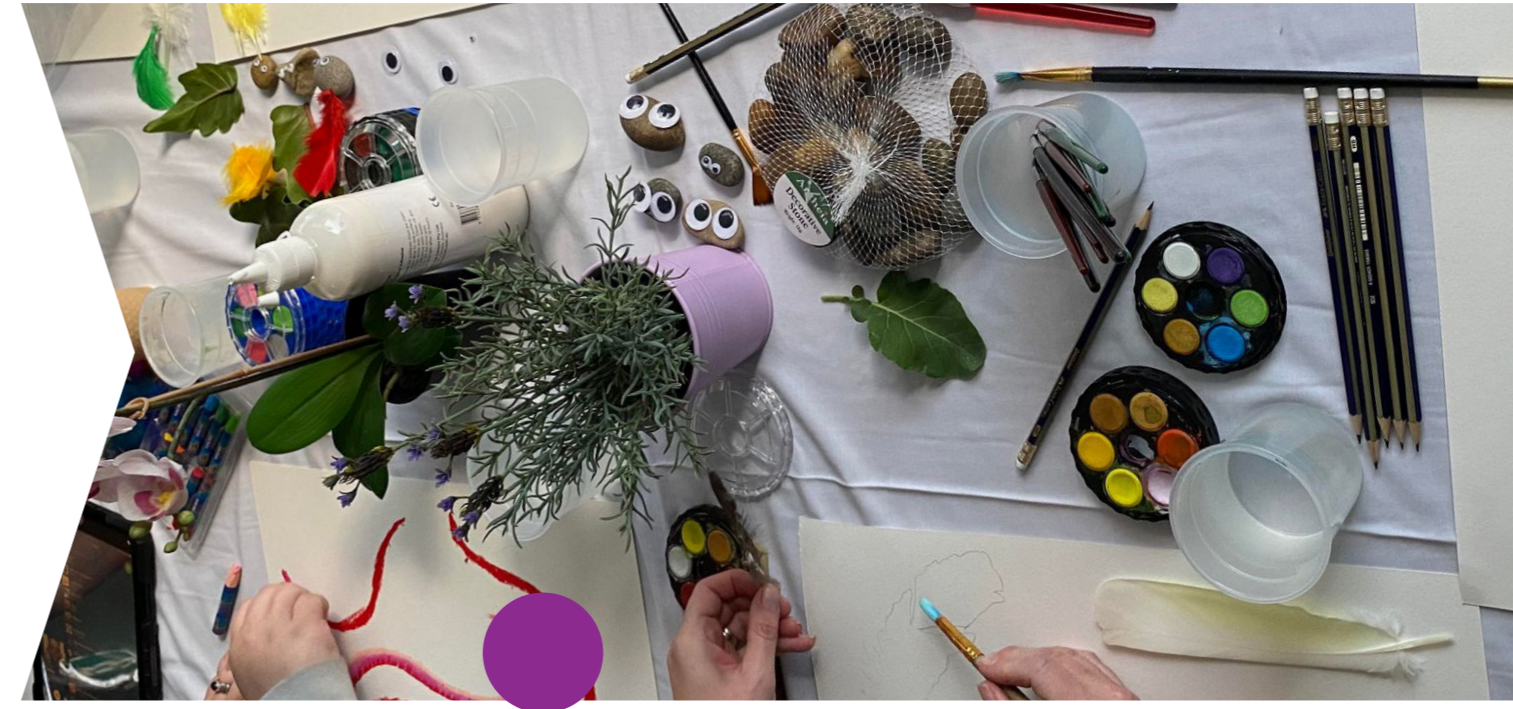
We may feel connected to one place or many, one community or many, one landscape or many.

Rejoicing in the places, communities and environments we feel at ease in and with – Season Two: Connectedness invites reflection on how we build, nurture and grow our worlds both physically and metaphorically. No matter how we foster connectedness it is a space of safety where we can be our truest selves.

### Season Four: Mapping (Summer) December 2025 – February 2026

How might we map bodies, landscapes, conversations, experiences and emotions through linear and cyclical languages; through signs and symbols and resonant networks?

Season Four: Mapping draws us into communion and collaboration with other bodies, beings, forms and formations through offering insight into how we build and chart our understandings of our internal and external worlds.



## Arts Learning Program

Our Arts Learning Program is undergoing a state of renewal. As we move towards the Randwick and Westmead redevelopment projects scheduled to open in 2025, we are excited by the opportunity to test and experiment with different methods, approaches and materials through the arts exchange and the workshop encounter.

A brilliant opportunity to connect with patients, families and the wider Hospital community through relational and social exchange the Arts Learning Program encourages a safe space for prioritising agency and voice through art. It is our hope to build the resilience of children

and young people through providing opportunities for connection, self-expression and belonging through a “non-medical” environment.

We utilise all means of art production and expression. Workshops may include painting, drawing, sculpture, weaving, ceramics, photography, printmaking, puppetry, design, play, creative writing, music, performance and more. Each workshop channels the therapeutic benefits of art engagement to address physical, intellectual, emotional and social wellbeing.

**We encourage all exhibiting artists to contribute to our workshop program - however, as this is in a pro-bono capacity, there is no obligation to do so.**

## Guidelines

There are special considerations when exhibiting in a children's hospital environment. In order to best serve our specific and varied audiences, we are unable to show artworks that:

- Conflict with the Hospital's key Healthcare policies and messages
- Exploit or compromise the image of children in any way
- Can be construed as scary, gloomy or overly sad, or are gory/anatomical
- Feature nudity or images of an overtly sexual nature
- Depict images that are overtly religious or political in subject matter
- Depict recently deceased Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people

To ensure that artworks are safely displayed in the Hospital and that no exhibition constitutes an infection control risk:

- Artworks must be framed or on stretched canvas and be hanging-ready with D-RINGS
- Fabric works, relief sculpture and weaving will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

Exhibitions should be developed to appeal to the Art Program's key audiences (in order of priority):

- SCH patients and their families
- SCH staff
- SCH Foundation staff
- Supporters of the Hospital
- Visitors to the Hospital
- The wider community



Patient Georgia looking at her portrait in "A Little Piece of Me" by Andrew Christie with Palliative Care Teams (Winter 2022)



## Guidelines

**When preparing your submission, please consider:**

- The clarity of your proposal
- The quality of your proposal and its ability to effectively communicate the aims of the exhibition as well as your overall practice
- The conceivability of the project within the Hospital space

**Please note:**

- Selection for our exhibition program will be made on the basis of relevance to our key audiences and program objectives
- The voice of young people will be represented in the selection committee.
- Applicants may submit multiple applications in the 2025 application round
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by December 2024

**What you need to submit:**

- Complete the online proposal form detailing your exhibition and concept and its relationship to the selected theme
- Using the upload field on the website, submit a maximum of 10 images of your work as a single PDF. These images should be of the artworks you would like to display in the Hospital, or a strong indication of your intended style.
- **Optional:** Use the website to upload a CV (max. 1 A4 page) detailing relevant experience
- **NOTE:** If you encounter issues submitting through the online system, please send your application in PDF format to [art@schf.org.au](mailto:art@schf.org.au)

**Successful applications:**

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a contractual agreement with SCHF Art Program. This agreement details all aspects of developing and/or exhibiting work in the Hospital, including but not limited to: sales, media requirements, public program obligations, practical installation and de-installation.



For more information please contact the Art Program on **1800 244 537** during office hours (Monday-Friday, 8.30-5pm) or [art@schf.org.au](mailto:art@schf.org.au)