



Artwork by Alison Worsnop

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



DA
Darwin
Visual
Arts
Darwin's contemporary art bar tables
Established 1982

Print
Sculpture

DA
Darwin
Visual
Arts

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About Darwin Visual Arts

Supporting artists since 1983, Darwin Visual Arts (DVA) is the Northern Territory's longest-running artist-run initiative. Founded by artists seeking a place to create and exhibit their work, DVA has built a strong reputation for presenting a dynamic program of exhibitions featuring local, national, and international artists. We support artists at both formative and established stages of their careers.

What we offer

1

Exhibitions

Professional, accessible, and affordable exhibiting opportunities for artists at all stages of their careers

2

Studios and residencies

Affordable studio spaces and artist-in-residence programs to support practice development

3

Workshops and classes

Skill-building workshops and creative classes to foster community engagement and professional growth

A regional hub and incubator for emerging and established artists, curators and arts writers; a leader in engaged artistic practice that links artists, organisations and communities across the region.

Our vision

DVA aspires to be recognised as a regional hub and incubator for emerging and established artists, curators, and arts writers, and as a leader in engaged artistic practice that connects artists, organisations, and communities across the region.



Our mission

DVA is committed to advancing contemporary art that is relevant locally, nationally, and internationally. As an artist-run space, we support creative practice and foster critical dialogue through exhibitions, studios, residencies, talks, publications, and special projects. Artists choose DVA for the freedom and community it offers, maintaining direct control over how they present their work to the public.

General Manager's report

In 2025, Darwin Visual Arts deepened its commitment to local practice, placing Territory artists, stories, and knowledge systems firmly at the centre of our program. Across 8 exhibition runs we delivered 24 individual showcases, presenting a breadth of work from Darwin and the wider Northern Territory. We engaged over 270 artists and had a total attendance just shy of 2000, reflecting strong and sustained community engagement with our program.

A notable moment in this year's program was the presentation of The Ray Hayes Collection, exhibiting and selling the private collection of a recently deceased artist, activist and member of our community. This exhibition honoured the life and legacy of Ray, and drew a strong response from community members and collectors.

The Artist in Residence program continued to evolve, with resident Kaz Hill contributing for the full duration of the year to the development of Darwin Visual Arts through research, experimentation, and public engagement.

Alongside this, we expanded opportunities for young and First Nations artists through 4 workshops and public programs, delivered in partnership with organisations including Larrakia Cultural Centre and Vopak. These initiatives supported artists such as Rochelle Fejo to create new work and Tiana Russell to present work and connect with new audiences.

We also strengthened our engagement with youth pathways into the arts. O'Loughlin Catholic College presented a multi-arts exhibition in a professional gallery context, engaging over 150 student artists. Various artworks at this exhibit were selected and showcased at the Exit Art exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Through the NXT Gen program, we welcomed emerging artist Niesha Korman, who has since joined our team.

Our exhibition program featured 2 member shows, continuing to foster intergenerational exchange, with established artists exhibiting alongside emerging practitioners.

As we move forward, Darwin Visual Arts remains committed to fostering a dynamic, inclusive, and locally grounded arts ecology – one that supports artists to develop ambitious work, builds meaningful connections, and continues to strengthen the cultural landscape of the Northern Territory.

Ioanna Thymianidis
General Manager



Our team

Core staff

Ioanna Thymianidis, General Manager
Niesha Korman, Gallery Assistant

Casual staff

Simone Proveccio, Graphic Design
Nomthi Mkhwebu, Event Support
Lukas Bendel, Exhibition Documentation

Volunteers

Karen Fletcher, Alison Worsnop, Debbie Walter, Lyz Grylls, Robbie McKenzie, David Dalzell, Mary Frankin, Manpreet Kaur, Michelle Newton, Heather Whybrow, Pascale Zufferey, ILonka Guse, Nena Zanos, Lorraine Williams, Damien Jowett, Kerry Sandhu, Tiana Russell, Brendan Herbert, Lily Carnall, Wansandi Rathnayake, Stephen Dalton, Maggie Gleeson Briscoe Penang, Jermey Garnett and Christian Kakesse.

Special thanks to Lukas Bendel and Karen Hill for their exceptional support beyond standard hours, consistently contributing their expertise in critical and ad hoc situations.



Our board



Maggie Briscoe Gleeson

Standing Chair

Margaret (Maggie) brings a strong background in human resources, small business skillsets, and experience working with First Nations people across the Territory to her role. Maggie's personal connection to culture and country is reflected in her art, regularly exhibited at DVA. Maggie's personable communication skills and experience with representing a team ethos and client interests, while interacting with government agencies and private industry, helps add to the breadth of capacity with her contribution to the DVA Board.

Brendan Herbert

Secretary

Brendan Herbert is a Darwin based mixed media artist, ceramicist, and Secretary of the DVA Board. Born and raised in the Territory, Brendan has lived and worked down south and abroad, gaining experience across a range of industries before returning home to pursue a career as a practising artist. He holds a degree in Interactive and Visual Arts, and has always been drawn to hands-on making and exploring new materials. Brendan brings a down to earth, approachable, and fun energy, alongside a strong commitment to supporting the creative arts sector and building meaningful community connections.



Nisita Veglapudi

Treasurer

Nisita Velagapudi is a governance, finance, and analytics professional with over 15 years' experience across public sector and corporate environments in Darwin. Nisita holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Commercial Law. Her expertise spans data-driven decision-making, strategic planning, governance, and performance improvement, alongside stakeholder engagement and financial reporting. Nisita is co-founder and Operations Director of Genexa Advisory, and the founder of Artistic Wander. She is expanding into the professional art sphere, and is passionate about delivering art workshops in the not-for-profit sector, using creative expression to foster community connection and joy.





Karen Hill

Public Officer

Karen Hill has over 35 years of experience as a Visual and Creative Arts Teacher, working for the NT Department of Education. She holds a Bachelor in Visual Arts and Education, and a Graduate Diploma in Technology and Design. Karen has lived in the Northern Territory since her early twenties, in both urban and remote settings, and has been fortunate enough to learn from local Indigenous Traditional Owners in East Arnhem Land. Karen is on the board of East Arnhem Regional Arts, as a committee member and workshop facilitator. She has been involved in international workshops, and undertook an artist in residence at DVA in 2025.

Stephen Dalton

Stephen (Buffalo) Dalton has been with DVAA from day one, seeing the organisation go from strength to strength. He is passionate about the need for more artistic spaces across the Top End – places that display artistic work, multimedia, and other creations. Stephen joined the board to support the continuation of this format, and to support growth in the years to come.



Kate Tomic

Kate Tomic is a long term Territory resident, an emerging artist, and a dedicated member of DVA. Kate is a passionate worker in the community services field, and dedicates her professional time to helping those most in need in the Territory. Kate has a love of all things colourful and creative, her art acts as a form of self expression and a personal therapeutic practice. Kate champions the work of DVA whenever she can, to help support both its members and the wider NT Arts community.

Nicholas Gouldhurst

Nicholas Gouldhurst is a Darwin based filmmaker and commercial photographer, who is solidly embedded in the Darwin Community. He claims to have been a creative person since he was young, spending much of his childhood creating weird and wonderful things. Nicholas works out of the Hive in Nightcliff, creating imagery for local business, galleries, creatives and communities. Nicholas joined the DVA board in mid 2024 because he enjoys working with people and feels he has much to contribute from his hefty experience as a freelancer and creative.



Exhibiting artists

Aaron Moore · Aidan Roberts · Alex Clunies-Ross · Alison Worsnop · Aly de Groot · Amelia Searson · Amy Dewhurst · Anamika · Andrew Marrgululu Marrangu · Ariel Racines · Arlya Tuckey · Aslin Dixon · Belinda Gallagher · Brendan Herbert · Carly Gilera · Catherine Griffin · Cathy Hilder · Cecile Schnitzler · Charles Alexandre Lesueur · Charlie Djurritjini · Clair Parkinson · Craig Smith · Damien Jowett · Dan Hartney · David Dalzell · David Malaŋi Daymirriŋu · David Nicholls · Dawn Beasley · Djardie Ashley · Dorothy Djukul · Dylan Mooney · Ellyane Wall · Emily House · Eve Pawlik · Fasten Bulbus · Gabriella Karpathios · Gerald Clapham · Glynis Lee · Heather Whybrow · Hugh Sawrey · Ian Gordon Anderson · ILonka Guse · IQANNA · Jane Austin · JC Grande · Jeff John Paul · Jemma Shimeld · Jeremy Garnett · Jess Del Rosario · Jimmy Bamble (B4MBLE) · Jimmy Wululu · Jinx Cherralyn Smith · Jonathon Saunders · Juwayning · Kane Gallagher · Karen Fletcher · Karen Hill · Kate Tomic · Kathy Carter · Katie Bradley · Kelly Rasmussen · Kerry Sandhu · Kilanggany Linda Yarrowin · Lara Penney · Larrtjaŋa Ganambarr · Levin Diatschenko · Liz Grylls · Louise Benton · Luke Njanjmirra · Manpreet Kaur · Manthemarrulu Angelina Lewis · Margaret Gleeson · Margie Joy Goodluck · Maria Grujicic · Marian Graham · Mary Franklin · Mat Selwyn · Mervyn Roughsey · Michelle Newton · Milly Eaton · Mowarra Ganambarr · Multhara Munuŋirritj Naminapu · Maymuru-White · Nancy Gaymala Yunupingu · Nena Zanos · Nicholas Gouldhurst · Niesha Korman · Nisita Velagapudi · Noodle Earth String · Njarrawu Munuŋurr · Pascale Zufferey · Peter Gough · Peter Wibberley · Phil Hassan · Philip Tarl Denson · Pius Bak · Ramya Ponraj Kumar · Raymund Agustin · Rex Manggurra · Robby McKenzie · Roshande Deslandes · Roy Marika · Shilo McNamee · Shiloh Mae McGowan · Sophie Bound · Stephen Dalton · Tiana Russell · Tim Wood · Timothy Parish · Tina Trudgen · Todd Williams · Tracey Campbell · Trevor Jenkins · Trevor Wamen · Valanti Patmios · Victor Pillement · William Fox · Wurrpandiya Marawili Bakalaŋay · Ynes Sanz · Zidiyat Chaouqui

In 2025, over 150 students from O'Loughlin Catholic College exhibited and performed at Darwin Visual Arts. To support student privacy, individual names have not been included.

Program spotlight

The Ray Hayes Collection

The Ray Hayes Collection marked a rare and meaningful departure for Darwin Visual Arts, presenting a commemorative exhibition of works from the collection of the late Ray Hayes. Drawing strong interest from collectors and new audiences, the exhibition became a community-led tribute to a deeply respected and active member of the DVA network.

Hayes, who moved to the Northern Territory in the early 1980s, was a committed advocate for human rights, land rights, and environmental justice. His work alongside communities in Yirrkala, Bagot Community, and Larrakia Nation, as well as his support of initiatives such as Yothu Yindi's early development, formed a lasting legacy across the Top End.





This exhibition offered audiences a reflective and celebratory encounter with Hayes' life and legacy – honouring his enduring contributions to art, community, and social justice.

Ways of Seeing: Miya / Significant Plants – Beginnings

Ways of Seeing: Miya / Significant Plants – Beginnings, brought together five culturally diverse women artists including Nena Zanos, Glynis Lee, Lorraine Williams, Linda Yarrowin, and Angelina Lewis. This collaborative exploration of local plant life and knowledge systems.

Developed through a printmaking project at Wagait Beach, artist presented work across drypoint, collagraph, cyanotype, monotype, and photogravure, each artist offered a distinct visual language shaped by personal and cultural perspectives. These works were accompanied by stories that communicated deep connections to Country and the significance of plant knowledge across generations.





WILD THINGZ!

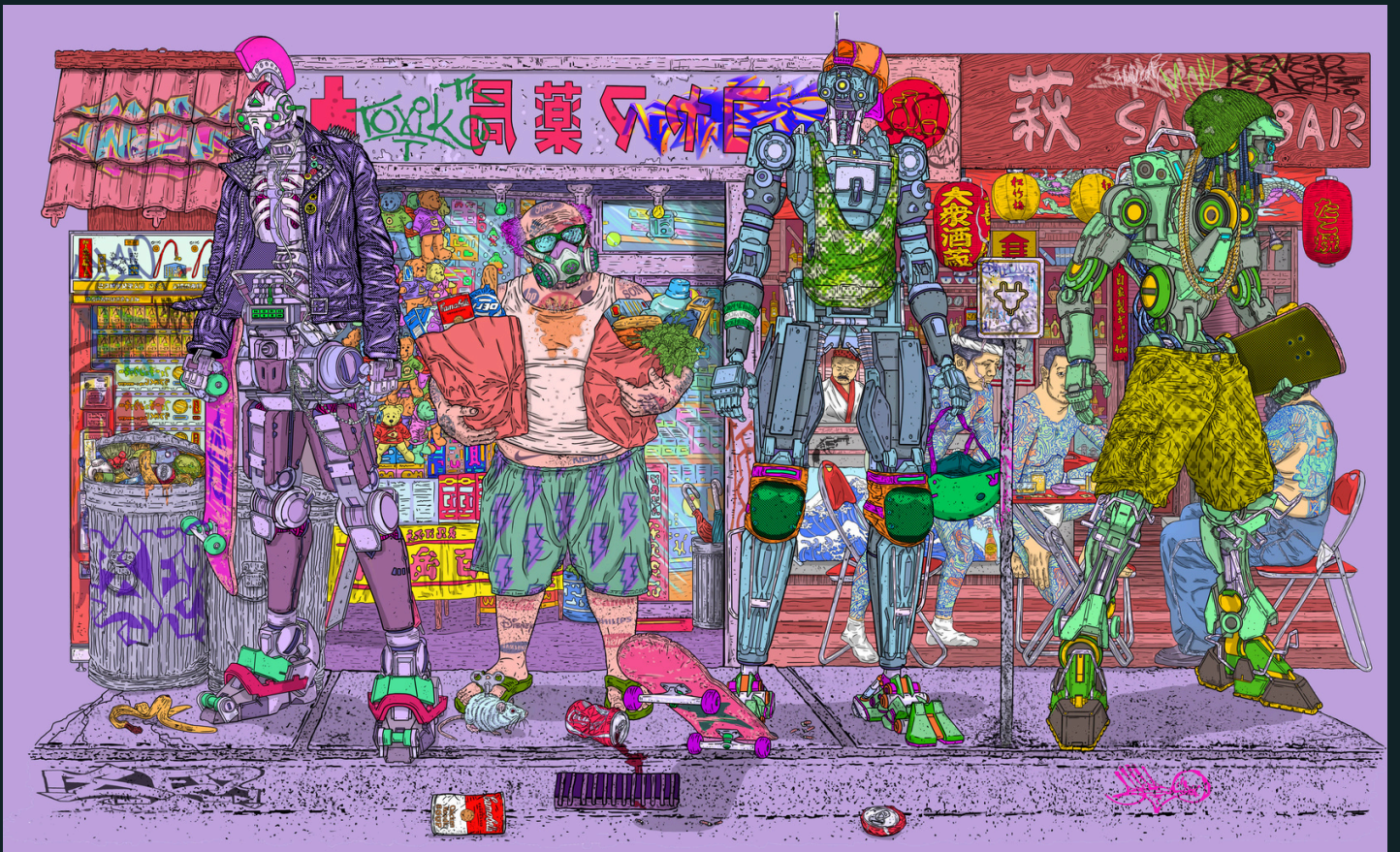
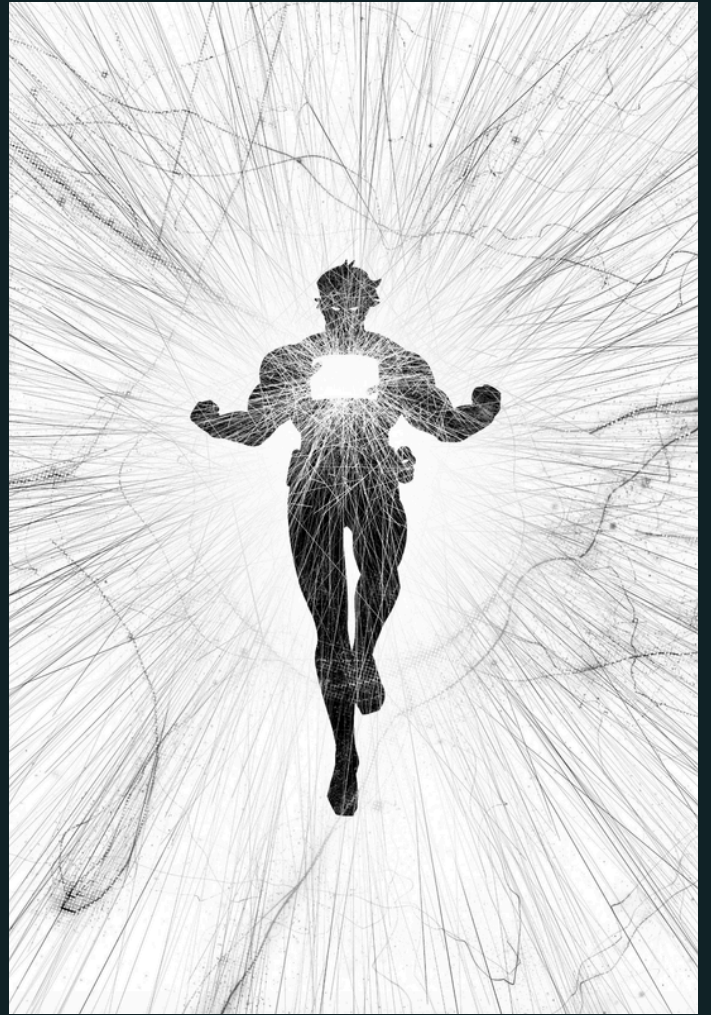
by Wild North Comics

WILD THINGZ! celebrated the bold, imaginative world of Darwin's comic creators, bringing together a mix of visual art, storytelling, and multimedia practice. Featuring artists including Jonathon Saunders, Levin A. Diatschenko, and Timothy Parish, the exhibition showcased original comic artworks alongside graphic novel illustrations, stencil pieces, 3D-printed sculptures, and animation.

Blending wall-based works with sound and moving image, the exhibition extended into an immersive environment, complete with a vinyl-listening station, a reading lounge, and three hands-on comic workshops inviting audiences to engage with the culture of comics in tactile and participatory ways.

Wild North Comic's exhibition offered a vibrant platform for local creators to share distinctly Territory-driven narratives, building community around alternative creative practices and expanding the scope of contemporary Territory Manga within the region.





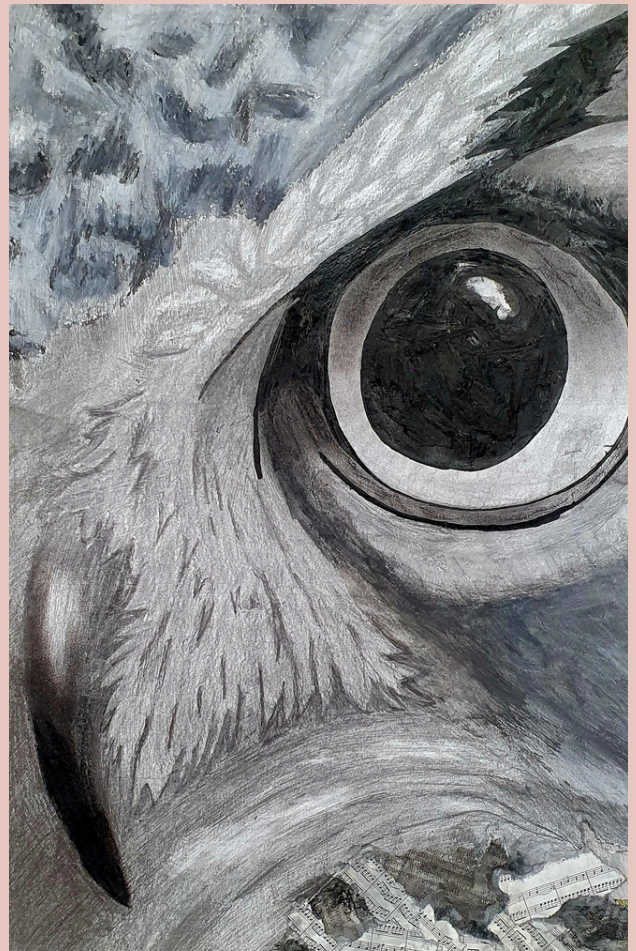
Creative Arts Exhibition by O'Loughlin Catholic College

Darwin Visual Arts was proud to host O'Loughlin Catholic College's biannual Creative Arts Exhibition for the first time, transforming the gallery into a vibrant showcase of emerging talent. Featuring students from Years 7-12, the exhibition spanned visual arts, digital media, fashion, woodwork, STEAM projects, and performance.

From painting and drawing to printmaking and ceramics, each work reflected skill, curiosity, and dedication of young artists at pivotal stages of their development. The opening night brought the exhibition to life with live performances by the school band and hospitality offerings prepared by Food Technology students, creating a sensory and immersive experience for audiences.

The exhibition also served as an important pathway opportunity, with selected students progressing to Exit Art 2025 and subsequently exhibiting at MAGNT. Supported by dedicated teachers, student achievements were recognised through a series of awards, with Darwin Visual Arts further acknowledging exceptional work with the provision of 2026 memberships. This exhibition underscored the importance of youth engagement within the arts, providing a professional platform for developing and emerging creatives.





Events and public programs

Workshop: Tetra Pak Printing with Kaz Hill

15 June | 5 participants



Life drawing

8 July | 12 participants



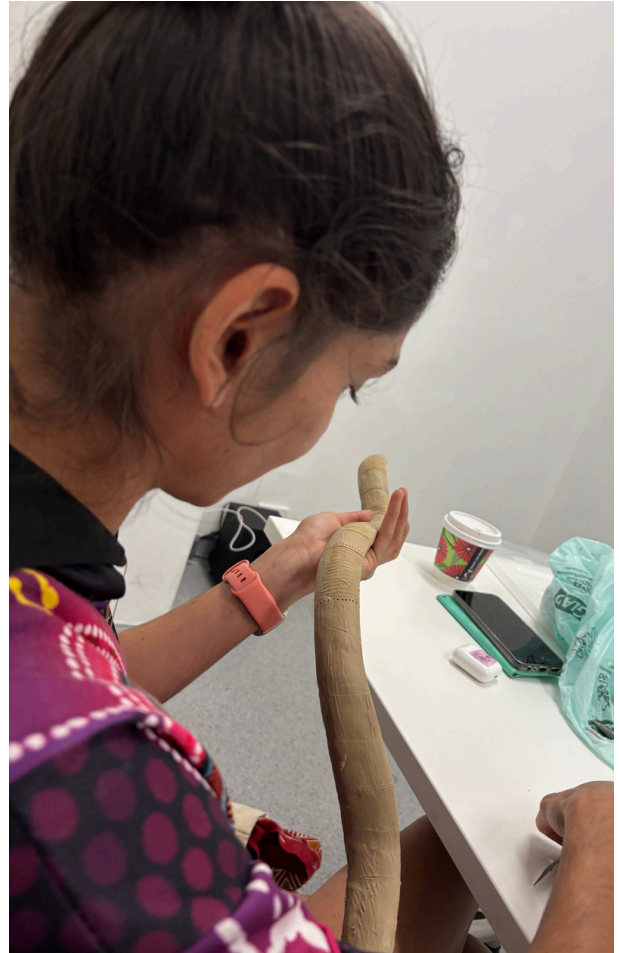
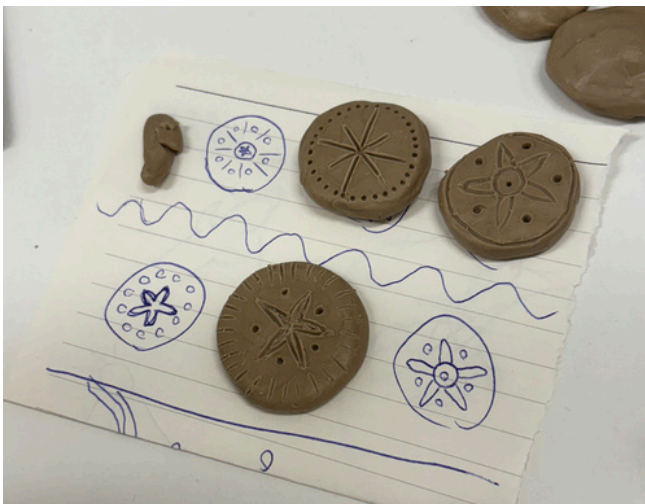
Workshop: Lost wax casting with IQANNA

2 September | 9 participants



Workshop: Larrakia Culture Centre / Artify

2 workshops | 1 First Nations artist | New body of work created for Larrakia Culture Center



Bunnings fundraiser

21 September | Over \$1000 raised | 16 volunteers



Workshop: Paper aquarium with Niesha Korman

20 August | 5 participants



Vopak 20th Anniversary event

6 November 2025 | 4 First Nations artists | 60 attendees



NXT Gen Program

Participant – Niesha Korman

The NXT Gen Program, supported by Arts NT, provides emerging creatives with hands-on experience across gallery operations, artistic practice, and community engagement. In 2025, Niesha Korman undertook a three-month placement as Coordinator in Training, contributing to gallery administration, exhibition installation, workshop delivery, and the creation of public art outcomes. Niesha's participation strengthened both operational capacity and community reach, reflecting their commitment to accessible arts engagement. As Niesha reflects, *'Darwin Visual Arts and the NXT Gen program felt like a safety launch... you feel like you're moving through the arts world more than ever.'*



Artist in residence program

Participant – Kaz Hill

The Artist-in-Residence Program supports artists to develop their practice within a gallery environment, fostering experimentation, visibility, and community connection.

In 2025, Kaz Hill's residency focused on expanding

sustainable studio practices and

integrating new technologies,

including 3D printing, into their

sculptural and painting processes.

The residency resulted in new bodies

of work, public workshops, and

strengthened professional networks.

In Kaz's words, *'The residency*

provided a valuable opportunity to

focus on my creative practice

within a supportive and dynamic

arts environment.'



Partnerships and support

Business support and sponsorship

In 2025, DVA maintained and expanded partnerships with key sponsors and supporters who share our commitment to contemporary art and artist-led practice.

Thank you to our ongoing supporters:

- Arts NT
- E-Print
- Lion Beverages
- PKF Merit
- Jacksons Drawing Supplies
- Parap Fine Foods
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
- NORSTA Maritime
- Officeworks
- Bunnings



Cross-sector collaboration

Darwin Visual Arts continues to cultivate meaningful collaborations across the arts and creative industries, recognising that shared efforts enrich our community and cultural landscape.

We proudly worked alongside local businesses and creatives, including:

- Hell & Wholesome Creative – Graphic design
- Off the Leash – Local arts advertising
- David Spry – Musician
- Larrakia Culture Centre – Workshops
- Wild North Comics – Workshops
- Artify Consulting – Workshops
- Northern Centre for Contemporary Art – Shared resources
- Darwin Community Legal Service – Artistic support
- Kaztastrphe – Workshops
- NG Photographics – Photography
- IBallDome – 360 tours
- IQANNA – Workshops



Closing acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work, and recognise the strength, continuity, and influence of First Nations culture and creativity across the Northern Territory.

We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers and Board Members. As a small team, their generosity, time, and commitment are integral to everything we achieve.

Finally, we thank our artist members – the driving force of our organisation. We encourage you to continue creating, pushing boundaries, and developing your practice. Your work shapes the future of the arts in the Territory.





Darwin Visual Arts

Harbour View Plaza
1/8 McMinn St
Darwin 0800

darwinvisualarts.com.au

2025



Artwork by Pascale Zufferey