



Whitehorse
Artspace

Exhibition Program 2025

**CREATIVE
WHITEHORSE**

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Cover image: Annemieke Mein, *Dance of the Mayflies*, 1988. High-relief textile wall sculpture with relief areas extending beyond the frame, 110 x 180 x 10cm. Collection Gippsland Art Gallery. Donated by John Leslie OBE through the Australian Government Cultural Gifts Program, 2009.
© Annemieke Mein 2024. Printed by kind permission of the artist.

Welcome to our Whitehorse Artspace Exhibition Program 2025!

Showcasing leading artists on the national stage along with exciting local talent, we invite you to be moved and inspired by our thought-provoking exhibitions in 2025.

This year Artspace presents a diverse range of contemporary and historic works of art. Included in the program is a rare showing of Annemieke Mein's celebrated textile art, her first solo exhibition in Melbourne for nine years. The artist, now based in Gippsland, spent part of her early life in Whitehorse and attended the former Mitcham State School and Nunawading High School in the 1950s and '60s. Decades later we are delighted to be sharing her incredible art with the Whitehorse community and beyond.

Artspace aims to present the best in contemporary visual art practice to the community. Alongside contemporary approaches, the rich artistic heritage for which the municipality is nationally recognised, is a keystone of our collection and programs. From the work of First Nations artists and their enduring connection to Country, to the Australian Impressionists who set up an art camp at Box Hill in the 1880s – the creative roots of the municipality run deep. This artistic legacy continues through the actively expanding Whitehorse Art Collection, our exciting exhibition program, and in the vibrant contemporary practice of our local artists.

We look forward to welcoming you to Whitehorse Artspace in 2025!



Celebrate! New photography by AVPC

1 February – 1 March

This exhibition showcases the work of Chinese Australian photographers who belong to the Australian Vision Photography Club (AVPC). Members have documented a range of public and private celebrations throughout Melbourne over the past 12 months, including Pride, traditional Chinese festivities, and opera. The resulting photographs see a joyful spectrum of cultural expression as artists explore the fundamental human impulse to connect, commemorate and play.

Many of the exhibiting photographers live within Whitehorse or are culturally connected to the community in Box Hill, giving an insight into the theme of celebration through a locally positioned lens. The exhibition coincides with the Whitehorse Lunar New Year festival staged in the Box Hill Town Hall precinct. So come on, let's celebrate!

Image: Hangdong Xue, *Afro Caribbean Carnival, 2024*, photograph, 41 x 23cm. Image courtesy and © the artist.



Niloufar Lovegrove: Cypress Growing Season

8 March – 26 April

The cypress tree is a cherished symbol in Persian culture, representing immortality, beauty, and in literature serves as a metaphor for the beloved. This new body of work by Iranian Australian artist Niloufar Lovegrove responds to the enduring courage of the women in Iran and throughout the world who continue to pursue their freedom, and like the cypress tree stand tall and resilient.

Lovegrove has developed a unique creative practice that employs motifs drawn from Persian mythology to explore contemporary issues and transcend cultural barriers. This body of work features the stylised depiction of hands, drawing inspiration from the powerful words of Forugh Farrokhzad, a groundbreaking Iranian modernist poet who wrote, "I will plant my hands in the garden; they will grow, I know." In *Cypress Growing Season*, nurturing hands represent the continual commitment of women, planting their beliefs like seeds in a garden, with care and fortitude.

Image: Niloufar Lovegrove, *Blooming Hands*, 2024. Lino prints and stitching, 64 x 94cm. Image courtesy and © the artist.



A Passionate Collector: The GK Lesselyoung Collection

10 May – 28 June

George Keith Lesselyoung, or Keith to those who knew him personally, was a local resident and a long-term volunteer at Whitehorse City Council. For over 15 years Keith contributed his time, expertise, and care into the development of the Whitehorse Art Collection as a member of the Visual Arts Advisory Committee. He was also an avid private collector, with a passion for Japanese and Australian ceramics, along with First Nations painting, contemporary printmaking and other objects of beauty, craftsmanship and intrigue.

Upon his passing in 2023, Keith bequeathed his substantial art collection to Whitehorse City Council, to be held for the enjoyment and appreciation of current and future generations. This exhibition honours the legacy of George Keith Lesselyoung, a passionate collector whose generous gift will be preserved as part of the Whitehorse Art Collection into the future.

Image: Koji Hoashi, *Blossom Jar 3, Multi Colour Diamond*, 2022, stoneware with iron and copper glazes, 26 x 27cm.

GK Lesselyoung Collection, Whitehorse Art Collection.
Image courtesy and © the artist.



Annemieke Mein: Nature revealed

11 July – 30 August

Annemieke Mein OAM is famed for her exquisitely made and incredibly detailed textile art that represents Australian fauna and flora. Poetic and imaginative yet created with empirical accuracy, her investigations into the microcosmic world of insects and often overlooked aspects of nature have cemented Mein's place as one of Australia's most popular artists.

Nature revealed features a selection of works generously loaned from the Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale, which holds the most comprehensive public collection of Annemieke Mein's extraordinary art. The exhibition includes her iconic three-dimensional textiles, preparatory drawings, samplers, and showcases that reveal the artist's in-depth creative process.

This is a rare opportunity to view the art of Annemieke Mein in metropolitan Melbourne and experience first-hand an international phenomenon.

Image: Annemieke Mein, *Diving Blue-Billed Duck*, 1992. Cotton canvas, textile paints, machine and hand embroidery threads (cotton, silk and synthetic), silk organza, satin, taffeta, felt, interfacing, dacron filler, 145 x 103 x 6cm. Collection Gippsland Art Gallery. Donated through the Australian Government Cultural Gifts Program by the Bate family in memory of John & Liz Bate, 2020. Photograph by Lindsay Roberts.

© Annemieke Mein 2024. Printed by kind permission of the artist.



Finding the One: Wedding dresses from Whitehorse

13 September – 25 October

With a racing pulse you know; you have found the one. It is the dress, and it will make you happy.

Wedding dresses on display have been adored, worn and then stored through the decades by Whitehorse Historical Society.

Set against a backdrop of local landscapes from Whitehorse Art Collection, the wedding dresses are anchored to a time and place. The exhibition includes the 1910 wedding dress of Mary Schwerkolt, a woman who lived through two World Wars and experienced the confiscation by the government of her family home in Mitcham. Despite the trials and hardships on our life journeys, these dresses and their settings hold the power to evoke universal happy moments.

Image: Doris & Cecil Evans on their wedding day, Mitcham, 1938.
Image courtesy Whitehorse Historical Society.



Pathways: Art quilts from AQIPP

13 November – 17 December

Australian Quilts in Public Places (AQIPP) aims to further the appreciation of quilting as an artform and is an initiative of the Australian Quilters Association. In AQIPP's eighth exhibition at Artspace, quilters from around Australia have been invited to submit original art quilts that express this year's theme – pathways.

The quilts on display contain imaginative and expressive interpretations of the theme executed in an array of quilting techniques and methodologies. The resulting diversity creates something for everyone to enjoy. This much-loved biennial fixture on the Artspace exhibition calendar is an independently judged opportunity, with awards presented on the opening night to the exhibiting artists.

Image: Linda Steele, *Citrus Zing*, art quilt.
Image courtesy and © the artist.

Venue Hire & Corporate Events

Located within the heritage Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Artspace provides a sophisticated gallery venue for corporate events and cocktail functions. With exceptional catering packages and a team of professional event staff, we offer a unique opportunity to host a memorable event surrounded by inspiring visual art.

The venue is in close proximity to parking, public transport and Box Hill Central's retail and eatery precinct and can accommodate up to 100 guests. Please note that the gallery is not available to book as an exhibition space.

Contact artspace@whitehorse.vic.gov.au for further information.



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 Artspace

Connecting you to a creative community



Your digital hub for all things arts and culture hosted by Whitehorse City Council. Browse and book events, programs and hireable spaces at creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au

Be in the know – sign up to our newsletter, and follow us on social media [@creativewhitehorse](https://twitter.com/creativewhitehorse)

Festivals | Whitehorse Artspace | Strathdon House & Orchard Precinct
Box Hill Community Arts Centre | Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex
Box Hill Town Hall | The Round | Community Halls

Find Us

Whitehorse Artspace is located in the **Box Hill Town Hall**
1022 Whitehorse Rd
Box Hill, Victoria
(03) 9262 6250

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday

10am – 4pm

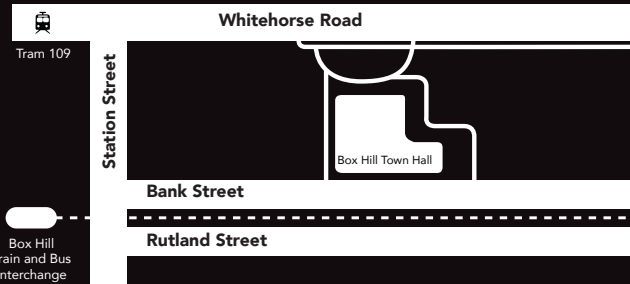
Saturday

12pm – 4pm



Closed on public holidays

Parking

Limited parking space is available at the Box Hill Town Hall. Parking is also available on Whitehorse Road, Bank St and behind the Box Hill Library. Multilevel car parks are available nearby. Please observe parking restrictions.



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