

PICA

Perth Institute of
Contemporary Arts

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Perth Cultural Centre
51 James St Northbridge
Gallery Open Tue – Sun | 10am – 5pm

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PICA PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PICA considers all proposals in the context of its artistic guidelines and overall mission to create:

career-defining moments for artists
life changing experiences for audiences of all ages; and
critical turning points in the advancement of art forms

ABOUT PICA



Photo by OK Media Group

PICA is one of the nation's leading multi-artform contemporary arts spaces and is known for the pivotal role it plays in the development and presentation of significant new work. Housed in an iconic heritage building in the heart of Perth, PICA is the only place where West Australians and visitors to the state can experience, under one roof, the very best of local, Australian and international contemporary visual, performing, and interdisciplinary arts.

PICA's purpose is to foster the development of, and engagement with, contemporary arts and ideas. Both a producing and presenting institution, PICA runs a year-round program of curated exhibitions,

seasons in contemporary dance, experimental theatre, live art, new music and interdisciplinary projects, and offers a range of artist in residence and artist development programs.

Its unique architecture inspires artists and awes audiences and is often transformed entirely from project to project. It features a large double volume space that can be used for exhibitions and performance, an additional second-floor gallery space, a professionally fitted black-box performance space, three studios, a screen space, a reading and activity room, and a bar & café.

PICA places a high value on the work undertaken by artists and sees itself as a creative partner as well as a facilitator of cultural experiences. Its programs are carefully crafted, ensuring conversations not only between artists and audiences but across art forms, cultures and geographies.

It actively engages with diverse communities and often acts as the site for difficult conversations. PICA works hard to make its audience experience as accessible and engaging as possible while at the same time championing radical new art practices and embracing challenging subject matter.

For artists PICA is a source of inspiration, a resource, a meeting and gathering place, a provocateur and most importantly a partner in the realisation of big and new ideas. It offers artists at all stages of their careers a range of avenues through which to develop their practice, extend their networks, embark on new projects and reach new audiences. Artists are invited to be part of PICA's program because they have the potential to define artistic practices of the future. They are trail-blazers, exemplars, innovators and change makers.



Image: *Howl* by Aphids, 2018. Photo: Aaron Claringbold

PICA commissions new work and presents major projects, solo shows and premiere seasons by early to mid-career as well as established Australian and international artists and companies who are forging new territory with their practices. It also supports the development of new work by offering space and resources for creative developments. PICA is particularly interested in projects that foster awareness and understanding between different cultures, genders and geographies.

To see examples of the works that PICA has programmed in previous years, copies of Annual Reports can be viewed online [HERE](#) and a video snapshot of our program can be viewed [HERE](#).



Image: Edwin Lee Mulligan in *Ngarlimbah* as part of *Burrbgaja Yalirra (Dancing Forwards)* by Marrugeku, 2018. Photo: Jon Green

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC PROGRAM

PICA seeks to:

- Present a curatorially rigorous program that is offered year-round
- Acknowledge its place on Whadjuk Noongar country and celebrate the history and future of this region
- Focus on artform development, new ideas and their current discourse
- Support a full range of contemporary performance across interdisciplinary practices, live art and participatory forms, contemporary dance, experimental theatre, new music and sound, and site specific/installation based practices
- Open up PICA's spaces in elastic and responsive ways and explore beyond the building, across the Perth Cultural Centre, off-site and non-traditional spaces or digital spaces
- Place WA practices within a national and international context
- Present Australian and international experimental work to WA audiences and provide professional development, exchange and knowledge sharing opportunities
- Prioritize the voices of First Nations artists, people of colour, gender diverse and LGBTIQ+ people, and artists of all abilities and differences.
- Challenge artists as much as audiences through in-built critical feedback mechanisms
- Invite artists to contribute to PICA's learning programs for audiences and artists
- Build audiences for contemporary performance through a consistent brand and targeted marketing and community engagement strategies
- Connect artists through PICA's networks and profile