

# PICA

PICA  
Perth Institute of  
Contemporary Arts



## PICA's Creative Learning Schools Program

Join us for inspiring encounters with interdisciplinary creative practices across contemporary art, performance and dance!

2024



# Creative Learning at PICA in 2024

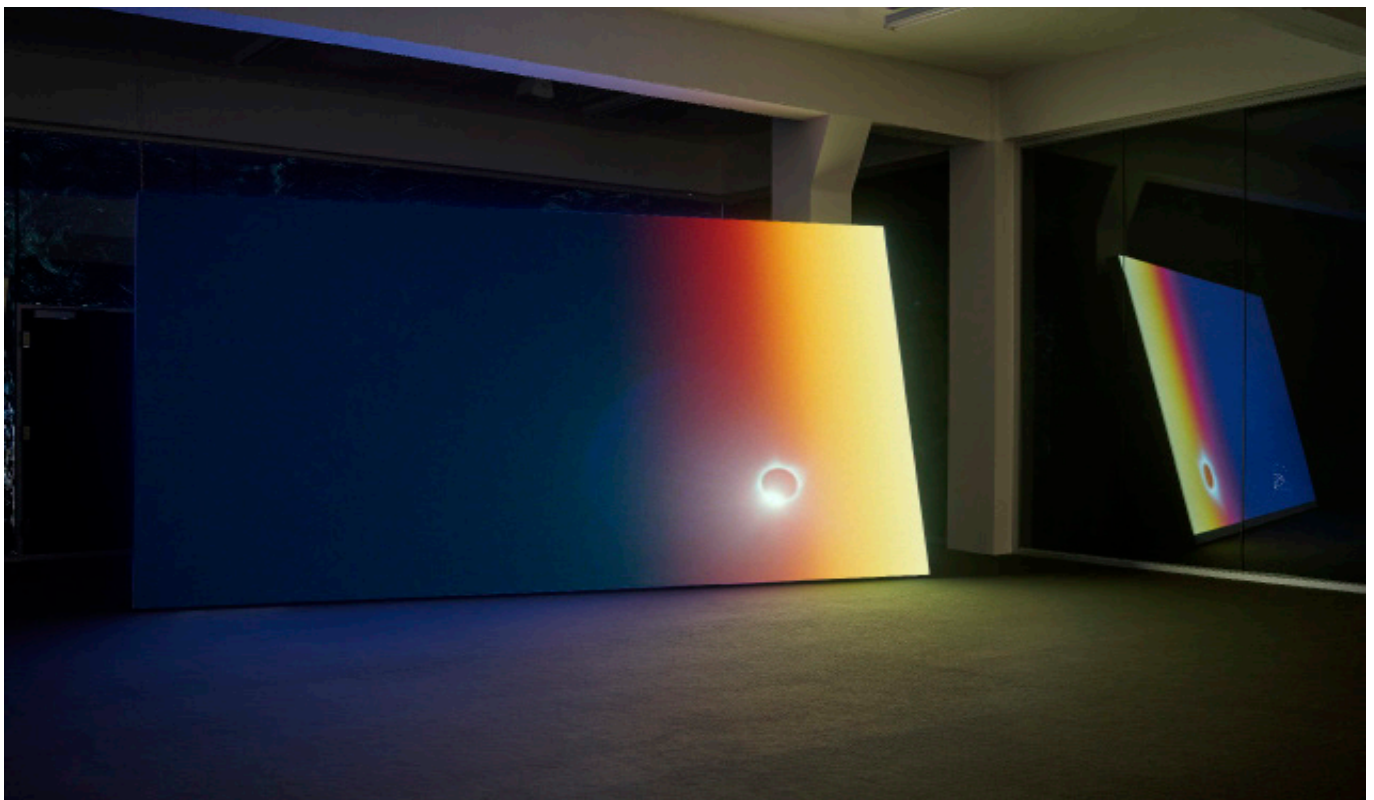
## Bookings are now open

PICA is proud to continue offering free creative learning activities and resources that can be tailored to your class.

Excursions to PICA can motivate students to learn by engaging their senses, appealing to their interests and challenging their perceptions. We provide a positive and inclusive setting to creatively explore important and relevant issues.

In 2024 you can register for free entry to ticketed performances and events as part of our pay-it-forward system to increase access for students and educators experiencing financial barriers.

To make a booking, register for pay-it-forward or for more information contact PICA's Learning and Access Manager, Jenn Garland at [jenn.garland@pica.org.au](mailto:jenn.garland@pica.org.au).



A.K. Burns, *Untitled (eclipse)*, 2019, installation view, Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, 2019.  
Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein Gallery, Paris/Brussels



# So Many Reasons to Visit in 2024!

## Interdisciplinary Learning

With a 30-year history as WA's leading multi-arts organisation, PICA is an ideal setting for building connections within and across learning areas. Boundary-crossing artists are showcased in our programs, highlighting the intersections between artforms.

Join us for a holistic approach to cross-curricular learning that integrates Art with HASS, Science, Technologies and English. Our 2024 program links to Modern History; Psychology; Health Studies; Children, Family and the Community; Earth and Environmental Science; Material Design and Technology.

## Cultural and Artistic Exposure

Located in the heart of the Perth Cultural Centre, PICA is the place to experience the very best of local, Australian and international contemporary art. It is a place to foster appreciation for diverse cultural perspectives and forms of artistic expression. Make the most of your excursion to PICA by visiting other cultural institutions in the area: The Art Gallery of Western Australia – AGWA, State Theatre Centre of WA, WA Museum Boola Bardip and State Library of Western Australia.

## Apply Classroom Learning in a Real-World Context

At PICA students have the chance to experience artforms that do not translate easily in class, such as time-based and site-specific works. Through hands-on activities at PICA, students can apply knowledge and skills gained in the classroom to a real-world context.

## Healthy Body and Mind

The body is a central feature of PICA's 2024 program. Artists, choreographers and dancers present works that challenge perceptions about how the body is represented. The inclusive and diverse range of performance works presented in our program opens conversations about body positivity, self-acceptance and healthy active lifestyles. Art activities for students engage the mind and body, encouraging self-expression and social bonds as part of holistic wellbeing.

## Prepare for the Future

Our Learning Program is focused on building the capabilities of young people to thrive in the twenty-first century and be active and informed citizens. Our resources and activities encourage students to critically analyse and creatively problem-solve, while promoting diverse perspectives that foster tolerance, compassion and respect.



Joan Jonas, *Songdelay*,  
1973, b&w, sound, 16 mm  
film on HD video, 18 min.  
35 sec. Courtesy Electronic  
Arts Intermix (EAI), New  
York

© Joan Jonas. Artists Right  
Society (ARS)/Copyright  
Agency, 2023



## TERM 1:

### Bunuru Perth Festival 9 February → 31 March 2024

Bring students to PICA in Term One to explore interdisciplinary learning, the body and time-based works across four exhibitions. Our Bunuru season of programming is presented in association with Perth Festival whose 2024 theme is *Ngaangk* – Noongar language for Sun/Mother.

#### Artforms

Painting, drawing, installation, performance art, dance, film, video

#### Topics

Time-based art; space and situation; movement techniques; representation of the body; social and emotional wellbeing; environmental change; social, cultural and historical contexts; identity; materiality; site-specific art

#### Content suitability

Secondary Students in Years 9–12 in dance, drama, media arts and visual arts.

#### Cross-curricula links

HASS, Science and Technology



# TERM 1: Bunuru Program

## Joan Jonas (USA): Sun Signals

Explore the boundary-crossing approach of iconic American video and performance artist, Joan Jonas, who has influenced generations of artists since the 1960s. Excursions to Jonas's *Sun Signals* exhibition are a chance to uncover the social, cultural and historical contexts shaping the artist's exploration of time, space, movement and self-representation. Spark conversations with your students about how bodies are represented in different artforms and how performance art is documented and presented in gallery spaces.

Subjects: Visual Arts, Drama, Media Arts, Design, Modern History

## Helen Johnson (VIC): Follower, Leader

Consider the potential of painting as both a medium and creative process by unpacking the work of Naarm (Melbourne)-based artist Helen Johnson. Her approach to painting highlights how art can enhance social and emotional wellbeing by creating a space for critical thinking, connection and reflection. *Follower, Leader* brings together new figurative works shaped by Johnson's experience of motherhood and created while training as an art therapist – a move that has shifted her practice towards conceptions of bodies, care and connection. Build your students' knowledge of the links between arts practices, psychology, health and wellbeing.

Subjects: Visual Arts, Australian Art, Psychology, Health Studies, Children, Family and the Community

## AK Burns (USA): Untitled (eclipse)

Draw attention to the materiality of film – its grain, texture and luminosity – while exploring ways of observing and recording natural phenomenon and ecological systems. American artist AK Burns's silent film *Untitled (eclipse)* records a total solar eclipse in the desert landscape of Nebraska with gradations of changing light and windswept vegetation. For this work, Burns worked with 16mm film (opposed to digital video), directly recording traces of sunlight onto its photosensitive surface. This atmospheric work highlights the passage of time and constant flux, connecting with Geography and Environmental Science learning.

Subjects: Visual Arts, Media Arts, Geography, Earth and Environmental Science, Material Design and Technology

## Diana Baker Smith (NSW): Falling Towards Another (A Score for the Void)

Explore site-specific art and ways of working across performance, moving image and installation through Diana Baker Smith's Judy Wheeler Commission, *Falling Towards Another (A Score for the Void)*. This work responds to spaces in the PICA building and features a text-based score of performative instructions that invite students to question the role of the audience, consider the history of the site and reflect on how we respond to and move through architectural spaces. The Judy Wheeler Commission is supported by the Simpson Family.

Subjects: Visual Arts, Drama, Dance, Design, Modern History, Australian Art, Site-Specific and the Community







# TERM 1: Bunuru Activities

## Student Workshop

### Signals: Bodies in Action in Gallery Spaces

Dates: Thursday 22 February 10am  
Thursday 22 February 1pm

Duration: 1 hr 45 mins  
45 min exhibition tour  
15 min break  
45 min artist-led workshop

Cost: \$16 per head

Bookings: [jenn.garland@pica.org.au](mailto:jenn.garland@pica.org.au)

Get physical in PICA's gallery spaces while uncovering insights into interdisciplinary creative practice. Build connections for students across the Arts learning area through a tour of Joan Jonas's *Sun Signals* exhibition followed by an artist-led workshop with local performer Sarah Nelson that brings together performance, video, drawing and installation. Hands-on, workshop activities will focus on developing student knowledge and skills to devise visual and physical performance and create interactive design that responds to space. This workshop builds on the learning experiences provided in the exhibition tour and encourages students to explore the gallery as a stage, encountering different techniques of communicating meaning through movement, material and form. Sarah Nelson is an actor, puppeteer, mask maker and physical performer working across theatre, film and community arts.

## PICA Hub: Creative Responses

### Care and Connection: Engaging the Mind and Body

Dates: Available during PICA opening hours

Cost: Free

During their visit students can take a break in the PICA Hub and take part in an all-ages art activity designed by artist, Helen Johnson. These activities emphasise the creative process as an important way for individuals to express themselves and explore their inner world. The act of creating can provide insights into thoughts and feelings. Our PICA Hub activities highlight the benefits of creating art by engaging the mind and body in grounding, soothing experiences as part of holistic wellbeing and mindfulness practices.



# TERM 1: Bunuru Resources

## Learning Resources

Online and printed resources for students

Available online

Free

## Before you get here: Context and Creative Challenges

Prepare students in-class for an excursion to Joan Jonas's *Sun Signals*. Explore the social, cultural and historical contexts of the 1960-70s that shaped Jonas's exploration of time, space and self-representation. Set creative challenges and spark conversations about how bodies are represented and performance is presented in gallery spaces.

## During your visit: Analysing and Responding to Time-based Art

Once at PICA students can use provided worksheets with prompts and questions that guide their interpretation and cover topics of movement, time, space and materiality.

## After your visit: Mind and Body in the Moment

Following your class visit to PICA, activity sheets are available to help students reflect on and creatively respond to their exhibition experience. Exercises explore the creative process, mindfulness in action and self-awareness.

## PICA Art Talks video: Diana Baker Smith

Once back in class, hear from artist Diana Baker Smith in a video interview that extends the learnings gained from an excursion to PICA. Focusing on the artist's voice and experience, this video interview covers interdisciplinary practice and key concepts in dance, design and visual art.

Helen Johnson  
*Becoming What You Always  
Were*, 2019, acrylic and  
pencil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist







Shelley Lasica, *WHEN I AM NOT THERE* 2022, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 16–27 August 2022. Photo: Jacqui Shelton

## TERM 2: Djeran/Makuru

17 April → 23 June 2024

Broaden students' horizons in Term Two with time-based works spanning contemporary art, dance and performance. Through three live performances, learn about movement techniques, the importance of collaboration and the art of documenting the body in action. This program opens discussion about body positivity, self-acceptance and healthy active lifestyles.

### Artforms

Performance, dance, installation, video, costume/textile art, photography, painting, music

### Topics

Time-based art; space and situation; movement techniques; representation of the body; social and emotional wellbeing; materiality; new technologies

### Content suitability

Secondary Students in Years 9 to 12 in dance, drama, media arts and visual arts.

### Cross-curricula links

Technologies, Health Studies



## TERM 2: Djeran/Makuru Program

Make Your Life Count: Sarah Aiken (VIC)

Wednesday 17 → Saturday 20 April 2024

Live performance

Inspire students with an ambitious new solo dance work that connects with Science and Technologies. In *Make Your Life Count*, choreographer and dancer Sarah Aiken grapples with the paradoxes of modern life by employing the body and technology. Shifting scale in a heartbeat – from the microscopic to the universal – this perspective-shifting work explores humanity, ecology, time and the universe. Q&A sessions with the artist provides insights for students into devising performance and the elements of dance, choreographic devices and principles of design. Discounted tickets are available for school groups. Students and educators can also register for free tickets as part of our pay-it-forward system to increase access for communities experiencing financial barriers.

Subjects: Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, Earth and Environmental Science, Material Design and Technology

WHEN I AM NOT THERE: Shelley Lasica (VIC)

Tuesday 11 – Sunday 23 June 2024

Performance-Exhibition

Question students about what it means ‘to perform’ and ‘to exhibit’ by engaging with a dynamic new work that sees eight dancers perform in constant dialogue with various objects throughout PICA’s central galleries during opening hours. *WHEN I AM NOT THERE* is a performance-exhibition by Naarm (Melbourne)-based artist Shelley Lasica, who has experimented with choreography and dance for over four decades. In this live work choreography, costumes, paintings, sculpture, videos, texts and soundscapes are presented from her archive of works. Often made in close collaboration with visual artists, composers, designers, architects and writers, Lasica’s work has been presented in varied contexts – from galleries and museums to theatres, outdoor spaces, nightclubs and sports halls. Explore the relationship between dance and space, and the ways choreography interacts with other artistic disciplines. Expose students to a new exhibition format that will spark conversations about interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. Additionally, the inclusive and diverse range of performers present in the work opens discussion about body positivity, self-acceptance and healthy active lifestyles.

Subjects: Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, Australian Art, Site-specific, Time-Based, Identity





## TERM 2: Djeran/Makuru Activities

### Student Workshop

Bodies in Dialogue at PICA and the Art Gallery

Western Australia

Presented with STRUT Dance

Dates:	Wednesday 12 → Friday 14 June Wednesday 19 → Friday 21 June 10am and 1pm daily
Duration	2-hour program 30 min performance-exhibition experience 30 min artist-led documentation workshop 30 min artist-led movement workshop 2x 15 min breaks
Cost	\$10 per head at PICA
Bookings	jenn.garland@pica.org.au

Don't miss this rare opportunity to link elements of dance, drama and visual art in a combined morning and afternoon program for schools across WA's premier arts organisations, PICA and the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

For a limited two-week period, students are invited to explore the different ways bodies are represented in contemporary art, with particular attention to portraiture and performance. Morning and afternoon sessions run in parallel across the two cultural institutions, providing extended-learning experiences focused on the body, identity and emotion.

The ways bodies interact with space and objects is explored in Shelley Lasica's performance-exhibition *WHEN I AM NOT THERE* at PICA, which sees eight dancers interacting with paintings, sculpture, videos, texts and soundscapes in the gallery.

Students' experiences of the work are built upon with two artist-led workshops focused on developing their knowledge across the arts in choreographing movement, devising performance and documenting the body in action. One workshop focuses on movement and is led by performers from STRUT Dance and the other explores the documentation of performance led by Jacqui Shelton, an artist, film-maker and collaborator with Lasica.

Make the most of your excursion to PICA by connecting student learning to *The West Australian Pulse* exhibition at AGWA. This exhibition showcases a selection of works by Year 12 Visual Arts students, providing a window into the concerns of young people and casting a light on how representations of bodies relate to mental health, social pressures, gender and culture.



## TERM 2: Djeran/Makuru Resources

### Learning Resources

Online and printed resources for students

Available online

Free

### Artist video: Shelley Lasica

Prepare students for new experiences that challenge perceptions of what's possible in gallery spaces by hearing Shelley Lasica describe her process in a [video](#) to watch in class. Developed by Monash University Museum of Art, this resource covers ideas related to space, performance, choreography, music, costume and the role of audiences. Encourage students to approach their audience experience of *WHEN I AM NOT THERE* as active participants with agency.



Shelley Lasica, *WHEN I AM NOT THERE* 2022, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 16–27 August 2022. Photo: Jacqui Shelton





## TERM 3: **Djilba**

**3 August → 13 October 2024**

Inspire students with an exciting showcase of the next generation of Australian contemporary artists in in Term Three, with activities connecting to National Science week and STEAM education.

### Artforms

Painting, drawing, installation, performance art, film, video

### Topics

Time-based art; social, cultural and historical contexts; difference; identities; social commentary; points of view; new technologies; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures; Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia; sustainability

### Content suitability

Primary Students in Year 5–6 and Secondary Students in years 7–12 in media arts and visual arts.

### Cross-curricula links

HASS, Science and Technology







## TERM 3: Djilba Exhibitions

### Hatched National Graduate Show 2024

Held annually, *Hatched* is a calendar highlight for students and educators keen to get a glimpse into the future of arts practice in Australia. Since 1992, *Hatched* has exhibited the work of over 1,400 art school graduates, with notable alumni including Archie Moore (Venice Biennale 2024), Julie Gough (Biennale of Sydney 2022) and Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran (Melbourne Art Foundation Young Artist Award 2018). For most of these artists, *Hatched* is their first experience exhibiting at a major public institution.

The artists in *Hatched* address some of the most compelling issues of our time in media including painting, sculpture, photography, installation, video and various experimental forms. The culmination of years of studio and research-based enquiry, their works represent a diversity of innovation, materiality, technique and perspective.

The only exhibition of its kind in Australia, *Hatched* platforms the artists' works to a national audience and connects them with their peers from across the country. It is accompanied by an exhibition catalogue and bespoke professional development program designed to assist the artists in furthering their artistic careers.





## TERM 3: Djilba Activities

### Student Workshop

Year 11 Master Class: Finding your Voice and Creating a Resolved Body of Work

Dates: Tuesday 20 → Friday 23 August  
10am daily

Duration 1 hour 30 mins  
20 min exhibition tour  
20 min science talk  
10 min break  
40 min workshop

Cost \$5 per head

Bookings [jenn.garland@pica.org.au](mailto:jenn.garland@pica.org.au)

Year 11 students in the Visual Arts ATAR and general courses are invited to hear from *Hatched* artists-in-residence about their artistic journey. Hands-on-activities will help students prepare for their year 12 assessments by covering creative thinking and working processes. This includes tips on linking authentic experiences to broader social, cultural and political contexts; research approaches; material experimentation; documentation; and developing effective artist statements. This master class is led by local and interstate *Hatched* artists and PICA staff.

### Student Workshop

STEAM in the Gallery: Migratory Birds and Microplastics, Ideal for Year 5 and 6.

Dates: Tuesday 27 → Friday 30 August  
10am daily

Duration 1 hour 30 mins  
20 min exhibition tour  
20 min science talk  
10 min break  
40 min workshop

Cost \$5 per head

Bookings [jenn.garland@pica.org.au](mailto:jenn.garland@pica.org.au)

Get creative at PICA during National Science Week with hands-on interdisciplinary learning and STEAM education. Explore how the graduating Australian artists in the *Hatched* exhibition address compelling issues such as sustainability through an exhibition tour. Then dive into the National Science Week's school theme – Species Survival: More Than Just Sustainability – through workshops about the effects of microplastics on migratory birds. Connecting the scientific method with creative expression, this workshop is led by bird conservation specialist, Dr Lindall Kidd, and artist and *Hatched* alumni Stephanie De Biasi. Learn about the high-tech tools and methods used to track the journey of bird species and protect them from habitat loss and other threats. Creatively respond by making sculptures out of recycled plastics to add to an interactive installation inspired by birds journeying from our shores across the world, such as the Eastern Curlew and Bar-Tailed Godwit.



## TERM 3: Djilba Activities

PICA Hub: Creative Responses  
Sustainable Slow-making and Skill Sharing  
at Hatched

Dates: Available during PICA  
opening hours  
Cost: Free

During their visit, students can get creative in the PICA Hub and take part in an all-ages activity designed by one of the graduating Australian artists in the *Hatched* exhibition. These activities emphasise the Sustainability cross-curriculum priority through hands-on experimentation with recycled materials and slow-making practices. Students are invited to create together, sharing their skills, knowledge and experiences while fostering social bonds and sense of belonging.

## TERM 3: Djilba Resources

Learning Resources

Online and printed resources for students  
Available online  
Free

STEAM in the Gallery: Hatched Artists on  
Science and Technology

During National Science Week, STEAM learning resources are available for students to encourage creativity, innovation and interdisciplinary learning. Reflect on the inspiring graduating artists in the *Hatched* exhibition over the last 30 years who have integrated science and technology in their art.

PICA Art Talks video: Secrets to Success

Hear from three recipients of the Schenberg Awards as they discuss their creative thinking and working processes in a video interview. Inspire the young artists in your class as the next generation of Australian contemporary artists share insights about producing a resolved body of work.





PICA



## Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

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