



**WESTERN SYDNEY
CREATIVE**

ARTIST COMMISSION

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

**THE WESTERN SYDNEY CREATIVE
ARTIST COMMISSION 2026**

An annual award supporting mid-career Western Sydney* artists or artist collectives, presented by Western Sydney University.

The Commission will support the development of an ambitious new work by an individual artist or collective. The resulting work will be presented as part of Western Sydney University's 2026 exhibition program as a solo exhibition, accompanied by a curated public program. The exhibition will be held in the Margaret Whitlam Galleries, located on the Parramatta South Campus on Dharug land.

It is envisaged that the exhibition would take place in the two riverside galleries – the small and long gallery, with an activation space on the Northern Side gallery.

The interactive studio space is a key component of the Commission. It provides an opportunity for students, staff and the wider community to engage with art making and idea development.

The approach can be very open and flexible. For example, you may choose to:

- Present a series of workshops these could be delivered by you or other artists during the exhibition;
- Create a drop in space where visitors can produce their ‘own’ response;
- Host talks, panels or live performances.

Expressions of Interest will be evaluated in accordance with Western Sydney Creative Priority areas by a sub-committee of the Western Sydney Creative Advisory Committee:

- Recognise, respect and invest in Indigenous Australian arts.
- Create opportunities to promote and support the artistic practices of Australian women artists.
- Amplify local voices, practices and perspectives to ensure the collection reflects the culturally and linguistically diverse communities of Western Sydney.
- Acknowledge and support the alumni (students and staff) of Western Sydney University through acquisitions and commissions.
- Invest in artworks that demonstrate social and cultural practices and meanings for diverse audiences.
- Support artworks that contribute to the University's research and teaching programs, and that improve the liveability and amenity of the University's campuses.

Payment Schedule

- \$20,000 for the creation of a significant new artwork/s for the exhibition.
- \$5,000 exhibition/performance fee which includes the loan of existing artworks/performances in addition to new works.
- \$5,000 for concept, development and delivery of an interactive studio space and associated exhibition public programme.

Key Dates

- Expression of Interest Open: 30 July 2025
- Expression of Interest Close: 3 September 2025 11:59pm
- Notification of successful applicant: 19 September 2025
- Installation: 25 May – 5 June 2026
- Exhibition Dates: 10 June – 3 September 2026

How to apply

Applicants must provide a written response to the following:

- Contact details: Name, postal address, phone number and email address
- Artist biography : (maximum 200 words)
- Response to the opportunity: Why this commission is of interest to you? (maximum 350 words)
- **Response to Program Priorities:** Address two or three of Western Sydney Creative's priority areas (max. 350 words)
- **Interactive Studio/Public Program:** How would you approach this component and what is your experience with public programming? (max. 350 words)
- **Connection to Western Sydney:** Describe your connection to the region (max. 200 words)
*(*Applicants may define their own connection to Western Sydney. This may include having lived, worked, or studied in the region.)*
- **Details of Two Referees**

Additional required pdfs

- Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- Please include up to 10 good quality indicative images of your practice, collated into one compressed PDF file with clear image captions.

**All enquiries and applications to be
submitted to WSC@westernsydney.edu.au**