

AGSA WINTER ART SERIES

Media Release

17 August 2026



Paint like the Impressionists: AGSA launches Spring programming for *Monet to Matisse*

Adelaide, Australia: With more than 45,000 tickets sold in its opening month, the Art Gallery of South Australia's *Monet to Matisse: Defying Tradition* exhibition will offer a dynamic program of Spring events, from specially curated *en plein air* workshops in some of South Australia's most picturesque locations to a new season of Monet to Matisse Friday Nights. Inviting visitors to paint like the Impressionists, En Plein Air SA will transform the state into an open-air studio, inspired by the exhibition's celebrated masterworks. Following its sold-out Winter season, Monet to Matisse Friday Nights returns with a vibrant after-hours program of live music, including vinyl DJ sets curated by Honeydripper and performances from leading local musicians presented by Nexus Arts.

Jason Smith, Director, AGSA, said, 'Following the hugely successful launch of *Monet to Matisse*, we are delighted to present our Spring season of exhibition programs. From curated outdoor painting experiences and live music to free family activities, visitors can immerse themselves in art, culture and creativity while discovering more of South Australia through our state-wide En Plein Air SA program.'

Drop into one of AGSA's free curated painting locations across South Australia and create your own artwork as part of En Plein Air SA. This October, visitors are encouraged to step outdoors and paint *en plein air* as iconic locations around the state become open-air studios. In partnership with locations including Adelaide Botanic Garden, Barossa Regional Gallery, Carrick Hill, Hahndorf Academy, Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, Mount Lofty House, Sauerbier House, The Cedars and Wittunga Botanic Garden, participants can paint like

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the Impressionists by setting up their easels in nature and observing the effects of light and weather firsthand. Inspired by artists such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet and Berthe Morisot, visitors can experience the outdoors through an Impressionist lens while creating their own works of art.

Visitors can register online to receive their free En Plein Air Guide, and explore changing light, shadows, textures and local wildlife through a series of prompts and recommended painting locations. AGSA as well as select venues will offer specialised experiences, including artist-led workshops and high teas. Participants are invited to upload their creations to the AGSA website for a chance to win a *Monet to Matisse* prize pack.

Following the sold-out Winter season of Monet to Matisse Friday Nights, AGSA is launching a new season of Spring performances, featuring after-hours exhibition access, a Taittinger champagne bar in the French-inspired lounge and live music in partnership with Honeydripper and Nexus Arts. Monet to Matisse Friday Nights are supported by the Adelaide Economic Development Agency and the City of Adelaide through the Events and Festivals Sponsorship Program.

Popular hi-fi lounge **Honeydripper** will bring its rare collection of vinyls to AGSA for the September season of Friday Nights, including Adelaide-born **DJ Cruise** (4 September), Porch Sessions and Porchland founder **DJ Sharni** (11 September), Condesa Electronics founder **DJ Mehdi** (18 September) and Inside Out Audio co-founder **DJ Lenin** (25 September). From electronic to jazz, funk and soul, the Honeydripper residency will offer a listening experience like no other throughout September.

DJ and producer **DJ Track Team** (Tom Borgas) will launch the October season of Friday Nights on 2 October, followed by violinist **Anna Freer** (9 October). The season continues in partnership with **Nexus Arts**, presenting internationally acclaimed shamisen virtuoso **Noriko Tadano** (16 October), award-winning Malawian-Australian singer-songwriter **Ms Chipeta** (23 October), before neo-soul singer-songwriter **Kara Manansala** rounds out the month on 30 October.

To close the Friday Nights season, **Ella Ion** will bring her distinctive folk and indie rock sound to AGSA on 6 November, following on from her performances across the UK, US and Europe.

For kids and families, the Gallery offers a wide range of free family fun days including an immersive installation in AGSA's free activity space The Studio, through to Start at the Gallery, plus the Neo program for teenagers aged 13-17, offering a parent-free zone where young people can kick back and hang out with friends, jump into creative labs and tune into live music.

In partnership with the South Australian Government through the South Australian Tourism Commission, AGSA's Winter Art Series is a new initiative that brings major international exhibitions exclusively to Adelaide during the winter seasons from 2026-29, celebrating Adelaide's position as a cultural destination through exhibitions from world renowned art collections and complemented by curated experiences and events.

Monet to Matisse follows the evolution of modern art in Europe and the United States at the turn of the 20th century. These works tell the story of succeeding generations of painters and how the styles they invented, from Impressionism to Cubism, Surrealism to Abstract Expressionism - defied tradition and transformed modern art. Alongside celebrated paintings from the Toledo Museum of Art, the exhibition features a selection

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of works from AGSA's own collection, including pieces by Manet, Matisse, Picasso and Whistler, underscoring the international significance of AGSA's holdings.

Monet to Matisse: Defying Tradition is on display at the Art Gallery of South Australia until 8 November 2026. Learn more about public programs and book tickets at agsa.sa.gov.au.

Monet to Matisse: Defying Tradition is organised by the Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio.

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KEY DATES Exhibition Season | 11 July to 8 November 2026

IMAGES agsa.sa.gov.au/media/monettomatisseprograms

SOCIAL MEDIA @agsa.adelaide

Image caption: (1) Kara Manansala; photo: Ashleigh Noordhoek; (2) Ella Ion; photo: Izzie Austin.

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