

# AGSA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 6 September, 2023



## **18<sup>th</sup> Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: *Inner Sanctum***

**Adelaide, Australia:** The Art Gallery of South Australia announces the twenty-four participating artists for the *18th Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Inner Sanctum*, curated by José Da Silva. The exhibition will be presented from 1 March to 2 June 2024 as part of the 2024 Adelaide Festival.

**Clara ADOLPHS (NSW), James BARTH (QLD), Christopher BASSI (QLD),  
Seth BIRCHALL (NSW), Kaye BROWN (NT), Jacobus CAPONE (WA), George COOLEY (SA),  
Ali Cobby ECKERMANN (SA), Lawrence ENGLISH (QLD), Ruha FIFITA (QLD),  
Teelah GEORGE (VIC), Paul KNIGHT (GER), Kate LLEWELLYN x Adelaide Chamber  
Singers (SA), Jessica LOUGHLIN (SA), Peter MALONEY (ACT), Jazz MONEY (NSW),  
Lillian O'NEIL (VIC), Nik PANTAZOPOULOS (VIC), Khaled SABSABI (NSW), Marikit  
SANTIAGO (NSW), Vivienne Shark LEWITT (VIC), Tina STEFANOU (VIC),  
Heather B. SWANN (TAS), Jasmin TOGO-BRISBY (QLD)**

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*Inner Sanctum* offers an encounter with artists and poets interested in the human condition. The project unfolds across exhibitions, performances and talks that explore our engagement with the world and each other. Here, the idea of an inner sanctum illustrates the private or sacred spaces we create and the faculty of imagination that allows us to see culture and society differently.

As curator Da Silva explains, '*Inner Sanctum* offers a snapshot of contemporary Australia that is reflective and hopeful. We see works that conjure expressions of time and atmosphere, relationships between ancestral knowledge and spiritual guidance, and a slower, less transactional, more sustainable engagement with the world. We find our inner sanctum in gardens and walking tracks, memories and stories of home and family, locations of special knowledge and sacred activities, and, importantly, the working spaces of artists and the art museum environment.'

AGSA Director Rhana Devenport ONZM says, 'Now, more than ever, people are seeking places of refuge and sanctuary. The 2024 Adelaide Biennial enlivens our imagination with diverse expressions of belief, emotion, and the intricacies of human experience. We invite you to take the time to visit next year to explore this thoughtful and timely exhibition and find your inner sanctum.'

Minister for the Arts Andrea Michael MP said 'South Australia led the way when it launched the first Biennial with the Adelaide Festival in 1990. 34 years on, the Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art continues to play a critical role in connecting Australian audiences with the contemporary artists of our time.'

Presented throughout AGSA, the *18th Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Inner Sanctum* will be presented from 1 March to 2 June 2024 as part of the 2024 Adelaide Festival. A complete program of events and performances will be announced in the new year, including a new commission with the Adelaide Chamber Singers.

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**KEY DATES** Media Preview | Thursday 29 February 2024, 11am  
Vernissage | Thursday 29 February to Sunday 3 March 2024  
Exhibition Season | Friday 1 March to Sunday 2 June 2024  
  
Admission is free

**IMAGES** <http://agsa.sa.gov.au/media/AdelaideBiennial2024>

**SOCIAL MEDIA** @agsa.adelaide #adelaidebiennial #agsaadelaide #adelaidefestival

Creative director and design: Base Design (Daniel Peterson and Tal Levin)

Tina Stefanou, *Hym(e)nals*, 2022. Four-channel video projection from performance documentation, quadraphonic sound. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph: Wil Normyle

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## ABOUT THE ADELAIDE BIENNIAL OF AUSTRALIAN ART

The Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art remains the pre-eminent and longest-standing survey of contemporary Australian art. As a vital component of the Adelaide Festival since 1990, the 2024 Adelaide Biennial builds on its reputation and commitment to supporting and celebrating innovative and ambitious practices. Each Biennial responds to a different theme or premise and features new and commissioned

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works by leading contemporary practitioners nationwide. It has created career-defining opportunities for nearly 500 artists and has been experienced by more than 1.7 million visitors.

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## ABOUT JOSÉ DA SILVA

José Da Silva is a curator and the Director of UNSW Galleries, Sydney, where he has developed a dynamic program of contemporary Australian art and design since 2018. Between 2006–18 he contributed to an ambitious program of exhibitions, commissions, acquisitions and projects at the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, including a role in the curatoriums for five editions of the *Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*.

Recent curatorial projects include: *The Party* (2023); *Gordon Hookey: A MURRIALITY* (2022); *Izabela Pluta: Nihilartikel* (2022); *Jacobus Capone: Orisons* (2022); *Sam Smith: Capture* (2021); *The Colour Line: W.E.B Du Bois and Archie Moore* (2021); *Friendship as a Way of Life* (2020); *Wansolwara: One Salt Water* (2020), and *Gemma Smith: Rhythm Sequence* (2019). Alongside these exhibitions, he has developed artist-led projects with David Sequeria (2023), Liam Fleming (2022), Zanny Begg (2022), Megan Cope (2021), Kirsten Coelho (2021) and Shivanjani Lal (2020) amongst others.

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