



MOSMAN  
**ART**  
GALLERY

## **The Neil Balnaves Fellowship – Guidelines for Applicants**

### The Neil Balnaves Fellowship

---

The Neil Balnaves Fellowship is open to artists, curators, art historians and arts writers to develop a significant artwork, exhibition, research project or text that relates to Mosman's artistic heritage and/or The Balnaves Gift.

The Fellowship is for a one-year period with the recipient receiving \$80,000 to develop and realise a project. The funded project will be included in the Mosman Art Gallery (the Gallery) program in the two-year period following completion of the project.

There are two Fellowships which will be assessed on a competitive basis with the first offered in 2025, and the second in 2027.

The Fellowship provides a unique and critical opportunity for artists, curators or art historians to work with Mosman Art Gallery to realise a project with significant public outcomes. The Fellowship is the next chapter in the ongoing association with Neil Balnaves AO, the Balnaves family, The Balnaves Foundation and the Gallery in building on the substantial legacy of joint projects exploring the artistic heritage of Mosman through collections, commissions, research, education and presentation. The Fellowship will honour Neil's commitment to Mosman and its place in Australian art history.

### About Mosman Art Gallery

---

Mosman Art Gallery is a regional art gallery and dynamic cultural centre that celebrates art excellence, innovation and inclusivity, whilst being deeply connected to community and reflecting the diverse narratives of Mosman and beyond. The exhibition program is focused on celebrating and supporting artists; interpreting and exhibiting the Mosman Art Collection which includes the past winners of the Mosman Art Prize and The Balnaves Gift; telling stories of Mosman through art, including the 60,000 years of the Borogegal and Cammeraygal People of the Eora Nation, the First Nations inhabitants of this land; and bringing the work of the most thoughtful and rigorous artists to Mosman.

### About Neil Balnaves AO

---

In 2006, Neil Balnaves AO started The Balnaves Foundation. Already an established philanthropist, Neil wanted to create a pathway for intergenerational giving, bringing his family together to help create a better Australia through the arts, education and medicine.

Prior to establishing the Foundation, Neil had a long and successful career in the media industry, including founding the Southern Star Group in 1988. As a film and TV executive, Neil was proud to have been involved in bringing many popular shows to Australian screens, including Water Rats, Blue Heelers, Big Brother, The Secret Life of Us, McLeod's Daughters and Bananas in Pyjamas.

Neil held a broad range of directorships throughout his career including Chairman of Ardent Leisure Group, Hanna-Barbera Australia, Reed Consolidated Industries, Hamlyn Group, Taft Hardie, Southern Star Group and Southern Cross Broadcasting. He was also the Chancellor of Charles Darwin University, and a former Director and Trustee Member of Bond University, receiving an Honorary Doctorate of the Bond University in 2009.

In addition, Neil was a Board Member of the Art Gallery of South Australia from 2013 to 2019, was a former member of the Advisory Council and Dean's Circle at the University of New South Wales Faculty of Medicine, and in 2010 received an Honorary Doctorate of the University of New South Wales. Neil was immensely proud to be appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2010, for his services to the community through philanthropic support for the arts, education, medical research and Indigenous programs, and to business.

Neil sadly passed away in February 2022 and is greatly missed by his family who honour his legacy, ensuring Neil's vision for the Foundation, to create a better Australia, will continue.

## About the Balnaves Foundation

---

The Balnaves Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 2006 by Neil Balnaves AO. The Foundation distributes \$5 million annually to eligible organisations that aim to create a better Australia through education, medicine and the arts with a focus on young people, the disadvantaged and Indigenous Australia.

## About The Balnaves Gift

---

In 2010, Neil Balnaves AO made a pledge to donate one million dollars' worth of paintings from his personal art collection to Mosman Art Gallery and the people of Mosman. The Balnaves Gift is unquestionably the most important donation ever to be received by Mosman Council featuring sixteen Australian Impressionist and early twentieth century artworks significant to Mosman including key works by Arthur Streeton, Conrad Martens, John William Ashton, Albert Henry Fullwood, Elioth Gruner, George F. Halstead, James Ranalph Jackson, Matthew Charles Meere, Adelaide Elizabeth Perry, Sydney Long, Ethel Carrick Fox and Margaret Preston.

## Background and purpose

---

Over the past 15 years Mosman Art Gallery, the Balnaves family and The Balnaves Foundation have partnered on a range of exciting initiatives, including the donation of further works to the Mosman Art Collection as well as educating the community on the importance of art in its local context and encouraging greater philanthropic participation by the public. In addition, the Foundation was pivotal in the establishment of the Gallery's Acquisition Fund, which has supported the purchase of works such as Imants Tillers' Factum 1, 2021 (inspired by Arthur Streeton's View of Sirius Cove), Thea Anamara Perkins To Know Me Is to Love Me, 2025 and Streeton's Sydney from Mosman, c. 1914 - 18.

The Gallery's 'Art Mosman Balnaves Education' project has been a great success in recent years, supporting the development of youth engagement with the arts; linking The Balnaves Gift to on-going educational activities, the development of teachers' resources and establishing a suite of youth-led live events. In 2024, the Mosman Art Trail was launched, this was part of Neil's vision to bring the works in The Balnaves Gift to their original locations, inspired by his Mosman foreshore walks. The Art Trail brings new audiences to engage with the Gallery and its Collection and emphasises the importance of Mosman's significant artistic heritage.

The Neil Balnaves Fellowship provides a unique and critical opportunity for artists, curators and art historians to work with MAG to realise a project with significant public outcomes exploring the artistic heritage of Mosman through collections, commissions, research, education and presentation.

## Eligibility

---

To be eligible the applicant must be over 18 years of age at the time of applying. They must be an Australian citizen or have permanent residency status. Applicants should have an established art making, art writing, curatorial or academic practice.

## Selection Committee

---

The Selection Committee will be comprised of two members of staff from Mosman Art Gallery and one member of The Balnaves Foundation board.

## Selection Criteria

---

Outstanding projects that may be in the form of artworks, exhibitions, publications that deepen interpretation, broaden public engagement and understanding of Mosman and its artistic heritage will be considered.

The project may consist of a new artwork; an exhibition; a research project or publication; performance or other. The Selection Committee will consider the qualifications of the applicant; excellence of the proposed project; previous successful projects achieved by the applicant; the project's budget viability; the feasibility of completion of the proposed project within the timeline; and the relevancy to Mosman Art Gallery and the Mosman Art Collection including The Balnaves Gift. Projects outside these parameters may be submitted for consideration, however they must be achievable and have consistent outcomes.

The expected outcomes may include; an artist to produce an acquisitive work, if an artist creates a body of work, a significant piece may be acquired/required as part of the fellowship, but not the full series; a curated exhibition; an historian to develop a publication or lecture series; an academic/researcher may also develop a public lecture series or an online series.

The Fellowship must have tangible and quantifiable outcomes that will positively impact the Mosman community, Mosman Art Gallery, its program and audiences whether they be local, national or international.

## Amount and payment

---

The Neil Balnaves Fellowship recipient will receive a total of \$80,000 over the course of the one-year Fellowship period. These funds must be used to develop and realise the project.

The funded project will be included in the Mosman Art Gallery program within a two-year window of the project development year;

The payment timeline will be agreed between Mosman Art Gallery and the successful applicant and linked to project milestones.

## Terms and Conditions

---

The Fellowship is conditional on the successful applicant signing the Fellowship agreement. Evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residency status will be required.

The successful applicant will forego payments if the project is not completed. Any unspent funds must be returned to Mosman Art Gallery.

The Selection Committee has the right not to award the Fellowship if the Selection Committee does not identify a suitable project.

The Fellowship can be withdrawn due to Force Majeure.

The successful applicant may only seek additional funding opportunities for this project with prior, written approval from Mosman Art Gallery.

Mosman Art Gallery retains ownership of the final project.

The artist retains copyright of their work.

Documentation, exhibition or reproduction of the work must credit Mosman Art Gallery and The Balnaves Foundation.

The funding for the Fellowship will be paid in instalments and is for the agreed upon period only.

## Application

---

The application will be by completion of a set application form and will request information including:

- CV
- Biography and background on career/ practice (no more than 2 pages)
- Project outline; including idea, process, the support required, outcomes – all points to readily identify the project as being feasible with tangible outcomes (no more than 5 pages)
- Budget (no more than 1 page)
- Timeline (no more than 1 page)
- Examples of previous work
- Two support letters (each letter two page maximum)

## Support material

---

A maximum of ten examples of prior work is permitted including up to a maximum of three moving image examples.

## FAQs

---

*Do I need to be considered emerging, mid-career or established?*

The Fellowship will be open to all career levels though applicants should have a proven track record of realising significant projects.

*Will I need to be based in Mosman for the duration of the Fellowship?*

The recipient will not have to be based in Mosman during the Fellowship, however there will be an expectation that they do spend time here for research, interviews, production etc.

*How do I apply?*

Information regarding applications will be available on the Mosman Art Gallery website ([www.mosmanartgallery.org.au](http://www.mosmanartgallery.org.au)).

*When will applications open?*

Applications will open at 5pm on Monday 18 August and will close 5pm Monday 29 September 2025

*When will applicants be notified of outcomes?*

The selection process is expected to take six weeks. Applicants should expect to be contacted after the conclusion of this six-week period.

*How do I know if I am eligible?*

In order to be eligible, you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident. You must be an artist, curator, art historian or arts writer. You must be 18 years of age at the time of applying.

*Can this project be in association with any other organisational partners?*

Applicants should contact Mosman Art Gallery to enquire.

*Will feedback on unsuccessful applications be provided?*

No, feedback on unsuccessful applications will not be provided.

*Can I submit more than one application?*

Yes, all applicants can submit up to two submissions.

*Can I apply in 2027 for the second round if I submitted to the first round in 2025?*

Yes.

If you have further questions, please email [gALLERY@mosman.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gALLERY@mosman.nsw.gov.au)