

MAMA Art Foundation

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## Annual Report 2024/25

Donations can be made online,  
by phone or by mail.

[mamalbury.com.au/donate](https://mamalbury.com.au/donate)  
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MAMA Art Foundation  
PO Box 136, Albury NSW 2640



MAMA acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we are located. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, culture, tradition and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contribute to our community.



Cover Image:  
*National Photography Prize, 2024*  
Installation view featuring Skye Wagner,  
*Before Orange Peel, After Loose Teeth,*  
*Now Peanuts, 2023*  
Murray Art Museum Albury, 2024  
Photo: Jeremy Weihrauch

Above:  
**Matthew Harris**  
*I Know Alone, 2023*  
Ochre, charcoal and acrylic on hessian  
Murray Art Museum Albury collection  
Purchased with the support of  
MAMA Art Foundation, 2024

In the past year, the MAMA Art Foundation has demonstrated continued success in cultivating support for the ongoing growth of the MAMA art collection. This has only been possible due to the unswerving commitment of all MAMA Art Foundation members and supporters. Art enriches lives and inspires minds across generations. The MAMA art collection is a critical resource for this work now and in the decades to come.

The Foundation was thrilled by the support shown in the 2024 Annual Giving campaign with donations of \$52,904 received by committed and mostly local philanthropists.

MAMA continued to produce exceptional exhibitions, artist commissions, and learning and studio programs over the past twelve months. Highlights included the National Photography Prize noted in last year's annual report which ran through until August 2024. Supported by the MAMA Art Foundation, the Prize showcased the innovative works of 14 outstanding artists. 2024 prize recipient Ellen Dahl's *Four Days Before Winter* series was acquired for the MAMA art collection. The Foundation hosted an in-conversation event with participating artist Ali McCann in late August. Through conversation in front of her work with MAMA CEO Blair French, McCann generously provided some 40 guests with a unique insight into her photographic wider process and her deep engagement with the histories of photography. The Foundation subsequently supported the acquisition

of four works by McCann from the National Photography Prize for the MAMA art collection.

McCann's work along with that of fellow NPP exhibitors Ioulia Panoutsopoulos and Skye Wagner was also the focus for a new education program developed by MAMA in association with the National Photography Prize exhibition. MAMA education staff worked with children from three local primary schools assisting them in the development of their own photographs of personal objects. The resulting works were exhibited in the Learning Lane at MAMA and I had the pleasure of attending the opening with Ali McCann, meeting and talking with the students and their families.

MAMA's exhibition program continued to provide a diversity of engaging experiences for audiences across the region and beyond, driving MAMA's vision as a regionally transformative, globally engaged art museum. The major group exhibition *Hold the world to its word* running over the summer of 2024-25 was a particular highlight, featuring the work of artists from across the country and further afield. The exhibition featured the work of Spence Messih previously acquired for the MAMA art collection with Foundation support, and a set of remarkable ochre, charcoal and acrylic paintings by Wangaratta born artist Matthew Harris within which country, family and cultural history are connected. The Foundation was delighted to support the acquisition of two of these major paintings for the MAMA art collection.

*Hold the world to its word* also provided the ideal setting for a Foundation event in November where members and guests were provided the first public introduction to the museum's artistic program for 2025-26, a program marking and celebrating 10 years of MAMA. As outlined on the night by MAMA CEO Blair French and Head of Curatorial and Collections, Michael Moran, 18 months of programming is being developed under the overarching title *nginha*. Translating as 'here', the concept of *nginha* informs three distinct seasons focusing on artists of the region, the MAMA art collection and artist commissions respectively. Building on the success of MAMA over the past ten years this is a bold and imaginative step in the museum's approach to programming that the Foundation looks forward to supporting.

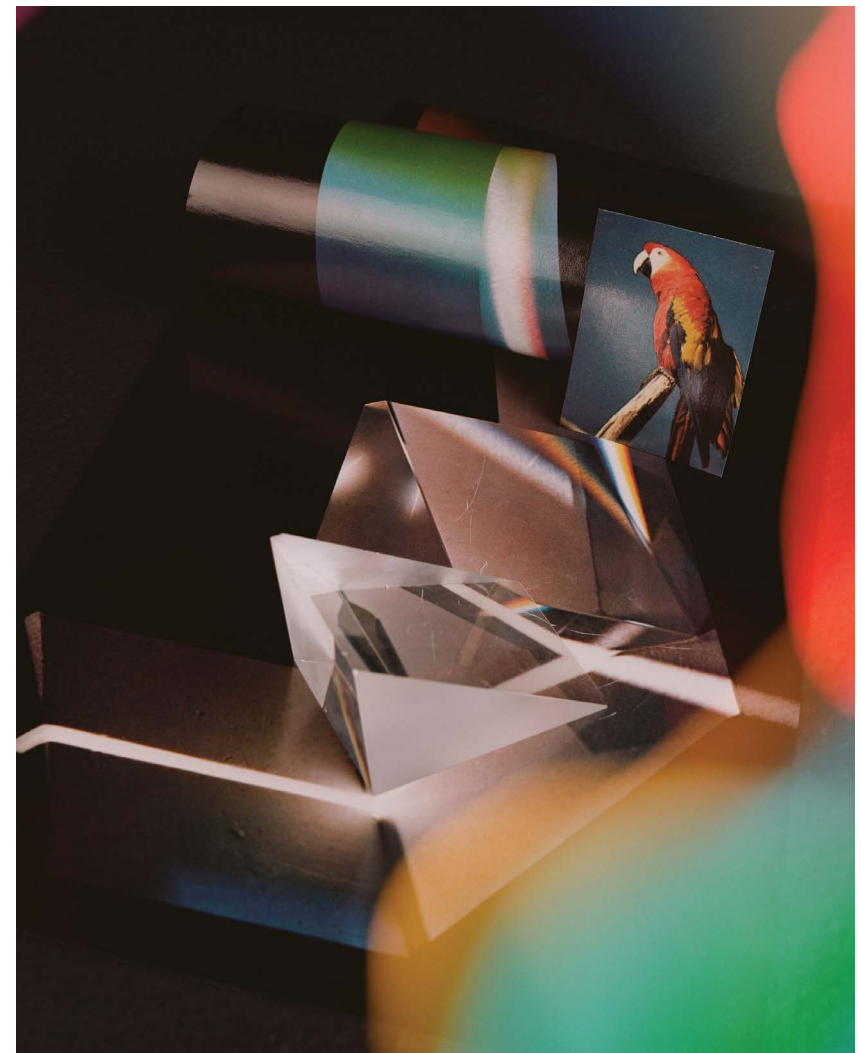
On a sadder note, 2024 saw the passing of Dr Audray Banfield AM, the first director of the Albury Regional Art Gallery, a role she held for 25 years laying foundations for the later development of MAMA. Audray transformed the empty Town Hall building into the city's first public art gallery and permanent home to its collection, opening in 1981. She played a pivotal role in reshaping the AlburyCity art collection, focusing on contemporary art and photography, leading to the creation of the National Photography Prize. Audray's determination to build a public institution committed to excellence, its community and the support of artists regionally and nationally continues to be inspirational to many.

The MAMA Art Foundation is pleased to announce that the main award within the National Photography Prize will now be named in Audray Banfield's honour, and from 2026 be increased to \$40,000 in value.

The attached report from the Foundation's Treasurer, Dougald Frederick, provides details of the Foundations financial position. In summary \$52,904 has been raised over the past year. The MAMA Art Foundation now holds \$1,701,353 in funds held to assist the Museum. MAMA also received donations of 28 significant artworks into the collection, constituting an approximate total value of \$116,800. This included a very generous gift of seven collage-based artworks by recently deceased artist Michael Butler who worked in Albury during the late 1980s and early 1990s and that formed the core of a small survey exhibition in his honour presented at MAMA in late 2024. Collection donations such as these highlight the national reputation of the museum.

As we look forward to MAMA's 10th anniversary celebrations in October 2025 I extend my thanks to all our MAMA Art Foundation members and supporters. Your commitment and generosity are the backbone of our achievements. I express particular gratitude to my fellow Foundation Committee Members, Gillian Sanbrook, Dougald Frederick, Michael Moran, Martin Baker, Rachael Muntz and Blair French. On behalf of the present Foundation members, I would like to thank the MAMA team including staff who moved on to other opportunities over the past year – Andrea Briggs, Annie Falke, Ian Han, Emily Mulvihill and Nanette Orly – for the support they have provided to the Foundation and for their commitment to excellence and a museum of national significance.

**Tony Smith**  
Chairman, MAMA Art Foundation



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Above:  
**Ali McCann**  
*The Democratic Voice*,  
from the series *Joy*, 2022  
Archival pigment print, painted frame  
Murray Art Museum Albury collection  
Purchased with support of the  
MAMA Art Foundation, 2024

# Treasurer's report

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The financial year ending 31st March 2025 was again a successful one for the Foundation. Donations received from a wide range of supporters during the year totalled \$52,904 bringing our total corpus to \$1,434,044.

The Foundation has progressively invested a proportion of its funds into a range of investments listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. These investments include major bank capital notes, listed investment companies and a range of managed exchange traded index funds.

Due to a deterioration in the stock market in March 2025 the investments decreased by \$19,029 as compared to an increase of \$57,335 in the prior year. Investment income from listed investments totalled \$80,053 and was 9.5% higher than 2024. Interest income from term deposits rose significantly to \$28,376 from \$18,979 due to the funds being progressively reinvested at higher rates in the current and prior year.

New art works were purchased at a cost of \$36,327. Provision for a contribution of \$50,000 to MAMA was matched by a contribution of \$50,000 received during the year.

In total the Foundation made a surplus before transfer to corpus of \$97,726 as compared to \$7,770 in the prior year.

I look forward to continuing success in 2026.

**Dougald Frederick**

Treasurer, MAMA Art Foundation  
7th May, 2025



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Above:  
**Keg de Souza with Aruna Ghandi,**  
*Monumental as Anything*, 2023  
Installation view,  
Murray Art Museum Albury, 2023  
Photo: Jeremy Weihrauch