

Annual Report 2023/24



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Minor Truths II, 2022

Kiln formed glass, jarrah, text, dual channel sound file

Murray Art Museum Albury

Purchased with the support of MAMA Art Foundation, 2023

Photo: Jeremy Weirauch

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.



Newell Harry

(Untitled) The Point, 2023

Archival inkjet pigment prints from 6 x 6 negatives, baryta paper, found text on paper

Murray Art Museum Albury

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Photo: Jeremy Weirauch

Looking back over another enriching year for the MAMA Art Foundation I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our supporters. Your unwavering support underpins the continued growth of the MAMA art collection as a collection of national significance and a vital resource for the cultural life of the city and the region. 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 2023 Annual Giving campaign with donations of \$42,150 received by mostly local and committed philanthropists.

MAMA continued to produce exceptional exhibitions, artist commission, and learning and studio programs over the past twelve months. One highlight was the major exhibition by Sydney-based artist Newell Harry, the largest anywhere to date dedicated to this important, internationally recognised artist. The exhibition, *Esperanto*, traversed an array of narratives from the diasporas of Oceania to the cultural histories of the Indo-Pacific and South Africa. This was not only a milestone for Harry as an artist but also underscored MAMA's dedication to presenting avant-garde Australian talent at the forefront of global artistic dialogues.

The exhibition provided context for a vibrant benefactors' cocktail event, graciously supported by 38 of our esteemed members, raising close to \$7,450. Guests were treated to intimate tours led by guest speaker Jasmin Stephens and MAMA Head of Curatorial & Collections, Michael Moran, offering deeper insights into the artworks and the thematic essence of the exhibition. The sense of community and mutual appreciation for art was palpable, with every attendee contributing to the night's success. Funds raised through such events are critical, as they directly support the growth and enrichment of our collection. Such evenings underscore the vital role that our donors play not only in sustaining the foundation's financial health but also in fostering a thriving cultural community at MAMA.

A series of Newell Harry's photographs from the exhibition – (*Untitled*) *The Point*, 2023 – were subsequently acquired with funds from the final annual donation of \$50,000 provided by the Russell Mills Foundation.

In March this year we celebrated the launch of the National Photography Prize 2024, the 17th iteration of a prestigious project now in its 41st year. Supported by the MAMA Art Foundation, the Prize not only showcases the innovative works of 14 outstanding artists, but also serves as a platform for critical discourse on photography's role in art today. Ellen Dahl was awarded the \$30,000 prize for her profound *Four Days Before Winter* series – a stark portrayal of environmental change in the Svalbard archipelago in Norway. The John and Margaret Baker Fellowship for emerging artists was awarded to Olga Svyatova for their poignant exploration of time and memory in *Они/They*.

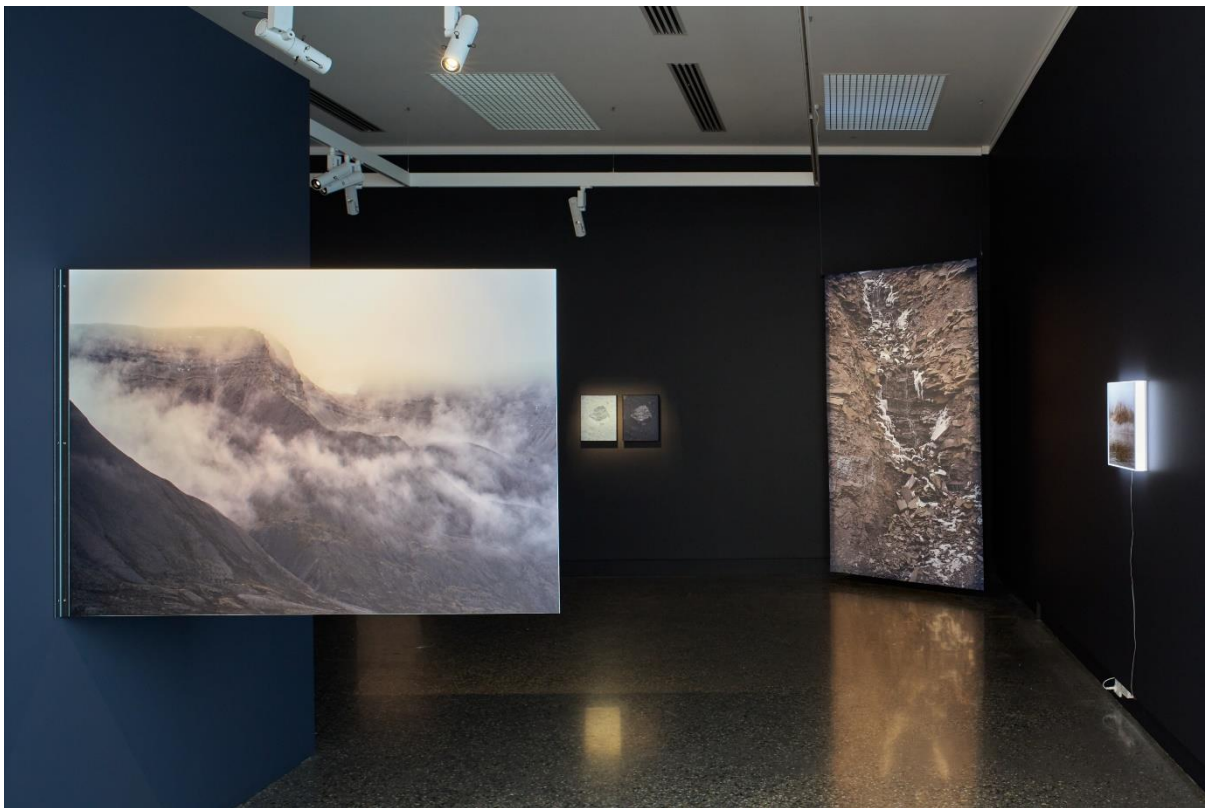
The Prize announcement was followed with a special MAMA Art Foundation dinner at Canvas attended by all the artists, prize judge Nici Cumpston OAM, along with donors and special guests. The evening was enjoyed by the 60 guests, manifesting our community's dedication to fostering artistic innovation and supporting new voices in the arts, and raising \$4,050.

The attached report from the Foundation's Treasurer, Dougald Frederick, provides details of the Foundation's financial position. In summary \$42,150 has been raised over the past year, with a further \$50,000 due in the coming month from Metal Manufactures whose representatives Dr Carol Grigor and Sir Jonathan Mills I had the pleasure of hosting along with former NSW Minister for the Arts Don Harwin during their visit to MAMA in November 2023. The MAMA Art Foundation now holds \$1,381,140 in funds held to assist the Museum. MAMA also received donations of six significant artworks into the collection, constituting an approximate total value of \$86,000. As previously noted, collection donations such as these highlight the national reputation of the museum and the confidence instilled in these nationally significant artists and collection donors.

Following the departure in March 2023 of MAMA Director Bree Pickering for the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, MAMA staff members Michael Moran followed by Annie Falcke led the organization, maintaining its commitment to excellence, before incoming MAMA CEO Dr Blair French joined the organisation in January 2024. Blair brings extensive professional experience to MAMA from various arts leadership roles, most recently as CEO of Carriageworks and as Director, Curatorial and Digital at the Museum of Contemporary Art. We look forward to working with Blair as he advances the Museum's transition to independence.

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, Gill Sanbrook, Dougald Frederick, Michael Moran and Martin Baker. And on behalf of the present Foundation members, I would like to thank the MAMA team for the support they have provided to the Foundation and for their ongoing commitment to excellence and a museum of national significance.

Tony Smith
Chairman, MAMA Art Foundation



Ellen Dahl

Four Days Before Winter, 2023

Winner, National Photography Prize 2024

Murray Art Museum Albury

To be acquired with the support of MAMA Art Foundation, 2024

Photo: Jeremy Weirauch

Treasurer's Report

The financial year ending 31st March 2024 was again a successful one for the Foundation. Donations received from a wide range of supporters during the year totalled \$42,150 bringing our total corpus to \$1,381,140.

At the end of the previous financial year the Foundation completed its strategy whereby funds were progressively invested 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 improvement in the stock market in 2024 the value of investments increased by \$57,335 as compared to a decrease of \$79,597 in the prior year. Investment income of \$73,113 was 19% higher than 2023. Interest income rose significantly to \$18,979 from \$5,394 due to funds being progressively reinvested in term deposits at higher rates throughout the year.

New art works were purchased at a cost of \$36,500 and \$35,000 was contributed to the 2024 National Photographic Prize which is sponsored by the Foundation. Provision for a contribution of \$100,000 to MAMA was also made during the period.

I look forward to continuing success in 2025.

Dougald Frederick
Treasurer, MAMA Art Foundation
15th May 2024



Newell Harry

(Untitled) The Point, 2023

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