



Call for proposals from artists with connections to the South Coast NSW to create an artwork for the *WONDER + DREAD: Art in the Land of Weather Extremes* exhibition at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery in December 2020.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Bushfires. Storms. Floods. Droughts. The Shoalhaven is no stranger to extreme weather. These catastrophic events, wreaking human and environmental devastation, are central to our shared history and mythology. Australian weather events of particular ferocity acquire names that carry through the ages - the Federation Drought, Cyclone Tracey, Black Saturday, and the Queensland Floods. The Eastern Australian bushfire season of 2019 and 2020 was an unprecedented weather event. It has not been given one name, perhaps because it cannot be attributed to one day, cause or location. In the Shoalhaven alone, more than three-quarters of the landmass was burnt by the Currowan and associated fires. This was closely followed by flooding in February 2020, and a global pandemic in March 2020.

Against a backdrop of increasingly frequent severe weather events, *WONDER + DREAD: Art in the Land of Weather Extremes* is an ambitious group exhibition of 12 - 15 Australian artists. It places historical works alongside contemporary works and new commissions to create a thoughtful and nuanced survey of how artists have responded to severe weather across time. Artists include Susan Norrie, Nicole Monks, Rosemary Laing and Cameron Robbins, alongside historic works by Lloyd Rees, William Strutt, Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker, Max Dupain, Arthur Boyd and Michael Riley among others.

WONDER + DREAD is vital for the Shoalhaven community. Not only will it bring artworks of significance from state and national collections to the region, it will also help process the trauma and continue the healing required following the devastating summer of 2019/20 and unprecedented global events. Art and the associated creative processes can provide an outlet for trauma when words fail. An aim of *WONDER + DREAD* is to provide opportunities to share stories, recover and to ground the recent events in a historical context. It is a chance to see how individual experiences are both similar and different from those in the past. It is also an opportunity to reflect on recovery, resilience and lessons learnt.

ARTWORK CONCEPT

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery is seeking to commission an artwork that responds to the extreme weather events of 2019 / 2020. These events include the devastating bushfires, the floods of February 2020, and in an ancillary capacity, COVID-19. The artwork can respond to the cumulative effect of these extraordinary events that have occurred within rapid succession of each other. The work could also choose to reflect only on the bushfires or flood, and the effect of those events.

The focus of the commissioned artwork is community impact and connection. The work must include the ability for the community to respond, contribute or connect with the work in some way. Ideally (but not mandatory) the work will grow and accumulate over the course of the exhibition.

Individual and collaborative works are accepted. All art forms are welcome. We will consider gallery works and works suited to the outdoors (or a combination of both).

The artwork needs to take into consideration the ceiling heights of the gallery (250cm) and installation limitations being:

- No fixtures in the flooring
- Weight limit of 6kg hung from the ceiling
- Weight limit of 30kg for gallery hanging system
- Access door width to gallery of 110cm

BUDGET

The commission budget is \$3,500 (incl GST) for the creation of this artwork. The budget should include all materials, artist fees, installation costs and any other associated costs for the production of the work. Freight for work if required will be negotiated separately.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions should be emailed to council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au with the reference 53883E/20 and must include the following items

1. A CV (up to two pages) for each artist involved
2. A completed submission form.
3. Up to 5 images of previous work examples with supporting information
4. An outline of an idea for the commissioned artwork. Please include hand sketches, diagrams and images along with a brief written outline.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The successful artist/s will be selected on:

- The artistic merit of the proposed artwork
- The aesthetic and conceptual response to the exhibition theme
- The demonstrated capacity to be available and capable of completing the project within the proposed timeframe and budget.

KEY DATES

These should be considered as part of the application process.

EOI Opens	27 April
EOI Closes	22 May
Artist selected and notified	27 May
Discuss proposed artwork plan with curators	w/c 1 June
Review / Approve proposed artwork	w/c 20 July
Installation	w/c 7 Dec
Exhibition Opens	12 Dec 2020
Exhibition Closes	30 Jan 2021

CONTACT OFFICER

For further information contact Bronwyn Coulston – Unit Manager Arts and Culture, Shoalhaven City Council on (02) 4429 5441.