



NEWSLETTER

From the President's Desk

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter!

Our fourth Annual Members Exhibition was a resounding success, and we are already looking forward to next year's exhibition.

We are pleased to share that our application for the Monash Council Community Grant has once again been successful. As a result, we are launching a new initiative for the members – *the Artist Practice Circle*, under the Art Connect project. More information on this is shared in the newsletter.

On another note, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to two of our members, Gopinath Iyer and Ramnath Iyer, who were awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the King's Birthday Honours for their service to music, particularly Indian heritage music.

Lastly, a gentle reminder that it is time to renew your membership for the year 2025-26. Our membership year runs from 1st July to 30th June. Details can be found on our website and in this newsletter.

That's all for now.

Felicity Smith OAM JP
President, MONCAS Inc.

Editor's note : Please send your newsletter contributions to reachmoncas@gmail.com
Pratibha Madan
Vice-President, MONCAS Inc.

Acknowledgment of Country

MONCAS acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

DIARY DATES WITH MONCAS

2 August 2025

Art Connect Workshop : Bead Jewellery Making with Jayashree Iyer

4 - 14 Sep 2025

'Spotlighting Bullying - Seeds of Change' - Exhibition by South Eastern Suicide Prevention Network (SESPN)

6 September 2025

Art Connect Workshop : Collage & Sketch with Rahila Zeeshan

19 - 28 Sep 2025

smART 2025 - 7th Annual Small Works Art Exhibition, curated by Pratibha Madan

2 - 12 Oct 2025

'External Disposition' - Solo Exhibition of Photographs by Stephanie Withers

17 - 26 Oct 2025

'MAAE 2025' - 2nd Annual Monash Affordable Art Exhibition by MONCAS

27 Nov - 6 Dec 2025

'Festive Gifts 2025' - 4th Annual Maker's & Crafter's Exhibition by MONCAS

OUR LINKS:

www.moncas.org.au

www.facebook.com/thetrackgallery

www.instagram.com/moncas_thetrackgallery

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MONCAS Auspice Upcoming Exhibitions

'smART – Small Works Art Exhibition, curated by **Pratibha Madan**, proudly enters its seventh year in 2025. It holds the distinction of being the very first exhibition auspiced by MONCAS—a landmark initiative that helped firmly establish both MONCAS and The Track Gallery within the local arts landscape.

Over the past six years, smART has served as a meaningful platform for community artists, nurturing emerging talent and celebrating creative diversity. As we mark this ongoing journey, we continue to support and champion this distinctive exhibition that invites artists to explore creativity within a small format.

smART 2025 is a call to all artists—an opportunity to connect, create, and contribute. All styles and mediums are welcome, including painting, drawing, photography, prints, textiles, sculpture, and ceramics.

♥ Entry details: bit.ly/smart-25



The poster for smART 2025 features a yellow and white watercolor background. At the top, the 'preetkriti' logo is visible. The main title 'smART' is in a large, bold, black font, with '2025' in a smaller font to its right. Below the title, it says '7th Annual Small Works Art Exhibition'. The dates '19 - 28 September 2025' are prominently displayed, followed by the location 'The Track Gallery, Mt Waverley VIC 3149' and the hours 'Mon-Fri: 2-7pm, Sat-Sun: 11am-4pm'. A black banner across the middle contains the text 'Connecting Artists and Community, Celebrating Small Format Art!'. Below this, 'Opening Celebrations Friday, 19 September 6-8PM' is written. At the bottom left is a QR code, and at the bottom right are the participation details: 'For Participation :- Entry Form: bit.ly/smart-25', 'Email: preetkriti@gmail.com', and 'Website: www.preetkriti.com'.

Exhibition open: 19 - 28 September 2025 (Mon-Fri : 2-7pm, Sat-Sun : 11am-4pm)
Opening celebrations: Friday, 19 Sep at 6-8 PM

Upcoming MONCAS Exhibitions

'MAAE 2025' - Monash Affordable Art Exhibition **17 - 26 Oct 2025**

The MONCAS committee is delighted to announce the second Affordable Art Exhibition, running from 17-26 October at The Track Gallery. Following last year's successful debut, this year's event will showcase a vibrant selection of original artworks at accessible price points, inviting everyone to enjoy and collect art. Both members and non-members are welcome to participate, with all works adhering to our affordable pricing policy to support artists while keeping art within reach. Final details are being confirmed - watch for further details in coming weeks. We invite the entire community to join us in celebrating local artistic talent.

'Festive Gifts 2025 - Exhibition and Sale' **27 Nov - 6 Dec 2025**

We've built a vibrant platform for local artisans through our annual Festive Gifts Exhibition and Sale at The Track Gallery, transforming the gallery into a one-of-a-kind 10-day handmade bazaar. This is an early heads-up to all makers, crafters, and artists who may already be preparing their work - we invite you to showcase a stunning array of handmade gift items. Each year brings fresh talent and traditions to discover, offering shoppers truly special finds. Join us in celebrating the skill and passion behind every handcrafted treasure!

MONCAS supported Upcoming Exhibitions

MONCAS is proud to support the **South Eastern Suicide Prevention Network's** third annual Art Exhibition, **'Spotlighting Bullying... Seeds of Change'**, running from 4-14 September at The Track Gallery. This powerful exhibition invites school communities and individual artists to submit artworks that confront the impact of bullying while inspiring hope, resilience, and positive change. The exhibition will feature works by students and local artists, offering a platform for creative expression and collective healing. Participation is free. To participate, **contact: sesuicideprevention@gmail.com**

Opening Celebrations :
Wednesday 10 September, 6PM

COMMUNITY ART ACTIVITY INVITE

Seeds of Change: Art for a Kinder World

The South Eastern Suicide Prevention Network invites you to contribute to a collective "Tree of Hope" artwork for their annual exhibition: 'Spotlighting Bullying: Seeds of Change'



FREE DROP-IN ART ACTIVITY
NO BOOKING NEEDED
SATURDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
THE TRACK GALLERY
47 MILLER CRES, MT WAVERLEY

Let's come together and sow seeds of kindness, hope, and resilience.
Add your mark to our collective Tree of Hope—
paint, draw, or leave a heartfelt message!

Art activity facilitator : Pratibha Madan @Preetkriti
Enquiries : sesuicideprevention@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

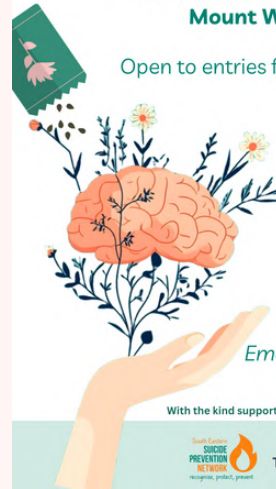
We will be looking for artworks
exploring the theme:

Spotlighting Bullying ... Seeds of Change

Thursday 4 - Sunday 14 Sept

**The Track Gallery, 47 Miller Crescent
Mount Waverley 3149 VIC**

Open to entries from schools & individuals!

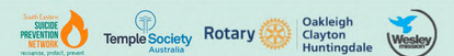


We invite you to submit artwork
that highlights the realities of
bullying while inspiring hope,
resilience, and change.

Art can amplify voices, confront
challenges, and advocate for a
better, safer and kinder future.

Any questions?
Email: sesuicideprevention@gmail.com

With the kind support of Matt Fregon - MP for Ashwood & Monash Community Art Society



Bullying impacts lives across schools, workplaces, online, and public spaces—highlighting the urgent need for awareness and mental health advocacy. SESPEN invites you to join a free, drop-in art activity and contribute to a collective **"Tree of Hope"** for their exhibition. Drop by The Track Gallery anytime between 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM on 6th Sept to paint, draw, or leave a heartfelt message. Together, let's sow seeds of kindness, hope, and resilience—one mark at a time.

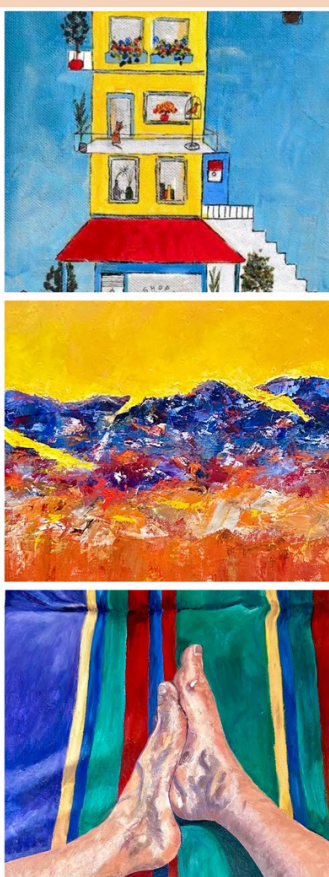
'Artist Practice Circle'

NEW

The MONCAS team is excited to launch the **'Artist Practice Circle'**—a new, artist-led initiative **exclusively for members**. Held monthly in the Craft Room on the first Saturday from 12:30-1:30 PM (just before the regular workshop), this circle aims to foster connection, collaboration, peer support, and artistic skill development. No bookings are required—just bring a gold coin donation. It's a space to share ideas, explore creative practices, and build a supportive artistic community. Our first session kicks off on Saturday, 2nd August—details coming soon. Join us as we nurture artistic growth, professional development, and meaningful connections through this exciting new initiative.

Highlights from our recent Exhibitions

Seven artists with diverse mediums and distinct styles came together for **'Transforming Creative Visions: The Art of Alchemy'**—an exhibition that celebrated an eclectic mix of creativity and perspective. Julie Slade, Marilyn Dann, Beverley Watts, Christine Slade, Judy Driessen, Matthew Slade, and Paris Jirvand each brought their unique artistic voice to the fore. The exhibition's opening was honoured by the presence of Federal MP Dr Carina Garland, who lent her support to the thriving local arts community.



'Prelude', the debut solo exhibition by the multitasking **Ru Davidson** – author, illustrator, painter, and musician—was warmly received by visitors. The opening night offered a rich sensory experience, blending visual art with live music. Ru captivated the audience with a clarinet performance, joined by The Melbourne Saxophone Quartet, creating a memorable fusion of sound and creativity. The exhibition showcased Ru's diverse artistic voice and marked an inspiring beginning to what promises to be a remarkable artistic journey.

Highlights from our recent Exhibitions

MONCAS proudly supported 'Under Bunjil's Wings – Youth Art for Reconciliation 2025', an inspiring exhibition presented by the **Monash Reconciliation Group** in their final year as organisers. This meaningful event celebrated powerful artworks created by local school students, reflecting their understanding and hopes for reconciliation. The opening night was a special occasion, attended by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Ian Hunter, Councillor Elisha Lee, and representatives from participating schools. The exhibition stood as a heartfelt tribute to the role of youth in shaping a more inclusive future, and a fitting legacy for the dedicated work of the Monash Reconciliation Group.



Art Connect 2025 Exhibition



The Opening Night of 'Art Connect 2025– 4th Annual MONCAS Art Exhibition'—was a resounding success, marked by energy, creativity, and a strong sense of community. The event drew an enthusiastic crowd, celebrating the talents of 29 exceptional member artists who transformed the gallery with over 100 diverse and inspiring works. The evening fostered meaningful conversations, new connections, and a deep appreciation for artistic expression. From the atmosphere to the artwork, every element reflected the spirit of collaboration and creativity that defines MONCAS. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to making the night truly memorable.

More Snapshots from Art
Connect 2025 Exhibition



ART CONNECT MONTHLY SESSIONS

The Art Connect project, supported by the City of Monash, offers a variety of engaging art sessions and workshops open to the public. These sessions are held on the **first Saturday of each month from 1:30 - 3 PM** in the Craft Room at the Mount Waverley Community Centre.



The **April Art Connect** Monthly Workshop showcased a captivating session on '**Gond Art**,' led by member artist **Pratibha Madan**. Tailored specifically for beginners, the interactive workshop offered an immersive and insightful introduction to this vibrant traditional Indian art form. Participants delved into fundamental techniques and crafted their own stunning Gond paintings featuring intricate bird motifs. Under Pratibha's skilled guidance, participants learned to master delicate patterns and distinctive detailing, deepening their appreciation for this unique artistic style. The enriching session was both educational and creatively inspiring.

The **May Art Connect** Monthly Workshop showcased a captivating session on '**Kolam Art**,' guided by talented member artist **Shoba Iyer**. This workshop offered a glimpse into the vibrant tradition of Kolam—a decorative floor art from Southern India. Traditionally crafted with rice flour, participants explored Kolam using contemporary materials, making it enjoyable and approachable for all skill levels. Participants learned the basics of dot Kolam, deepening their appreciation for its intricate beauty. The session was both enriching and inspiring, nurturing creativity while celebrating this timeless cultural heritage.



ART CONNECT MONTHLY SESSIONS



The **June Art Connect** session included a fun and hands-on **'Watercolour Landscape'** workshop facilitated by our member artist **Gopinath Iyer**. Participants learned basic watercolour techniques and practiced working with light and shadow. The event had a great turnout, with everyone excited to improve their painting skills in a friendly and supportive setting. The workshop was a success, leaving attendees inspired and eager for more.

Other Exhibition at The Track Gallery

'Layers of Country' – NAIDOC Week 2025 Exhibition, Presented by Monash Council
Featuring Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung and Yorta-Yorta woman artist **Simone Thomson**
8 July – 19 July 2025, Thursdays & Fridays : 11am – 4pm, Saturdays : 11am – 3pm
Opening Event: Tuesday, 8 July | 6:30pm - 8pm, Free event – bookings essential.
Reserve your place at: www.trybooking.com/DCTXJ

Call for Expressions of Interest

The MONCAS Committee is seeking expressions of interest from member artists for the following opportunities:

- **Exhibitions at The Track Gallery** – Showcase your work through a solo or small group exhibition under the auspices of MONCAS. One two-week exhibition slot is currently available from 31 March to 13 April 2026. For further details and the booking form, please contact us at reachmoncas@gmail.com
- **Art Connect Monthly Sessions** – Facilitate a beginner-level, 1.5-hour art or craft workshop to be held between October 2025 and June 2026. Please email your proposal—including your workshop idea and topic—to reachmoncas@gmail.com

We look forward to your ideas and contributions!

OUR LINKS:

www.moncas.org.au

www.facebook.com/thetrackgallery

www.instagram.com/moncas_thetrackgallery

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