



Position title	Head Curator, First Nations Art
National Gallery level	NGA Executive Level 2
Position number	NEW
Employment type	Ongoing, full time
Department	First Nations Art
Portfolio	Artistic Program
Immediate supervisor	Deputy Director
Direct reports	Senior Curator, First Nations Art (EL1) Curatorial Assistant, First Nations Art (NGA4) Coordinator, National Indigenous Art Triennial (NGA6)
Position location	National Gallery, Parkes, Kamberri/Canberra
Requirements	Australian Citizenship Police Check This role is only available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

ABOUT THE GALLERY – ABOUT OUR TEAM

The National Gallery is one of Australia’s leading visual arts institutions. The National Gallery is based in Canberra and is a vital part of the Australian cultural landscape. Our Purpose is to collect, preserve, promote and share the national collection of art. The Vision of the National Gallery is to be the international reference point for art in Australia, inspiring all people to explore, experience and learn. Our Values include boldness, integrity, respect and excellence.

WORKING AT THE GALLERY

When you work at the National Gallery you will be exposed to some of the world’s leading Australian and international art and artists. We are located in the National triangle on the waterfront and your lunchtimes can be spent in our beautiful sculpture garden or around Lake Burley Griffin.

We support flexible working practices, including working from home, and you will have access to low-cost, onsite car parking.

The National Gallery is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and we expect our people to share this commitment and work safely at all times.

We value the contribution that a diverse workforce brings and encourage people from a diverse background to apply. This might include identifying as First Nations peoples, people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse people and LGBTQIA+ people.

Position description – Head Curator, First Nations Art (PN NEW)

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

The Head Curator, First Nations Art leads a curatorial team responsible for advancing major transformation at the National Gallery. With extensive knowledge of art history and strong museum connections, the Head Curator, First Nations Art is responsible for the Gallery's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art collection and associated programs. Specifically, this involves providing advice, conducting responsive and proactive research, and developing curated content that aligns with the creative vision for the National Gallery. The position plays a pivotal role in ensuring the National Gallery fulfils its ambition of rethinking art from alternative geographies and multiple vantage points.

A crucial part of the role is excellence in collection documentation, recordkeeping, provenance and research.

This position translates the vision and strategy of the National Gallery into priorities for the First Nations Art Department, including ambitious programs for acquisition, exhibition, interpretation, publication, display, conservation and advocacy. The Head Curator supports the Deputy Director and senior leaders within the National Gallery to achieve organisational outcomes, advising and influencing strategic decisions and building organisational capability and culture. International in your outlook, the ability and willingness to undertake extensive travel nationally and internationally and to attend out of hours functions is essential.

This role constitutes an affirmative measure under section 8(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 and is only available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

An order of merit may be established from this selection process and may be used to fill future identical vacancies over the next 12 months.

If you do not wish to be added to an order of merit, please notify us in your application.

This position reports to the Deputy Director and is responsible for a number of direct reports. This position of Head Curator, First Nations Art is an ongoing full-time role with the First Nations Art team.

SKILLS AND CAPABILITY - OUR IDEAL CANDIDATE

To be successful in this role you will have a passion for art and culture along with significant specialist knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art demonstrated by a track record of exhibitions, collection development and publishing. With an impressive track record of making exhibitions, of different scales, and a knowledge of innovative exhibition strategies, you will have the proven ability to play a leading role in developing and delivering a program of curatorial activities. You will have a broad knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and visual culture, with an interest in societal and national contexts. You will also be committed to the role of contemporary art in a museum also devoted to modern art. As a senior leader you will contribute your creativity and expertise to practices and processes that will positively shape the future of the National Gallery. You will do this by operating strategically and working collaboratively with your colleagues across the National Gallery.

You will be a skilled leader who is resilient operating in a creative, dynamic and fast-paced work environment. You will exemplify the National Gallery's values and engender a culture of achievement, collaboration and agility. You are self-aware, encouraging and respecting of the diversity of ideas and perspectives that defines the National Gallery's workforce.

You will have excellent written and verbal communication skills and can demonstrate your experience of working with all forms of press and public relations media while being a confident advocate for the National Gallery's programs. Additionally you will have a strategic understanding of fundraising and an ability to play a leading role in attracting financial support and negotiating partnerships and loans for the National Gallery's programs.

As part of this role, you will need to travel and attend out of hours functions.

WHAT WILL YOU DO – DUTY STATEMENT

In accordance with the APS EL2 work level standards, you will:

- Lead the development of First Nations Art content and interpretation, including by securing exceptional acquisitions, loans and exhibitions from public and private collections around the world, as well as touring the collection and non-collection exhibitions to regional national and international venues. This is done in response to and within the vision for the creative and artistic program of the National Gallery.
- Draw upon art historical and curatorial expertise to conceive, research, develop and deliver existing and new concepts for distinguished and imaginative exhibitions, publications and collection displays which appeal to a broad audience and enhance the National Gallery's reputation for scholarship and quality.
- Ensure due diligence and a sound and ethical position across the spectrum of curatorial activities.
- Foster and achieve excellence in collection documentation and recordkeeping.
- Champion fresh thinking and approaches to the visual arts and seize opportunities to be creative, experimental and innovative.
- Provide high quality representation of the National Gallery through talks, lectures, and other events, ensuring alignment with the National Gallery's objectives.
- Provide strategic oversight of the National Gallery's First Nations Art department, including leadership of a team of specialists, collaboration with teams across the National Gallery and continually developing credibility and reputation within the field of curatorial responsibility, to ensure effective management and delivery of high-quality exhibitions in line with the National Gallery's mission and values.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

To be successful in this role you will need to demonstrate, or have the ability to develop the following,

You will:

- **Inspires a sense of purpose and direction** and translates the strategy into operational goals and creates a shared sense of purpose within the business unit. Engages others in the strategic direction of the work area, encourages their contribution and communicates expected outcomes.
- **Steers and implements change and deals with uncertainty** and establishes clear plans and timeframes for project implementation and outlines specific activities. Responds in a positive and flexible manner to change and uncertainty. Shares information with others and assists them to adapt.
- **Values individual differences and diversity** and recognises the positive benefits that can be gained from diversity and encourages the exploration of diverse views. Harnesses understanding of differences to enhance interactions. Recognises the different working styles of individuals, and tries to see things from different perspectives.
- **Engages with risk and shows personal courage** and provides impartial and forthright advice. Challenges important issues constructively, and stands by own position when challenged. Acknowledges mistakes and learns from them, and seeks guidance and advice when required.
- **Communicates clearly** and confidently presents messages in a clear, concise and articulate manner. Focuses on key points and uses appropriate, unambiguous language. Selects the most appropriate medium for conveying information and structures written and oral communication to ensure clarity.

HOW TO APPLY

You should provide a tailored CV (**maximum of three pages**) along with a statement of no more than **two pages** that outlines your skills, capabilities and experience, against the 'Our ideal candidate' information above.

In your statement response you should keep in mind the capabilities and behaviours required to be successful for this role, as identified in the 'Who are we looking for?' section.

Try not to duplicate information that can be found in your CV but do highlight any specific examples or achievements that demonstrate your ability to perform the role.

As part of your application process, we ask that you also complete the personal particulars form as well.

To apply for this role please forward your application to recruitment@nga.gov.au.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for this role you **must**:

- be an Australian citizen
- complete a police check
- Qualifications or equivalent experience in art history, curatorial practice or a related field and experience in an art gallery/museum environment.
- Professional certification and/or membership of relevant professional associations **is desirable**.

This vacancy is only open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

Work, Health & Safety Obligations

The National Gallery is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and we expect our people to share this commitment and work safely at all times.

This role is required to ensure that they meet duty of care obligations as required under WHS legislation. This is achieved by:

- being accountable and taking ownership of health and safety matters within their control or ability to promote a culture of health and safety within the National Gallery
- working with colleagues to enhance health and safety and ensure that it becomes a part of everyday National Gallery business.
- completing health and safety reporting in an accurate and timely manner.

CONTACT

Further information about the position may be obtained by contacting Jennifer Barrett, Executive Officer, on +61 2 6240 6417 or Jennifer.Barrett@nga.gov.au.