

MADELEINE PRESTON FEMALE ARTIST AWARD GUIDELINES

SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING AUSTRALIAN FEMALE VISUAL ARTISTS BASED IN NEW SOUTH WALES TO DEVELOP AND ADVANCE THEIR ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Established in 2026, the Madeleine Preston Female Artist Award celebrates artistic achievement and recognises the impact of Australian female visual artists on Australian contemporary art landscape. The accompanying funds acknowledge this achievement and may be used at the awarded artists' discretion.

Funds will be administered via the Australian Cultural Fund (ACF) and paid following completion of required registration.

KEY DATES

Entries Open	Monday 27 July 2026
Entries Close	Friday 25 September 2026, 5PM AEST
Finalists Announced	Friday 23 rd October 2026
Award Ceremony	Wednesday 18 th November 2026
Award Exhibition	Every Saturday, from 21 st November 2026 to 13 th December 2026 All other times by appointment only

AWARD DETAILS

- Award Winner: \$10,000
- Runner-up: \$3,000

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, you must:

- Identify as a woman
- Be aged 18 years or over at the time of application
- Be a practising visual artist
- Be based in New South Wales
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident

ELIGIBLE WORKS

- The award is open to all forms of contemporary visual art, including but not limited to painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, video, and mixed media.
- All submitted works must be original work and created by the applicant.
- Artists may submit up to three works in one application.

HOW TO APPLY

- All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants by the closing date.
- Application must be completed in full and submitted with supporting material as requested.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Multiple entries from the same applicant will not be accepted.

Link to apply: <https://equitytrustees.smartygrants.com.au/MPFAA26>

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by an independent judging panel. Home@735 Gallery may also provide administrative and exhibition advice as required.

Works will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Conceptual strength
- Originality and innovation
- Technical skill and execution
- Potential impact of the award on the artist's ongoing development

All decisions are final. Judges will declare any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves where appropriate.

JUDGING PANEL

Lynda Draper is an Australian artist whose practice is primarily focused on ceramics. Over a career spanning more than four decades, she has also worked extensively as a teacher, lecturer, and mentor. From 2016 to 2023, Draper served as Head of Ceramics at the National Art School in Sydney.

In 2023, she was invited to participate in The National 4: Australian Art Now. In 2025, Campbelltown Arts Centre presented Lynda Draper: Glimmer, a major survey exhibition that brought together significant works from across her career.

Draper is the recipient of awards, including the 2019 Sydney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, the 16th Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award, and the 54th Acquisition Award at MIC, Faenza, Italy. Draper's work is held in significant national and international collections.

Draper is represented by Sullivan+Strumpf Sydney/Melbourne/Singapore and Galerie Lefebvre & Fils, Paris, France.

Samantha Ferris lives and works in Gadigal Land/Sydney. She is an arts project manager with more than 15 years experience in the contemporary art sector. Samantha completed a Master of Arts (Art History) with Distinction in 2012 at the University of Sydney, and soon after established Galerie pompom, a commercial gallery she co-directed until 2022. The gallery presented 160+ exhibitions by 200+ Australian and international artists. Samantha worked on all aspects of every exhibition, helping to develop the careers of many artists.

From 2023-2025 Samantha was employed as Curator at 3:33 Art Projects, an organisation that presents exhibitions in corporate settings, and in local high schools through its Young Curators program. An independent Curator and Project Manager since 2022, Samantha has worked with Australian and international artists to produce exhibitions and public program events in Sydney and beyond.

Tina Havelock Stevens is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans video and film, photography, sound, improvised performance, installation, painting and text. Drawing on her background as both a documentary filmmaker and post punk drummer, her practice is informed by an ongoing interest in the

psyche, drawing on psychological and philosophical ideas to investigate memory, perception, and the seen and unseen forces that shape human experience.

Havelock Stevens is the recipient of the prestigious 65th Blake Prize (2018) and the 55th Fisher Ghost Prize (2017). She has held studio residencies at Carriageworks and most recently Artspace, Sydney.

Recent major projects include her exhibition !! at Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2026; Performances THUNDERHEAD and Conduit for a lift, Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2026; Naytcha Nurture at Cassandra Bird Gallery, 2025, Now is a Beginning, Bathurst Regional Gallery, 2025; the acclaimed sound and light installation SONIC LUMINESCENCE Pedestrian Link, Metro Martin Place, Sydney, 2024; Hear Here, a permanent sound installation for the Sydney Football Stadium, 2022; the largescale audio-visual installation Thank You for Holding, Carriageworks for Sydney Festival, 2021; and Hasta La Bella Vista Baby, commissioned for C3West on behalf of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, 2019.

Collections: Artbank, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Newcastle Art Gallery, Macquarie Group Collection, Art Gallery of New South Wales and numerous private collections

Havelock Stevens is represented by Cassandra Bird Gallery.

FINALISTS

Artists selected as finalists will be required to:

- Exhibit their selected work at Home@735 Gallery in Sydney.
- Enter into an agreement with Home@735 Gallery. The agreement will set out all aspects of the exhibition, including exhibition requirements, installation, promotion, sales, and commission arrangements.
- Deliver their work to and from the gallery at their own expense.
- Ensure all works are exhibition-ready, suitably framed or mounted where required, and accompanied by installation instructions for non-standard displays.
- Consult with Home@735 Gallery in advance regarding any specialised installation, technical or equipment requirements.
- Ensure their selected work remains available for the full exhibition period.
- Collect their work by the date advised by Home@735 Gallery following the exhibition.

Home@735 Gallery will provide finalists with any applicable requirements relating to artwork specifications, dimensions, installation and media formats.

Attendance at the award ceremony is strongly encouraged.

Home@735 Gallery will insure artworks while on exhibition at the gallery. Artists are responsible for all transport arrangements and transit insurance to and from the gallery.

Finalist works will not be acquired by Home@735 Gallery unless separately agreed.

By accepting selection as a finalist, artists consent to Equity Trustees and Home@735 Gallery using and publishing their name, biography, artwork images and details of the selected work for award administration, exhibition, promotional and publicity purposes.

Home@735 Gallery reserves the right not to exhibit any work that:

- differs materially from the work submitted in the application;
- presents safety, conservation or operational concerns; or
- cannot reasonably be accommodated within the exhibition space.

AWARD WINNERS

The Award Winner and Runner-up will be required to:

- Register a profile with the Australian Cultural Fund (ACF).
- Complete a short acquittal report via ACF platform.

Further details regarding timelines will be provided.

ENQUIRIES

Email: activephilanthropy@eqt.com.au

Phone: 1300 133 472