

# Alchemy

Transforming  
Visual Arts  
Curriculum  
& Pedagogy

23 | 05 | 2025



24 | 05 | 2025

## DAY 1 FRIDAY

<b>8:00 - 8:45am</b>	Registration, Tea and Coffee
<b>9:00 - 9:30am</b>	Welcome to/Acknowledgement of Country  Welcome <i>Alchemy</i> Day 1   VADEA Co-Presidents  National Art School Welcome   Kristen Sharp, NAS Director & CEO
<b>9:30 - 10:20am</b>	Artist Keynote   Mike Parr
<b>10:20 - 10:30am</b>	NAS Overview
<b>10:30 - 11:00am</b>	Morning Tea & Sponsors' Marketplace
<b>11:00am - 12:00pm</b>	Curriculum Keynote Presentations
<b>12:00 - 12:30pm</b>	Honorary and Life Membership & Sponsorship Presentation
<b>12:30 - 1:30pm</b>	Lunch & Sponsors' Marketplace
<b>1:30 - 2:30pm</b>	Curriculum Breakout Session 1
<b>2:40 - 3:40pm</b>	Curriculum Breakout Session 2
<b>3:45 - 4:30pm</b>	Curriculum Keynote   Dr Kate Coleman, University of Melbourne
<b>4:30pm</b>	Conclusion Day 1
<b>4:45 - 7:00pm</b>	Complimentary VADEA Cocktail Party

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## DAY 2 SATURDAY

**8:00 - 8:45am** Registration, Tea and Coffee

**9:00 - 9:25am** Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome *Alchemy* Day 2 | VADEA Co-Presidents

National Art School Welcome

**9:25 - 9:40am** NAS Dobell Drawing Prize Resource | Cecilia Jackson,  
NAS Education Coordinator

**9:40 - 10:30am** Artist Keynote | Juz Kitson

**10:30 - 11:00am** Morning Tea & Sponsors' Marketplace

**11:00am - 1:00pm** Saturday Breakout Session 1

**1:00 - 1:50pm** Lunch & Sponsors' Marketplace

**1:50 - 2:50pm** Saturday Breakout Session 2

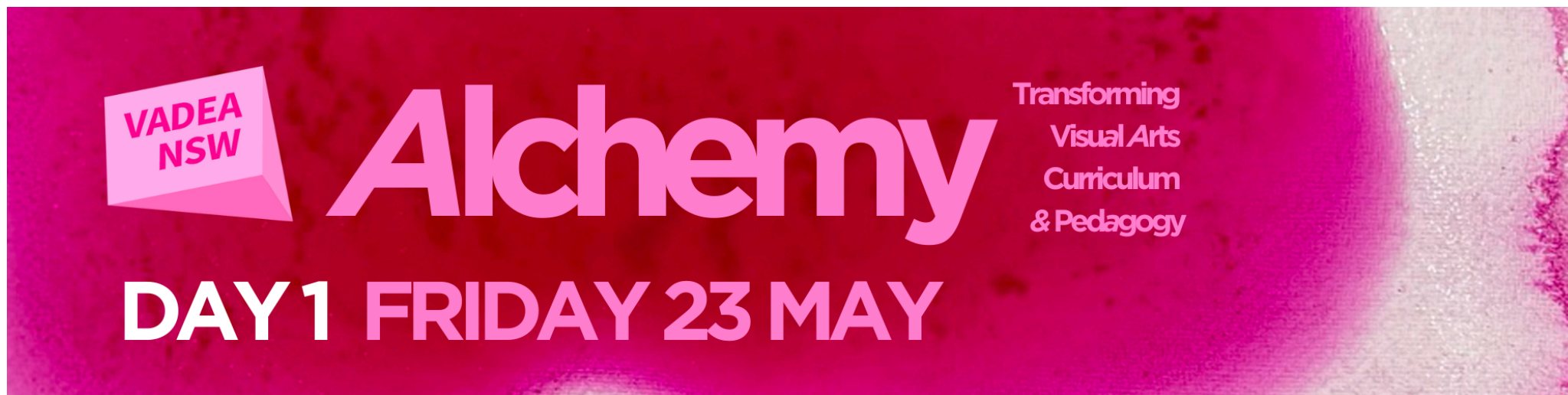
**2:50 - 3:50pm** Artist Keynote | Ben Denham

**3:50 - 4:00pm** Thank you & Conference close



VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN  
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL  
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## FRIDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

CURRICULUM BREAKOUTS: 1:30 - 2:30pm	WHAT TO BRING
<p><b>BREAKOUT 1 - Alchemy in Action: Transforming Syllabuses into Practice</b></p> <p>Melanie Taylor, Co-President - Advocacy and Communications, VADEA NSW            Helen Yip, Executive Member - Advocacy, State and National Issues, VADEA NSW            Jane Lancaster, Junior Visual Arts Teacher, Redlands School</p> <p>This 60-minute workshop will explore practical strategies for implementing the new K–6 Creative Arts and 7–10 Visual Arts syllabuses. Participants will gain key insights into navigating the online curriculum platform and understanding the structure and components of each syllabus. In the second part of the workshop, participants will have the option to focus more specifically on either the K–6 Creative Arts or the 7–10 Visual Arts syllabus. The session also offers an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and reflect on individual implementation plans.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 2 -</b></p> <p><b>Twisting the Narrative - Year 10 Body Of Work</b></p> <p>Mariclaire Pringle, Visual Arts Teacher, St Spyridon College</p> <p>A presentation of a Unit of Work, 'Twisting the Narrative - a retelling of fairy tales' that Mariclaire has been running for the last two years in school. In this unit, students complete a mini-BOW using the material practices of their choice</p>	<p><b>Participants should bring a device e.g. a laptop or iPad.</b></p>

<p>when investigating the topic. I will cover strategies developed to guide the students and ways of differentiation for different learning styles. Examples of student work and artworks to be studied will be shown.</p> <p><b>The Menagerie: a Stage 4 unit of work exploring the representation of animals in art</b></p> <p>Rebekah O'Neill, Visual Arts Teacher, Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School</p> <p>The Menagerie is a Stage 4 unit of work that offers a cultural exploration of the traditions and conventions of drawing and sculptural techniques used to make animal artworks. It embodies a study of different beliefs about and meanings relating to the representation of animals in art in a range of cultures, including consideration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.</p> <p>The unit extends students' practical skills in both 2D and 3D art forms through engagement with relevant case study artists including Durer, Mulga, and the Tjanpi Desert Weavers. It broadens students' understanding of the Cultural viewpoint and the Artworld concepts and how they are used to inspire artistic practice. Participants in this workshop will be presented with a flexible unit of work that addresses Stage 4 outcomes with the central thematic core around representations of animals in art. Participants will gain access to the unit and presenter-developed resources developed to suit its delivery. This includes a critical and historical artwork analysis scaffold using TEEEC paragraphing structure, and practical assessments involving approaches to drawing and sculpture.</p> <p>This program and resources may be adapted to participants' own classroom practice to support their students' needs and contexts.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 3 - VADEA Professional Learning and Research Grants, and WACOM: Art in the Digital Age</b></p> <p><b>VADEA Professional Learning and Research Grants</b></p> <p>Wendy Ramsay, VADEA Director of Professional Learning and Tamara Lawry, VADEA Professional Learning and Research Grants Officer.</p> <p>Presentations by 2024 VADEA Symbiosis: Professional Learning and Research Grant recipients:  <i>A Symbiotic Approach to Visual Arts Core Concepts</i> investigating aspects of the new -6 Creative Arts (Visual Arts) and 7-10 Visual Arts Syllabus with Justine Barratt and <i>Art Adventures En Plein Air</i>, a Cross Stage 3 and 4 Visual Arts unit of work collaboration with Laura Kneebone and Alex Anastas.</p> <p><b>Art in the Digital Age</b></p> <p>Bill Hope, Illustrator, WACOM</p> <p>Join artist Bill Hope, illustrator of Andy Griffiths' <i>Land of the Lost Things</i>, for an engaging session on crafting dynamic digital art lessons that ignite creativity and empower students in the digital age. In this presentation, Bill will share his techniques, tools, and platforms for teaching digital art, offering insights on how to inspire the next generation of</p>	

<p>artists. Watch as he demonstrates how to preserve a traditional art style while working digitally on a Wacom tablet, blending timeless artistic techniques with cutting-edge technology.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 4 - Visual Arts Curriculum Reform and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program</b></p> <p>Nicole De Losa, Executive Member - Research and Resource Development, VADEA NSW and Head of Department, Visual Arts at Trinity Grammar School</p> <p>The new IBDP Visual Arts course emphasises art-making as inquiry and aims to foster creativity, communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. This breakout introduces participants to the new course structure - organised into three core areas: create, connect, and communicate and the new assessment artefacts. With an emphasis on a flexible creative process that encourages the synthesis of conceptual and material practices, students are asked to reflect on the relationship between artist, artwork, context, and audience, supported by a clear definition of cultural significance.</p>	<p><b>Bring your own device is optional.</b></p> <p><b>Please note that this workshop is only accessible by stairs.</b></p>
<p><b>BREAKOUT 5 - ARTEXPRESS Virtual: World-leading Innovation in Every Classroom</b></p> <p>Kate Dowland, ARTEXPRESS Project Officer; Andy Lasaitis, Education Initiative Coordinator; Ron Pratt, ARTEXPRESS Virtual Coordinator; ARTEXPRESS, The Arts Unit, Department of Education.</p> <p>ARTEXPRESS representatives will provide a virtual walk through of the 2024 exhibition, as well as provide delegates with an opportunity to explore the many teaching and learning opportunities the interface provides.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 6 - ARTificial Intelligence: AI in the Visual Arts Classroom</b></p> <p>Faye Alexandria, Turrumurra High School</p> <p>This session explores the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in the Visual Arts classroom, offering practical strategies for its effective and ethical use in teaching and learning. While AI is a rapidly evolving field, its successful implementation requires careful consideration of both the benefits and potential pitfalls. We will start with a rationale behind embracing AI in education, bust some myths and address real concerns around AI use and plagiarism. We will then explore concrete examples of AI-driven activities for both Artmaking, and Critical and Historical Studies. We will include time in the session for questions and open discussion. Participants will receive resources including a sample school AI policy, a sample presentation on plagiarism and AI that can be given to students, and resources for activities and assessment tasks that use different levels of AI (such as image generators and LLMs such as ChatGPT) - including useful templates for AI prompts.</p>	<p><b>Participants are required to bring a charged laptop or tablet.</b></p>



<p><b>BREAKOUT 7 - Dobell Drawing Prize #24 - Gallery Tour and Drawing Workshop</b></p> <p>Katrina Cashman, Gallery Manager and Senior Curator, National Art School</p> <p>Join the NAS Gallery Team as they take you through the Dobell Drawing Prize #24. Once you have immersed yourself in the exhibition, a VADEA executive member will lead you in a series of drawing exercises responding to the exhibition.</p>	<p><b>Bring your own sketchbook and graphite pencils.</b></p>
<p><b>CURRICULUM BREAKOUTS: 2:40 - 3:40pm</b></p>	<p><b>WHAT TO BRING</b></p>
<p><b>BREAKOUT 1 - MANIFESTO! For Art, Teaching and Learning.</b></p> <p>Vicky Browne and Yvette Hamilton, Senior Lecturer in Visual Arts, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney</p> <p>Join contemporary artists Vicky Browne and Yvette Hamilton (Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney) in an expansive and interactive session where we will explore the power of the Manifesto within art, teaching and learning. The Manifesto form can be simultaneously playful, yet powerful, and can be a compelling and potent way for students (and teachers) to identify their values, goals and ideals within their art making and learning.</p> <p>The workshop will guide participants through two rounds of Manifesto: firstly, a framework for students that will guide them to identify their practice, methodology, conceptual frameworks, and reference points for the development of their artworks; and secondly a Manifesto for teachers that will guide participants to identify and connect with their own teaching and making manifesto.</p> <p>Based on activities and workshops developed for first year Visual Arts tertiary students at Sydney College of the Arts, this workshop is particularly suited for Stage 6 teachers and their students but can also be effective for those teaching younger students.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 2 - Behind the Scenes at The National Art School Archive and Collection</b></p> <p>Sonia Legge, Curator, Collections at the National Art School</p> <p>Join Collections Curator Sonia Legge for a behind the scene tour of The National Art School (NAS) Archive and Collection. The NAS Archive and Collection contains over 7000 items relating to the use of this site as both an art school and as Darlinghurst Gaol, 1841-1914.</p> <p>The Collection contains original artworks by alumni and past and present teachers as well as supporting documentation, photographs, maps, posters and plaster casts. We also hold historical information about male and female prisoners, guards, hangmen, governors of the prison, bushrangers and their experiences within these buildings.</p> <p>The tour will include our ceramics collection and Collection Room where the bulk of our material is stored.</p>	

<p><b>BREAKOUT 3 - Dobell Drawing Prize #24 - Gallery Tour and Drawing Workshop (repeat session)</b></p> <p>Lucy Latella, Curator, Dobell Drawing Prize, National Art School</p> <p>Join the NAS Gallery Team as they take you through the Dobell Drawing Prize #24. Once you have immersed yourself in the exhibition, a VADEA executive member will lead you in a series of drawing exercises responding to the exhibition.</p>	<p><b>Bring your own sketchbook and graphite pencils.</b></p>
<p><b>BREAKOUT 4 - From Past to Present: A Sketchbook Tour of the National Art School</b></p> <p>Cecilia Jackson, Education Coordinator, National Art School</p> <p>Embark on a creative journey through the National Art School campus. Led by Cecilia, this workshop will guide you through the rich history and distinctive architecture of the site. Along the way, you'll pause at key locations to create plein air studies, creating a visual record that bridges the past and present.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 5 - Implementing GenAI in NSW Art Education</b></p> <p>Nicole De Losa, VADEA NSW and Head of Department, Visual Arts at Trinity Grammar School</p> <p>As part of a collaborative professional learning team that reflected, applied and evaluated the use of GenAI in classrooms, the presenters incorporated a range of applications to enhance student art making and classroom learning. They participated in an academic writing workshop at UTS, where they co-wrote a yet to be published article on how their case studies extended their teaching practice in this innovative new opportunity for teachers. The Visual Arts initiatives they developed including enhancement of HSC Body of Works, Stage 4 art making tasks and developing art programs and resources for the classroom. Participants of this breakout will learn about the range of AI used and the ways GenAI was applied to the delivery and enhancement of Visual Arts teaching and learning.</p>	<p><b>Bring your own device is optional.</b></p> <p><b>Please note that this workshop is only accessible by stairs.</b></p>
<p><b>BREAKOUT 6 - Collaboratively Conducting Curation with the Creative Arts Secondary Curriculum Team</b></p> <p>Brooke Barty and Nicole Theodoris, Creative Arts Curriculum Advisors, Department of Education, Secondary Curriculum.</p> <p>This session will provide Visual Arts educators with practical strategies for designing effective scopes and sequences aligned with the new Visual Arts 7–10 syllabus. Participants will engage in hands-on activities that promote creative thinking and cater to a wide range of learners, ensuring an inclusive and adaptable approach to syllabus implementation. The workshop will offer a collaborative space for teachers to explore the new content points, with a particular focus on curatorial practice.</p>	



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## DAY 2 SATURDAY 24 MAY

### SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 11:00am - 1:00pm		WHAT TO BRING
<b>BREAKOUT 1 - LIFE DRAWING, PHYSICALITY AND POETICS</b> Luke Thurgate, Drawing Lecturer, National Art School  In this workshop, participants will work directly from a life model using a range of techniques and experiments to depict the human form. The workshop will begin with analysis of the body, introducing strategies for representing gesture and form. From there participants will be encouraged to explore narrative, subjective and poetic possibilities of working with the model, employing a range of playful approaches.		Please note that this workshop is only accessible by stairs.
<b>BREAKOUT 2 - Exploring Cyanotype, Photogram &amp; Darkroom</b> Steven Cavanagh, Lecturer Photomedia, National Art School  In this workshop participants will investigate some of analogue photography's visual and conceptual possibilities where chance and mark making are a welcome component of the process.  Participants will explore image making via cyanotype, photogram and various darkroom techniques. These techniques invite makers to play with the photographic medium and to devise their own particular creative interpretation and response to it. Participants will use light as a tool, medium and object while exploring a series of		Please bring an apron to this workshop, as well as objects (transparent and or opaque) to use with photogram and cyanotype. These objects should be no larger than your hand. Some examples include lace, glass, toys and plastics.



<p>challenges to make new and unexpected works of art. The photographic process can be viewed as an action or at times collaboration with a photographic outcome.</p> <p>This workshop has been designed as a series of short response activities in which participants will discover aspects of photography's unique relationship to image making.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 3 - Into a world of wonder with Juz Kitson: Make an exquisite porcelain object</b></p> <p>Juz Kitson, Ceramic Artist</p> <p>Join Juz Kitson, acclaimed Australian Contemporary Ceramic Artist, for a very special workshop for the VADEA conference, to create an exquisite porcelain object. Learn from Juz to create a wondrous, eclectic, challenging, and thought-provoking object that pushes the boundaries of porcelain while creating a sense of wonderment along the way. Participants will be encouraged to be bold and explorative through their porcelain object making and to challenge the traditional notions of a material steeped in history. Referencing patterns in nature from the natural environment, both oceanic and dense jungle landscapes.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 4 - Contemporary Interior Spaces</b></p> <p>Nicole Kelly, Artist, National Art School</p> <p>The workshop will explore Contemporary Interior Spaces in oils or acrylics. The workshop begins with Nicole setting an interior to draw from life and then creating a sustained painting.</p> <p>Nicole Kelly has a colour focused approach to teaching painting, where she will discuss palette setup, colour mixing and composition, mark making and the journey from sketching to complete studio paintings. She also focuses on composition, line, the illusion of space, the use of a coloured ground, and how to incorporate these elements to direct the eye across the picture plane.</p> <p>Nicole references modernist and painters such as Matisse, Bonnard, Lois Dodd and Mamma Andersson etc through books and slides.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 5 - Print Pak and Play: The Fun of Intaglio Tetra Pak Printmaking</b></p> <p>Mirra Whale, Printmaking Lecturer, National Art School</p> <p>Tetra pak printing introduces the Intaglio process by using tetra paks and other coated recycled card packaging. The matrix offers a quick and easy effective graphic medium. The process combines drypoint, chine colle and various mark making techniques. The workshop uses water based inks and can be catered to suit most age groups.</p>	

<p><b>BREAKOUT 6 - Empowering Ceramic Goddess Workshop - Developing a Socially Engaged Collaborative Practice</b></p> <p>Tamara Lawry, Visual Art Teacher Finigan School of Distance Education and Beth Beatty, Artist and Educator, National Gallery of Australia and Jerrabomberra High School</p> <p>This workshop explores the benefits of socially engaged art making practice and "process over product" in a socially engaged workshop designed to empower participants and encourage the practice of collaborative social art making and its benefits. Participants will explore ideas of self identity and empowerment through reflective activities to inspire the development of their figure. Techniques in hand building and using an armature to develop a form will lead participants to create a clay figure representation. Participants will underglaze their figures and document them and their process. The figures will be fired and contribute to the collaborative Goddess Parade in Tamara's Homeground Exhibition to be held in 2026. The parade represents the power of community collaboration and the exhibition is a celebration for participants who wish to join from across NSW and ACT. Figures can be collected after the exhibition.</p>	<p><b>Participants are required to bring their own apron.</b></p>
<p><b>BREAKOUT 7 - Artist-led learning with the National Gallery of Australia</b></p> <p>Harriet Body, Creative Learning Convenor and Emma Hodges, Lead Artist Educator, National Gallery of Australia</p> <p>Our presentation will demonstrate National Gallery Artist Educator practice through the delivery of a two-hour workshop for teachers, adapted from the National Gallery's PACER program, Stories: Australian People and Places.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 8 - Elaboratory of Colour</b></p> <p>Dr Natalie O'Connor, Artist and Art Educator</p> <p>The Elaboratory of Colour: where pigment meets place, and the artist's palette becomes a powerful tool for learning and discovery.</p> <p>Join artist and educator Dr Natalie O'Connor for The Elaboratory of Colour—a hands-on, immersive workshop where the worlds of science and art collide. Reconsider the artist's palette through sensorial responses to landscape, playful pigment experimentation, and a critical look at historical colour conventions. Explore alternative ways of mixing and understanding material colour through the lens of contemporary art practice, challenging the systems that have long shaped how we teach and experience colour.</p> <p>Participants will leave with practical, adaptable classroom activities and techniques for both primary through to senior students. This immersive approach fosters a deeper understanding of material colour, enriching contemporary painting practices and cultivating a reflective connection to place. Materials for workshop supplied.</p>	

<p><b>BREAKOUT 9 - Landscape: Form, Mark, Light, Texture, Watercolour, Gouache and Mixed Media</b></p> <p>Carla Hananiah, Artist, Eckersley's Art and Craft</p> <p>Immerse yourself in the genre of landscape by experimenting with a range of expressive techniques in watercolour and gouache. This hands-on workshop offers a creative space for participants to build confidence with using watercolour through guided mark-making exercises and tonal studies.</p> <p>An opportunity to extend your practice by integrating gouache and mixed media, exploring how these materials can interact to create depth, contrast, and mood. Participants will produce a series of artworks that explore different approaches and techniques, developing new skills, pushing boundaries and sparking new ideas.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 10 - AI Alchemy in Visual Arts</b></p> <p>Janna Adams Tess, Director of Visual Arts, Sydney Grammar School and Jessica Priebe, Lecturer Art History and Theory, National Art School</p> <p>This hands-on workshop is ideal for educators seeking to understand how advancements in AI and decentralised web technologies are influencing creative and critical thinking in Visual Arts education. The workshop will highlight two recent case studies from Sydney Grammar Edgecliff Preparatory School (K-6) and Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College (Year 8), illustrating and providing practical insights into how AI and Metaverse technologies can be integrated into the K-6 Creative Arts Syllabus (2024) and Stage 4 of the 7-10 Creative Arts Syllabus (2024).</p> <p>Participants will paint, remix their artworks using AI tools, and then exhibit both artworks in an immersive virtual gallery on a Metaverse platform. The artworks will be inspired by the philosophy and paintings of Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928–2000), an artist and ecological activist known for his “no straight lines” approach to art and architecture. The session will provide examples of how an artist’s work can guide educators in using AI and emerging technologies to help students make connections between and among the Artworld concepts. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussions on the affordances, limitations, challenges and ethical considerations of these technologies, while gaining practical insights into classroom application. The session will conclude with a virtual walk-through of the VADEA Metaverse gallery, where participants will interact with their artworks via avatars, reflecting on the potential of these technologies to reshape students’ art practices.</p>	

SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 1:50 - 2:50pm	WHAT TO BRING
<p><b>BREAKOUT 1 - Alchemy - Unboring Drawing</b></p> <p>Nic Plowman, Education Manager, Zart</p> <p>Join artist Nic Plowman for an immersive workshop that encourages play, experimentation, and a fresh approach to drawing. Through a series of guided exercises, you will explore the tension between traditional rendering techniques and the energy of expressive mark-making—shifting between precision and spontaneity to uncover new ways of seeing and making. This hands-on session invites you to break, bend, and blend traditional approaches, using gesture, movement, and layered processes to push drawing beyond observation. In the final stage, you'll take your work in an unexpected direction—challenging conventions and opening up new possibilities for process and outcomes. Designed to challenge, inspire, and expand both personal and classroom practice, this workshop equips educators with adaptable strategies to foster creative confidence, risk-taking, and deeper student engagement.</p>	<p><b>A4 or A3 printed headshot of you or someone else. Bring image on a tablet or phone.</b></p> <p><b>Please note that this workshop is only accessible by stairs.</b></p>
<p><b>BREAKOUT 2 - From Past to Present: A Sketchbook Tour of the National Art School (repeat session)</b></p> <p>Cecilia Jackson, Education Coordinator, National Art School</p> <p>Embark on a creative journey through the National Art School campus. Led by Cecilia, this workshop will guide you through the rich history and distinctive architecture of the site. Along the way, you'll pause at key locations to create plein air studies, creating a visual record that bridges the past and present.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 3 - Serious Serendipity: Art Library Practice at the National Art School</b></p> <p>Lea Simpson, Head Librarian, National Art School</p> <p>Join National Art School Head Librarian Lea Simpson on a tour of expanded information and visual literacy approaches, collection adventures, and tightly packed programming delivered at the NAS Library. Go behind the scenes, explore the NAS Artist Book collection, learn about how you can access the NAS Library resources and more.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 4 - CAC BEYOND THE FRAME</b></p> <p>Celeste Wrona, Education Officer, and Samantha Relihan, Education and Creative Learning Programs Assistant - Campbelltown Arts Centre</p> <p>This immersive workshop invites participants to explore the rich interplay between artmaking and curatorial practice, uncovering how creative expression and exhibition choices shape meaning and audience engagement. Through hands-on mixed media artmaking, group curation, and guided discussions, participants will experience the artist-curator dynamic first hand—selecting themes, arranging works, and considering how curatorial decisions</p>	

<p>influence interpretation. With practical strategies for integrating these insights into teaching, aligned with the new NSW Visual Arts syllabuses, this workshop offers a fresh perspective on fostering creativity, critical thinking, and deeper connections to the artworld in the classroom.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 5 - Explicit Teaching of Still Life Painting for Stage 5 Visual Art Students while aligning with the new 7-10 Visual Arts syllabus.</b></p> <p>Nicola Murray, Visual Arts Teacher, Mount St Benedict College</p> <p>This presentation aims to provide an explicit teaching approach to still life painting for Stage 5 Visual Art students, aligning with the updated NSW Visual Arts 7–10 Syllabus (2024). Through structured learning activities, participants will explore fundamental artistic concepts such as composition, perspective, light, and storytelling in still life painting. The presentation will guide educators through the lesson sequence, incorporating traditional and digital techniques to enhance students’ artistic practice and conceptual development while ensuring a clear, structured, and scaffolded approach to learning.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 6 - Theory is Prac: practical exercises to improve analytical writing in the classroom</b></p> <p>Rebekah O’Neill, Visual Arts Teacher, Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School</p> <p>This presentation explores how we can use practical Art making exercises to deepen students' understanding of theoretical content and enhance their skills in critical and historical studies. In this session, participants engage with selected Stage 6 case study artists, embodying their Art making process practically through short learning exercises, before translating this understanding into a critical written response.</p> <p>Explicit teaching tools for enhancing student writing are used to assist students in taking the practical experience into a successful and succinct art analysis. Kinaesthetic experiences and explicit teaching practices guide students to more enriched learning, in turn, attempting to break the stigma between what is theory and what is prac.</p>	<p><b>Participants should bring a device e.g. a laptop or iPad.</b></p>
<p><b>BREAKOUT 7 - Into a world of wonder with Juz Kitson: Make an exquisite porcelain object.</b></p> <p>Juz Kitson, Ceramic artist</p> <p>Join Juz Kitson, acclaimed Australian Contemporary Ceramic Artist, for a very special workshop for the VADEA conference, to create an exquisite porcelain object. Learn from Juz to create a wondrous, eclectic, challenging, and thought-provoking object that pushes the boundaries of porcelain while creating a sense of wonderment along the way. Participants will be encouraged to be bold and explorative through their porcelain object making and to challenge the traditional notions of a material steeped in history. Referencing patterns in nature from the natural environment, both oceanic and dense jungle landscapes.</p>	



<p><b>BREAKOUT 8 - Implementing GenAI in NSW Art Education (repeat of Friday's session)</b></p> <p>Nicole De Losa, Executive Member - VADEA NSW and Head of Department, Visual Arts at Trinity Grammar School</p> <p>As part of a collaborative professional learning team that reflected, applied and evaluated the use of GenAI in classrooms, the presenters incorporated a range of applications to enhance student art making and classroom learning. They participated in an academic writing workshop at UTS, where they co-wrote a yet to be published article on how their case studies extended their teaching practice in this innovative new opportunity for teachers. The Visual Arts initiatives they developed including enhancement of HSC Body of Works, Stage 4 art making tasks and developing art programs and resources for the classroom. Participants of this breakout will learn about the range of AI used and the ways GenAI was applied to the delivery and enhancement of Visual Arts teaching and learning.</p>	
<p><b>BREAKOUT 9 - Elaboratory of Colour (repeat session)</b></p> <p>Dr Natalie O'Connor, Artist and Art Educator</p> <p>The Elaboratory of Colour: where pigment meets place, and the artist's palette becomes a powerful tool for learning and discovery.</p> <p>Join artist and educator Dr Natalie O'Connor for The Elaboratory of Colour—a hands-on, immersive workshop where the worlds of science and art collide. Reconsider the artist's palette through sensorial responses to landscape, playful pigment experimentation, and a critical look at historical colour conventions. Explore alternative ways of mixing and understanding material colour through the lens of contemporary art practice, challenging the systems that have long shaped how we teach and experience colour.</p> <p>Participants will leave with practical, adaptable classroom activities and techniques for both primary through to senior students. This immersive approach fosters a deeper understanding of material colour, enriching contemporary painting practices and cultivating a reflective connection to place. Materials for workshop supplied.</p>	

*\* Artwork imagery used for Alchemy logo banner supplied by artist Natalie O'Connor, 2024.*

**Alchemy: Transforming Visual Art Curriculum and Pedagogy** is a proud partnership between VADEA NSW and the National Art School.



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