

Ancher Points: Emerging Artist Initiative

Conceived by Penrith Regional Gallery, in consultation with our artist communities, *Ancher Points: Emerging Artists Intensive* is the inaugural professional development program designed specifically to support emerging artists from Greater Western Sydney in a contemporary regional gallery setting.

The program will take place in Ancher House, an architectural collaboration between Margo Lewers and renowned mid-century Architect, Sydney Ancher. It builds on the experimental, artistic and intellectual legacy of the original inhabitants, Gerald and Margo Lewers, who realised their creative vision at Emu Plains.

The program's focus is to provide an in-depth industry and peer-to-peer experience that promotes skills and knowledge exchange, while offering dynamic opportunities for artists to connect across the Greater Western Sydney region.

Penrith is a fast-growing regional city, tipped to drive Sydney's economic growth with its proximity to the new airport and expanding rail link. To prepare for this change, it's our vision to future proof Penrith as a cultural hub and become a leading incubator for the arts in Greater Western Sydney. *Ancher Points: Emerging Artist Initiative* invests in the next generation of artists who reflect our city's heart and tell its stories.

What is *Ancher Points*?

Ancher Points: Emerging Artist Initiative is offered as a long-term engagement with Penrith Regional Gallery from April – December 2023. It is unique in its extended length and the opportunity to develop an art project over a structured curriculum.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program has two distinct phases:

- Phase One: 5 x 6-hour intensive seminars over one week in Ancher House. April 2023
- Phase Two: Mentorship by key staff at PRG to develop a project and industry outcome. Various dates May – December 2023

Phase One – Week-long Intensive

Participants will be based at Ancher House, a modernist home which sits on the grounds of Penrith Regional Gallery at Emu Plains. Focusing on skills development and peer and industry connection, the daily schedule includes presentations, discussions, site visits and workshops developed by Penrith Regional Gallery and led by prominent curators, artists, and arts workers. The weeklong intensive provides emerging artists with the opportunity to open their eyes to a world of creative career pathways and possibilities.

Topics include:

- Professional pathways
- Working with Collections
- Artist Run Initiatives (ARI's), community spaces and collectives
- Practical writing
- Cultural competency

Phase Two - Mentorship

The Mentorship phase is focused on real practical industry outcomes for participants. Under supportive Mentorship participants are given the opportunity to assist in the creation of a project to be delivered at Penrith Regional Gallery in 2023.

The Mentorship includes:

- Exhibiting opportunities
- Development of tutor and workshop skills
- Exhibition development
- Basic artwork installation, WHS and object handling
- Administrative requirements to support burgeoning careers

KEY DATES

Ancher Points: Emerging Artist Intensive

- Applications Open: 1 February
- Applications Close: 28 February
- Successful applicants will be notified by: 8 March
- Phase One: 12 – 14, 17 & 18 April (face-to-face)
- Phase Two: Various dates throughout the year from May – December 2023 (online and face-to-face)

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Eligibility

- Greater Western Sydney based - i.e., lives, works or has a connection to Greater Western Sydney
- Emerging artist - first five years of practice
- Artists must be 18+ years to apply.

Commitment

Participating artists must commit to **Phase One** program schedule and will attend all dates listed. Non-attendance may result in you forfeiting from the program.

Wednesday 12 – Friday 14* April, and Monday 17 – Tuesday 18 April, 10am – 4pm daily.

*Friday's session will extend into the evening with a keynote speaker

Applicants are required to submit a:

1. Portfolio of your recent work (maximum 12 pages)
2. Half page statement about your artwork practice
3. One-page response that addresses the following criteria:
 - Who are you? And what stage of your practice are you at?
 - What do you hope to gain from this experience?
 - What are your goals as a visual artist?

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM

Fill out the form here:

Attach your responses via a Word document or PDF.

FURTHER QUERIES

Christine Smalley, Coordinator, Exhibition & Collection Christine.Smalley@penrith.city