

New partnership ignites visual arts in WA

Artsource with support from BHP Billiton help visual artists develop their practice



Artist Joanna Sulkowski in studio, 2014. Photo: Eva Fernandez

Artsource, the leading membership organisation for WA visual artists, with support from BHP Billiton, is excited to announce a new funding initiative for emerging and mid-career visual artists. The Artsource 'Ignite' initiative supports visual artists who are ready to take the next step in building their professional careers.

Through 'Ignite', Artsource will offer artists grants of \$2,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000 to invest in a project that further develops their professional practice. Their development project could, for example, be the start of a new artistic venture, research into a new area of work, or assist in developing new skills through a mentorship.

Gavin Buckley, Chief Executive of Artsource said, "Providing support for emerging and mid-career artists is vital and, thanks to BHP Billiton, this initiative can make a significant difference to the career and practice development of the recipient artists. In addition, it will help contribute to the vitality and sustainability of the visual arts in Western Australia."

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Artsource recognises that emerging artists, like many young professionals, are looking for a chance to develop their careers and get themselves established. Their experience makes clear that young artists, particularly indigenous artists in Perth, often find it difficult to step forward.

As part of the project, Artsource will not only provide full support for the participating artists, but also document their experiences and make this available as a resource for others.

Supporting the creative talents of emerging and mid-career artists is essential for the growth of both the artist and the development of visual arts in Perth. Being able to offer this opportunity to Artsource members is potentially life-changing, not only for each of the recipients, but also for those whom they can teach and involve in the experience as they continue to become established artists.

Applications for Ignite are now open and artists interested in applying can find more information online at artsource.net.au

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- Applications are now open to current Artsource members [here](#)
- Applications close on Monday 21st July
- The proposed projects must be undertaken 1 September 2014 – 1 May 2015
- Recipients will be chosen via selection panel

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

- Applicants must be a professional practicing artist post-tertiary fine arts training, or equivalent professional experience;
- Applicants must be current members of Artsource. Successful applicants must remain a financial member of Artsource leading up to and during the project period;
- Applicants must be Western Australian residents and have resided in Western Australia for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the application;
- Applicants must be willing to attend a short interview with the selection panel if shortlisted. [Where shortlisted applicants are from a regional area, a telephone conference will be arranged.]
- Students are not eligible to apply;
- This must be a new opportunity. This funding cannot be used to supplement funding for existing projects;
- Residency applications are not eligible as Artsource offers other avenues for residency funding. Contact residencies@artsource.net.au for more information.

– ENDS –

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Artsource is the peak membership body for visual artists in Western Australia

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We have over 900 members and provide them with professional services, opportunities and represent their interests. In addition to promoting our members and their work, Artsource champions the value of the visual arts to a growing audience across Western Australia, our nation and internationally.

For all enquiries, interviews and images contact

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