All entries to the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes containing electrical components must comply with the safety requirements from the AS/NZS 3000:2018 (The Wiring Rules) to ensure electrical components within artwork submissions are safe and compliant for our staff and for public exhibition. This document has been prepared as a guide for artists but compliance with the Wiring Rules is a condition of entry notwithstanding any interpretation of the standard set out here.

In Summary for the Artist:

The work must be constructed to the standard of a permanent, safe electrical installation. This means:

1. Professional Workmanship: any work involving wiring or connecting electrical components to mains power (240V) must be done or verified by a licensed electrician or electrical contractor in Australia or New Zealand.
2. Safety First: Absolutely no exposed wires, loose joints, or non-compliant equipment.
3. Protection: Ensure all cables are protected from damage and all people are protected from accidentally touching live components.

The Art Gallery requires a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) or a Test and Tag certification for the completed work to confirm it has been professionally tested and is safe to plug in.

AS/NZS 3000: Plain English Safety Requirements for Art Entries

The standard's fundamental objective is to protect people and property from electric shock, fire, and injury. For an art installation, compliance focuses on the following principles:

1. Equipment and Components

- Certified Parts Only: All electrical components, including cables, plugs, sockets, lights, switches, transformers, and power supplies, must be designed and rated for use in Australia or New Zealand and carry relevant certification marks (e.g., Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM)). Do not use uncertified, homemade, or cheap imported parts that lack safety ratings.
- Correct Ratings: All components must be correctly rated for the voltage (240V) and current (Amps) they will handle. Overloading parts creates a fire risk.
- Insulation and Enclosure: All live (electrically charged) parts must be fully enclosed or adequately insulated to prevent accidental contact (electric shock). No wires or terminals should be exposed to touch.

2. Wiring and Mechanical Protection

- Cable Protection: Any wiring used must be protected from physical damage, stress, abrasion, or sharp edges, especially where it passes through or around parts of the artwork (e.g., metal frames).
    - Simple Rule: If a wire runs through a hole, the hole must be bushed or the cable otherwise protected (e.g., by conduit) to prevent the wire sheath from being cut or rubbed through.

- Strain Relief: Cables entering a piece of equipment (like a light fitting or an enclosure) must have strain relief (e.g., a cable gland or clamp). This prevents the internal connections from being pulled apart if the external cable is tugged.
- Secure Joints: All electrical joints (connections between wires) must be mechanically secure and electrically sound. Loose connections cause heat and are a fire hazard. Use appropriate terminals, connectors, or soldering/crimping methods and ensure joints are contained within an approved junction box or enclosure.
- No Unnecessary Bending: Cables must not be bent to a radius smaller than recommended by the manufacturer, as this can damage the internal conductors and insulation.

3. Fire and Thermal Management

- No Overheating: Electrical components (especially transformers, power supplies, and lights) must be installed so they can dissipate heat safely. The artwork must not trap heat, which could cause a fire.
- Keep Clear of Flammables: Hot electrical components or wiring must be kept at a safe distance from any flammable or easily combustible materials used in the artwork (e.g., paper, fabric, certain plastics, wood).

4. Gallery Installation and Environment

- Environmental Suitability (IP Rating): If the artwork is in a location with potential for water ingress (even condensation or splashes, though unlikely in a typical gallery), the equipment used must have an appropriate Ingress Protection (IP) rating to handle moisture.
- Earthing: Any metallic enclosure or chassis that could potentially become live in the event of a fault must be correctly earthed (grounded). This protects users from shock.
- RCD Protection: While RCDs (Residual Current Devices or Safety Switches) are typically part of the building's wiring, if your artwork uses a general power outlet (GPO), it is an essential safety requirement that the circuit it connects to is protected by a 30mA RCD.
