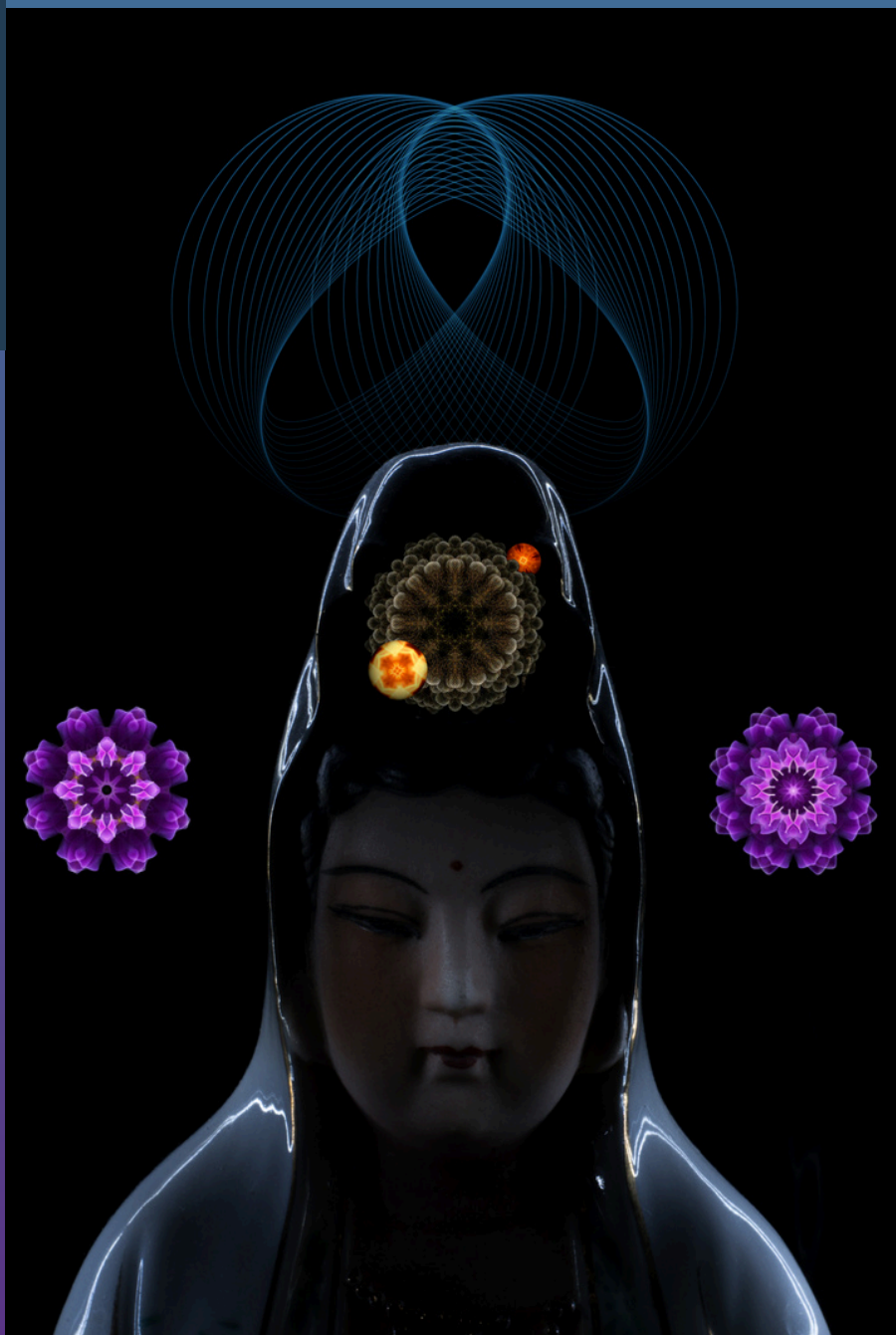




Centre for
Contemporary
Asian Art

PROGRAM 2025



Ma & Wan, Kwan Yin - Cosmic Perspective, 2023. Courtesy of the artists.

181-187 Hay Street
Haymarket
Warrane/Sydney
NSW 2000 Australia

Wed-Sun: 11am-5pm
Closed Monday & Tuesday

Stay tuned for late-night programs

 4a.com.au
 +61 423 738 283
 @4a_aus
 @4aplus

 **2025** 

4A's 2025 program focuses on collective healing, guided by the principles of PLUR: peace, love, unity and respect.

We kick off by queering Lunar New Year, fusing the Year of the Snake with Mardi Gras. Later in the year, 4A transforms into a glowing cosmic terrarium, filled with meditative soundscapes, while seductive neon works and Club 4A elevate our late-night events. Indigenous Futurisms are highlighted through a bilateral exchange, alongside explorations of heritage and early Chinese migration.

We continue supporting young and emerging artists through 4A LAB, encouraging experimentation, technology, and transformative ideas, while our metaverse platform 4A+ debuts new digital commissions from the Asia Pacific.

And don't miss the return of our 4A/A4 fundraiser, with proceeds supporting 4A's programming and sustainability.

At 4A, we are committed to creating meaningful connections, amplifying underrepresented voices, and shaping the future of contemporary art from the Asian diaspora. Join us on this exciting journey.

Thea-Mai Baumann, Artistic Director, CEO

FUNDERS



Australian Government
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy

Proudly funded by



CITY OF SYDNEY



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ARTS
ORGANISATION
AUSTRALIA

 **WE LOVE OUR PATRONS** 

EVERY DONATION IS MATCHED BY PLUS1



DONATE TODAY

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and create. We recognise the enduring connections between First Nations people and the land, waters, culture and communities that have existed for over 60,000 years. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

All images courtesy the artists, individuals, and organisations. Visit our website for full artwork captions and acknowledgements.

ANTIVENOM: YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Artists

Emil Cañita
Kirtika Kain
Owen Leong
Mai Nguyễn-Long
M. Sunflower

📍 4A Centre for
Contemporary
Asian Art

📧 babydilfx
kirtika.kain
owen_leong
mainguyenlong
msunflowerartist

As part of 4A's Lunar New Year celebrations, *Antivenom* draws on the characteristics of the Snake – wisdom, intuition and persuasion – leading to transformation.

Antivenom features diverse and underrepresented Asian-Australian, Australian and Indigenous artists and collectives who reflect on personal experiences of discrimination, stigma and hate speech. Drawing on the scientific process of making antivenin, each artist transforms the harmful through creative intent to embody notions of self-affirmation through identity, sexuality, gender and the migrant experience – contributing to personal and collective healing.

Throughout the exhibition, events and performances activate the space, celebrating diversity and the power of wisdom and creativity to help us shed our skins and begin the year anew.



Owen Leong, *WORSHIP PLEASURE*, 2024, cotton, bleach, silk, steel, bronze finger hooks;
Photo: Owen Leong. Courtesy of the artist.

ANTIVENOM: VERMIN

Artists

Lia Tabrah

4A LAB

vermin_the_label
ottbyliat

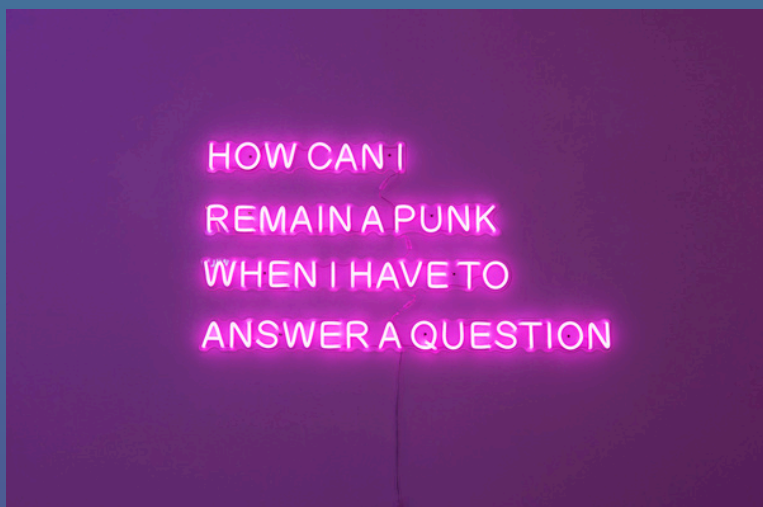
The *VERMIN* installation in 4A LAB offers an in-depth exploration of how an environmental hazard – the feral cane toad – can be transformed into a sustainable luxury fashion material. This ambitious project began in the Torres Strait Islands, a region deeply affected by the invasive species, where Indigenous communities, local rangers and pest control officers are working to mitigate the toad's impact on native wildlife and ecosystems.

Accompanied by artist talks and events, *VERMIN* highlights a commitment to environmentally conscious processes and supporting First Nations-led initiatives, while charting a path toward becoming 100% Australian owned and made. By merging environmental rehabilitation with luxury design, *VERMIN* exemplifies how creative industries can address complex ecological and social challenges, presenting a powerful model for sustainable innovation.



Lia Tabrah, *Toad Couture*, 2017, cane toad skin and talons. Commissioned by Museum of Old and New Art's *Eat the Problem*. Photo: Jasmin Fisher, Art Direction: Luke Hutchinson, Model: Tiah Vocale, MUA: Lou McLaren. Courtesy of the artist and Museum of Old and New Art.

15 MARCH – 27 APRIL 2025



Chunxiao Qu, *HOW CAN I REMAIN A PUNK WHEN I HAVE TO ANSWER A QUESTION*, 2019, LED neon with transparent acrylic frames; Photo: Jordan Halsall

NEON PLAYGROUND 2.0

Artist

Chunxiao Qu

 4A street-level windows

 [she_andherdog](#)

Commissioned by 4A, Melbourne-based Chinese artist Chunxiao Qu creates neon light sculptures for the street-level windows.

Best known for her LED neon works, Qu's text-based pieces explore the fluidity of language, questioning uncertainty and beauty. The sculptures will engage in a dynamic dialogue, reflecting the artist's reflective writing.

Qu's multidisciplinary practice spans neon, painting, sculpture and screen print, focusing on language. Her minimal, conceptual approach blends playful and pointed inquiry, embodying her belief that 'works of art are like jokes: They're not good if you have to explain them.'

15 MARCH – 27 APRIL 2025

SLY MORIKAWA: WHAT WAS, WHAT WILL BE

Artist

Sly Morikawa

📍 4A Centre for
Contemporary
Asian Art

📱 sly__morikawa

4A presents the debut institutional solo exhibition of Western Sydney-based photographer Sly Morikawa. Working across Japan and Australia, Morikawa's diverse subjects range from intimate friends to casual acquaintances, seen through centuries old Japanese structures and vivid scenes of subcultural life. Her work straddles established hierarchies of taste and class, honouring her subject matter without prejudice through the impartial lens of her camera.

Presenting new and existing works, this survey exhibition demonstrates the breadth of Morikawa's sophisticated explorations of society's underground – the taboo, outcast or forgotten. With a lithe sensitivity, her recognisable style balances ideas of desire, power and agency. They evoke an effortless dreamlike quality in which personal and social biases are suspended for a brief moment, allowing viewers to process the often uncomfortable realities of everyday life.



Sly Morikawa, *Devotion*, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.



4A A4, 2019, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art; Photo: Garry Trinh

4A/A4

📍 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

Picking up on an established audience fundraiser, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art again presents this highly anticipated 4A/A4 fundraiser, where you can purchase works by leading contemporary Australian and international artists for an affordable \$250 each.

Artworks on display are anonymous, with details revealed at the point of sale. This unique event invites you to focus on the art and build your own collection, while supporting 4A's mission to elevate diverse voices.

Your purchase directly fuels our bold 2025 programming, championing innovative cultural dialogue and groundbreaking creativity. Be the first through the door and don't miss your chance to own a contemporary masterpiece and support the future of art.

6 JUNE – 3 AUGUST 2025

MAN&WAH: PROPAGATE | GERMINATE | BLOOM

Artists

Man & Wah

📍 4A Centre for
Contemporary
Asian Art

📱 manandwah

Propagate/Germinate/Bloom is a major 4A commission in partnership with Brisbane-based artist duo, Man&Wah taking the form of an immersive exhibition blending soundscapes, visual projections, large-scale botanical installations and hyperreal terrarium. Exploring plant migration from Asia to Australia, the project examines centuries of medicinal, culinary and cultural uses of plants.

By transforming 4A into an immersive cosmic environment, the exhibition invites meditation on growth, nature and possible futures, highlighting deep connections between plants and the cosmos.



Man&Wah, *Kwan Yin - Mind/Matter, 2024*. Courtesy of the artists.

3 NOVEMBER 2025 – 26 JANUARY 2026



Christian Thompson, House of Gold Chapter 12, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.

TOUR: HOUSE OF GOLD

Artist

Dr Christian Thompson AO

2025 Tour Venue

Wagga Wagga
Art Gallery

 [christianthompsonartist](https://www.instagram.com/christianthompsonartist)

Commissioned by 4A, *House of Gold* by Bidjara artist Dr Christian Thompson AO, features significant works from his career and a new commission.

Building on themes from *New Gold Mountain* (2019), *House of Gold* examines the intersections of Thompson's Bidjara and Southern Chinese ancestry, reflecting on Chinese migration to Australia during the gold rush. Through personal, cultural and historical narratives, the artist explores identity, belonging and Australia's layered cultural histories

The exhibition will tour to eleven venues across 2025–2028.

**Museums
& Galleries
of NSW**



Australian Government
Visions of Australia



A 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art exhibition, in partnership with Golden Dragon Museum Bendigo, supported by The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Global and touring with Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.

4A+

Developers and Designers

Melanie Huang
Daniel Reid

Artists

various

 [melaniehuang_
d____l.r__d](https://www.instagram.com/melaniehuang_d_l_r_d)

 4aplus.com.au



Scan the
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Through digital commissions, virtual residencies and the forward-thinking environment of 4A LAB, 4A+ plays a pivotal role in advancing the trajectory of contemporary art within the context of the Asian diaspora in the digital era.

Celebrating the realm of Web3 and providing a dedicated arena for artistic experimentation and innovation, 4A+ actively engages and connects artists and audiences globally.

4A+ fortifies 4A's mission of fostering a more inclusive, borderless and democratic art ecosystem.



4A+, showcasing artists' works from the NUWRLDS exhibition, 2024; Designed by Melanie Huang and Daniel Reid



Sparsh Ahuja, Project Dastaan, *Child of Empire*, VR, 2023. Courtesy of the artist.

4A LAB

Artists
Creative Technologists
Thinkers
Writers
Designers

👉 4a.com.au/4a-lab

4A LAB evolves throughout the year as a lively hub merging art, technology and experimentation to transform digital culture and fuel industry innovation.

As a hyper-curated space, 4A LAB comes alive with creative practitioners including artists, technologists and thinkers, promising to incubate new ideas and diverse art practices.

4A LAB will platform projects by emerging to established creatives – activating the Haymarket streetscape.

EMERGING ARTISTS PROGRAM

Artists
Various

The annual Emerging Artists Program in 4A LAB presents the work of the most promising Asian Australian artists from across the country.

With a focus on early-career artists, the program highlights interdisciplinary experimental practice and emerging techniques, combined with the ever-changing perspectives of Australians within Asian diasporas.

The Emerging Artists Program '25 focuses on the national art ecology by providing snapshots of the future of contemporary art in Australia and supporting next generation creatives.



LEGEND OF ASIA® SPORT SHOES (opening day celebrations), 2024; Photo: Ankit Mishra

7 MARCH 2025



Jex Wang at CLUB 4A x Eastern Margins at Vivid Sydney, 2024; Photo: Byron Martin

CLUB 4A X ASIA TOPA

Artists

Cora (Berlin)

Trà Mi Dinh

Kasun

Passive Kneeling

MaggZ

Tina Stefanou

Creative Producer

Zev Tropp

corakoala
tramidinh_
kasun_
passive.kneeling
magg_z
_the_longest_hum

CLUB 4A x Asia TOPA as an immersive experience, explores Asian futurist themes through a dynamic blend of visual and performance art.

Set against the backdrop of the night, the event delves into hidden layers of culture, history and identity, using the club environment as a transformative space where past, present and future intersect.

CLUB 4A creates a communal atmosphere that fuses intimacy with the expansive, pushing the boundaries of cultural expression.

Ticketing



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ASIA
TOPA

31 OCTOBER – 14 DECEMBER 2025

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY: HIGH ALTITUDE EXCHANGE

Artists

Kate ten Buuren
Kala Kulo
Subash Thebe Limbu
Peter Waples-Crowe



4A Centre for
Contemporary
Asian Art



_athletica
kalaxkulo
subashthebelimbu.
tangsang
peterwaplescrowe

High Altitude Exchange is a self-determined cultural collaboration between Australia and Nepal, focusing on First Nations exchange. Following 2024 micro-residencies, the program features reciprocal residencies in 2025 with Indigenous artists Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo), Kate ten Buuren (Taungurung), Subash Thebe Limbu (Yakthung) and Kala Kulo (Nepal).

Hosted at Kala Kulo (Kathmandu) in April, and Arts House (Naarm), and 4A (Eora) in October, the exchange will culminate in a symposium and a digital publication curated by ten Buuren and the Kala Kulo initiative, exploring Indigenous Futurism.



Peter Waples-Crowe, *Ngaya (I Am)* (still), 2022; single-channel video installation. Commissioned by ACMI. Courtesy of the artist © Peter Waples-Crowe and ACMI



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australian Government



ARTS
HOUSE



EXHIBITION

ANTIVENOM: YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Artists: Emil Cañita, Kirtika Kain,
Owen Leong, Mai Nguyen-Long and
M Sunflower

Date: 24 January – 2 March 2025

ANTIVENOM: VERMIN

Artist: Lia Tabrah

Date: 24 January – 2 March 2025

NEON PLAYGROUND 2.0

Artist: Chunxiao Qu

Date: 15 March – 27 April 2025

SLY MORIKAWA

Artist: Sly Morikawa

Date: 15 March – 27 April 2025

4A/A4

Artists: Various

Date: 2 – 4 May 2025

MAN&WAH: PROPAGATE | GERMINATE | BLOOM

Artists: Man&Wah

Date: 6 June – 3 August 2025

TOUR: HOUSE OF GOLD

Artist: Dr Christian Thompson AO

Date: 3 November 2025 – 26 January 2026

Venue: Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

4A WEBSITE



Scan the QR code
to visit the 4A website.

PROGRAM

4A+

New digital commissions from
the Asia Pacific.

4aplus.com.au

4A LAB

Creative innovations and ideas from
the Asian diaspora and beyond.

4a.com.au/4ALAB

EMERGING ARTISTS PROGRAM

Dates: Throughout 2025

Venue: 4A LAB

CLUB 4A x ASIA TOPA

Artists: Cora, Tra Mi Dinh, Kasun,
Passive Kneeling, MaggZ and
Tina Stefanou

Date: 7 March 2025

Creative Producer: Zev Tropp

HIGH ALTITUDE EXCHANGE

Artists: Kate ten Buuren, Kala Kulo,
Subash Thebe Limbu and
Peter Waples-Crowe

Date: 31 October – 14 December

4A LIBRARY



Scan the QR code
to access 4A Library's
digital platform.