WESLEY COLLEGE
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA - SINCE 1866

Call for Applications: 2026 Artist in Residence – Wesley College, Melbourne

Wesley College Melbourne is inviting applications from visual artists for our 2026 Artist in Residence program. This six to eight-week residency will be based at our St Kilda Road Campus (Prahran) during Term 4. The residency offers a generous, well-equipped studio space and access to specialist facilities and materials, along with an opportunity to engage with senior school students in a small collaborative project and/or demonstration workshops.

About the Residency

In 2025 we had our inaugural annual artist in residency, with Panisa Ongwat (OW 2018) which established the ongoing annual Artist in Residence program. Wesley College is committed to supporting contemporary arts practice and providing students with direct access to working artists. The residency is designed to give artists time and space to focus on their own work while also inspiring and connecting with our creative student community.

Benefits to Students and the College

- Students across all year levels will gain first-hand experience working alongside a practicing artist, observing their creative process in a real studio environment.
- Year 11 VCE Art Creative Practice and Year 11 IB student will benefit directly from the artist's input.
- The residency supports and showcases Wesley's commitment to authentic, real-world learning in the arts, strengthening connections between the school and the broader arts community.

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Residency Timing

- **Residency dates:**
    - 2026- Term 4- Monday 12th October- Friday 4th December (6-8 week placement)

      OR

    - 2027- Term 1- Thursday 18th February - Thursday 21st March, (6-week placement)
- **Duration:** 6 -8 weeks (negotiable could be 3-4 weeks & more intensive))
- **Exhibition:** The residency will culminate in the presentation of work at the Wesley College Showcase Exhibition on **27 May 2027**, held at the St Kilda Road Campus

Residency Features

- Large, private and lockable studio with natural light, ample workspace, and its own sink
- Access to specialist facilities including:
    - Printing press
    - Screen printing exposure unit
    - Sculpture room (spray booth, pottery wheels, kilns, and machine room)
    - Darkroom, digital printing and photography equipment

**The artist will need to book in inductions and time to use these facilities to ensure minimal disruption to classes and normal department operations.*

*Staff & students (including security, cleaners etc) may need to access Wesley property at any time) The contract will offer a non-exclusive licence.

- Studio access:
    - **Monday – Friday** 8am-6pm. (extended hours negotiable)
    - **Weekends:** 10am-2pm (Security must be contacted upon arrival and departure.) Access to Wesley property is granted for the artist's use only.

- **Exhibition:** Showcase of new work in the prestigious 2026 Wesley College Exhibition

Artist Requirements & Student Engagement

We are seeking a practising visual artist who:

- Has an established, active studio practice, and works independently
- Will engage with Year 11 VCE Art Creative Practice & Year 11 IB Visual Arts students through a small-scale collaborative project and/or skills demonstrations (3–5 hours per week over several weeks, to be negotiated in advance)
- Is open to informal studio walkthroughs, Q&A sessions, and engagement with students from other year levels.
- Can commit to a minimum 3-4 days per week of studio attendance to ensure continuity and meaningful engagement. (to be negotiated, a regular schedule would be desirable)
- Will create new work during the residency to be exhibited May 2027

Budget & Materials

- **Artist Fee:** $3,000 - $5,000 ($500 /week) -subject to funding and negotiation
- **Materials:** Access to department materials will be provided; additional material needs can be negotiated within reason.

To Apply

Please complete the form:

Artist in Residence 2026 application – Fill out form

Include:

- A short artist statement (max 500 words)
- A brief expression of interest addressing:
  - Why you are interested in the residency

- Your approach to meaningful engagement and collaboration with students

In addition, please email the following to amelia.judd@wesleycollege.edu.au

- Confirmation of WWCC, ABN and insurance of $10m minimum liability coverage.
- CV with education and exhibition history
- Up to 10 images of recent work

Selection Process

A panel of Wesley College Visual Arts staff will review applications. The selected the artist will be announced in **mid- late September 2026.**

The residency offer will be subject to a formal agreement between the selected artist and Wesley College.

The successful applicant will also be required to complete Wesley's child safety screening, induction and reference checking processes.