

AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

NERISSA LEA

Born 1959, Australia

1982 Printmaking and Cinematography Degree from South Australian School of Art,
Adelaide

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Amusing Parlour Diversions'
2021 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'The Days Leave Their Skin Behind', with Reg Lynch
2016 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'The end of kindness and other dramas'
2014 Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'The waiting grounds'
2012 Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Where were you when my heart was breaking?'
2009 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'What remains behind'
2007 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Brain Portals'
2006 Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'The armadillo's dream'
2004 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Fly me to the moon'
2002 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'From the sublime to the ridiculous'
1999 Pinacotheca, Melbourne
1997 Pinacotheca, Melbourne
1995 Pinacotheca, Melbourne
1993 Pinacotheca, Melbourne
1991 Pinacotheca, Melbourne
1989 Pinacotheca, Melbourne
1986 Griffith University Gallery, Brisbane

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Australian Galleries Celebrates 70 Years: 1956 –
2026 Group Exhibition'
2025 Griffith University Art Museum, Brisbane, 'Collecting the Future: 50 Years of the
Griffith University Art Collection'
 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Summer Show'
2022 Defiance Gallery, Sydney, '6 x 6 x 6" Miniature Sculpture Show 2022'
2017 Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Burnie, TAS, 'Group exhibition: Material girl'
 Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Sculpture: medium and small scale – Mixed Sculptors'
2016 Woollahra Municipal Council, Sydney, Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize
 S.H Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 'Salon des Refusés'
2015 Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW, Manning Art Prize
2014 Gallery Central, Perth, 'The F Word'
 Adelaide Central School of Art Gallery, Adelaide, 'Telling'
 Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Burnie, TAS, 'Tasart'
 Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'one of each'
2013 Gallery East, Sydney, 'Hula Dreams'
 Box Gallery, Sydney, 'Artwank'

2012	Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW, 'Australian Galleries Exhibition'
	ANL Maritime Art Award, Docklands, Melbourne
	Devonport Art Gallery, Devonport, TAS, 'Devonport Art Award'
	Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney, 'Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing'
	Gold Coast City Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD, 'I Love my City Art Collection'
2011	Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney, 'Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing'
	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Large exhibition of small works'
	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Summer Exhibition'
2010	S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 'Portia Geach Memorial Award'
	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Narrative Realism: A world observed'
	Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, QLD, 'Xstrata Percival Award'
	The Blake Society, online exhibition, 'Directors Cut Blake Prize'
	Gold Coast City Gallery, Gold Coast, 'Stan and Maureen Gold Coast Art Prize'
	Gallery East, Sydney, 'Hula Dreams'
2008	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Group Exhibition'
	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Stock Show'
	Adelaide Central Gallery, Adelaide, 'Michelle Hiscock and Nerissa Lea'
	Queensland University, Brisbane, 'National Self Portrait Prize'
	Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney, 'The Coloured Digger 2'
	Albury Regional Gallery, Victoria (touring), 'Step Right Up'
	Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney, 'United Nations of Cupco'
2007	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Summer Stock Show'
	S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 'Portia Geach Portrait Prize'
	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Small Pleasures'
	The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane, 'National Artist's Self Portrait Prize'
	Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney, 'The Coloured Digger'
	Gosford Art Prize, Gosford, NSW
2006	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, 'Stock Show'
	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Summery'
	Australian Galleries, Melbourne, '50 th Anniversary Exhibition'
	Byron Kennedy Hall, Fox Studios, Sydney, 'Jacques Cadry Memorial Art Prize Exhibition'
2005	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'End of Year Group Exhibition'
	ABN AMRO Tower, Sydney, 'ABN AMRO 2005 Emerging Artist Award'
	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Small important works'
2004	S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 'Portia Geach Portrait Prize'
	Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney, 'Mosman Art Prize'
	Alice Springs Art Gallery, Alice Springs, NT, 'The Alice Prize'
	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'In the presence of all creatures great and small'
2003	S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 'Portia Geach Portrait Prize'
2002	S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 'Portia Geach Portrait Prize'
	Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
	Bat and Ball Hotel, Sydney, 'Crickart Exhibitions'
	Bat and Ball Hotel, Sydney, 'Alcart Exhibitions'
	Tamworth City Gallery, Tamworth, NSW, 'Guitar Shaped World Exhibitions'
2001	Australian Galleries, Sydney, 'Australian Painting and Sculpture'
2000	Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne
	Willoughby Art Gallery, Sydney, Willoughby Art Prize
1999	Cullity Art Gallery, Perth, 'Architectonic'
1998	State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, 'Blake Prize for Religious Art'
1997	Eva Breuer Gallery, Sydney, 'Still Life'
1996	Eva Breuer Gallery, Sydney, 'Naked'
1995	Eva Breuer Gallery, Sydney, 'Recent Paintings'
1994	Dubbo Art Gallery, Dubbo, NSW, 'Rapture'

1989	Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
1988	Shepparton Art Gallery, Shepparton, VIC, 'The Mitchelton Print Exhibition'
	R.M.I.T Gallery, Melbourne, 'Savage Club Invitation Drawing Prize'
1987	Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 'The Andrew and Lillian Pederson Prize'
1986	Griffith University Gallery, Brisbane, 'The Repeated Image'
1985	Fremantle Art Gallery, Fremantle, WA, 'Fremantle Print Award'
1984	Warrnambool Gallery, Warrnambool, VIC, 'Henry Worland Print Award'

AWARDS

2026	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Sydney, The Abbotsleigh Grace Cossington Smith Art Award, (Finalist)
2023	The Burnie Coastal Art Group, Burnie, TAS, TASART Prize, Burnie City Council Open Award (Winner)
	The Mission to Seafarers, Docklands, VIC, Maritime Art Prize (Finalist)
	The Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, The Lester Prize (Finalist)
2017	National Portrait Gallery, London, BP Portrait Award (Semi-finalist)
	Tasmanian Regional Arts, Launceston, Bell Bay Aluminium Overall Excellence Prize (Winner)
2016	Woollahra Municipal Council, Sydney, Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, (Finalist)
	Lethbridge Gallery, Sydney, Lethbridge 10,000 Small Scale Art Award, (Finalist)
2015	Manning Regional Art Gallery, Tarree, NSW, Manning Art Prize (2D Award for Excellence)
2010	S.H Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Portia Geach Portrait Prize (Highly Commended)
2004	S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Portia Geach Portrait Prize (Winner)
2000	Willoughby Arts Centre, Sydney, Willoughby Art Prize (Highly Commended)
1989	Power Studio Residency, Cite des Arts Complex, Paris
1985	Artist in Resident, Griffith University, Brisbane
1983	Young Filmmakers Awards, Adelaide, (Best Animation)

COLLECTIONS

Albury City Gallery, Albury, VIC
Gold Coast City Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Private collections in Australia and overseas