

studio A

Media Release

10 March, 2026

Studio A Announces Major 2026 Regional Touring Program

Celebrating access, inclusion and national impact through exhibitions touring Lismore, Lake Macquarie and Grafton.



Catherine McGuiness at the opening of Night Blossom courtesy of Mosman Art Gallery. Photo by Cassandra Hannagan.

Studio A will tour three major exhibitions across regional New South Wales in 2026, bringing ambitious contemporary art by artists with intellectual disability to Lismore, Lake Macquarie and Grafton.

The program strengthens Studio A's national profile while deepening its commitment to access, inclusion and regional engagement.

In 2026, audiences will experience exhibitions by Guy Fredericks, Damian Showyin and three-time Archibald Prize finalist Catherine McGuiness, artists whose practices are reshaping Australia's contemporary art landscape.

Gabrielle Mordy, CEO and Artistic Director of Studio A, says, *"Our artists are creating bold, ambitious work that resonates with diverse audiences. By touring across NSW, we're not only increasing access to high-quality contemporary art, we're reshaping public understanding of artistic leadership and setting new standards for inclusion."*

Lismore Regional Gallery

27 March – 7 June 2026

Bleeding Hearts and Morning Glory – Guy Fredericks

An immersive exhibition exploring conversations on climate change and environmental care, developed originally for Manly Art Gallery & Museum in collaboration with Dr. Chloe Watfern and Bushlink, an organisation supporting people with intellectual disability to work in bush regeneration. The project challenges perceptions of disability by foregrounding contribution, expertise and care for land.

"I want to honour the important work Bushlink does in bush regeneration," Fredericks said.



Bleeding Hearts and Morning Glory exhibition install shot, Manly Gallery & Museum. Photo by Studio A.



Damian Showyin at the opening of Suede Blue courtesy of Mosman Art Gallery. Photo by Cassandra Hannagan.

Suede Blue – Damian Showyin

Showyin's first solo exhibition, originally presented at Mosman Art Gallery and curated by Shan Turner-Carroll, brings together painting and sculpture in a vibrant, meditative installation. A prolific artist who has presented work at the Biennale of Sydney and Cementa Festival, Showyin creates layered, rhythmic works grounded in joy and calm.

"I feel happy when I paint. When I'm painting I'm calm," Showyin said.

Night Blossom – Catherine McGuiness

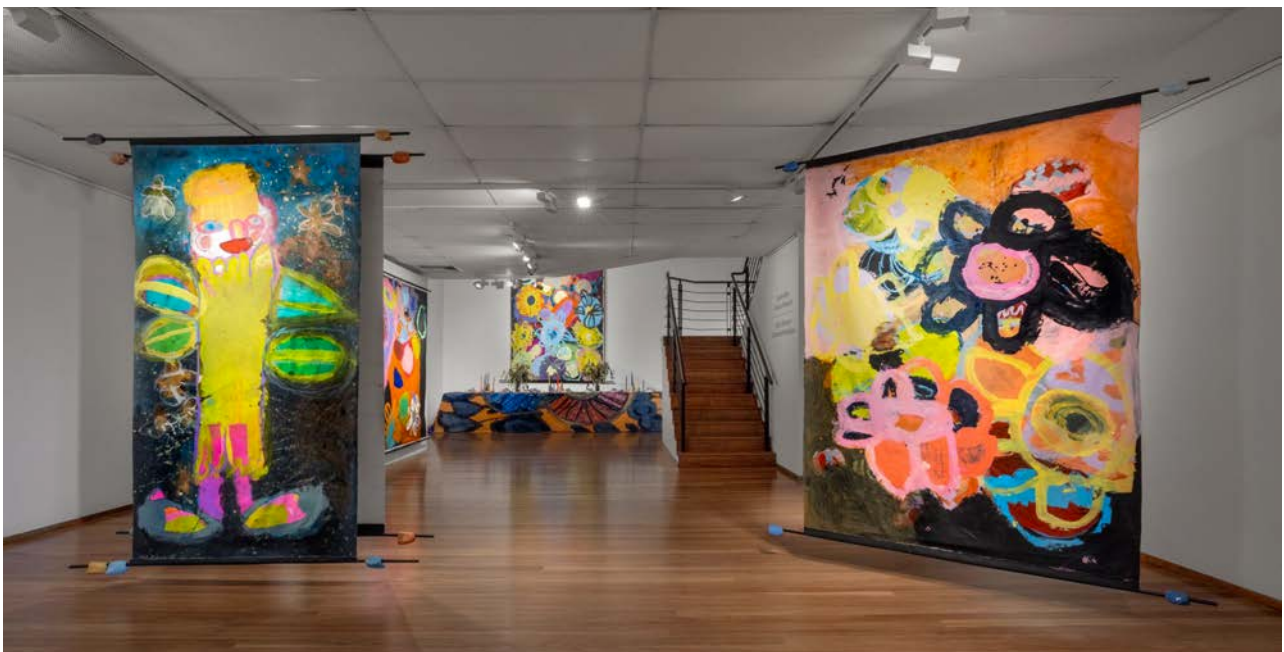
Following its celebrated debut at Mosman Art Gallery curated by Shan Turner-Carroll, Night Blossom embarks on a regional tour:

- **Museum of Art and Culture yapang, Lake Macquarie**
25 July – 20 September 2026
- **Grafton Regional Gallery**
10 October 2026 – 31 January 2027

McGuiness' first solo exhibition spans large-scale paintings, works on paper and an immersive dinner table installation created with Mud Australia, Kil.n.it Ceramics Studio and Digital Fabrics. Radiant with hearts, flowers and fairies, the exhibition is an exuberant invitation into the artist's world.

"I painted love hearts and flowers because I love them, they make me happy... I hope people will love it. Please have fun looking at my artworks," McGuiness said.

Shan Turner-Carroll describes her work as possessing *"an unselfconscious power... Her creative force is not bound by the edges of the canvas."*



Night Blossom exhibition install shot courtesy of Mosman Art Gallery. Photo by Jacquie Manning.

Studio A's 2026 touring program underscores the organisation's leadership in advancing artists with intellectual disability within Australia's contemporary art sector. By partnering with leading regional galleries across NSW, Studio A expands access to ambitious, museum-quality exhibitions while strengthening professional pathways for its artists.

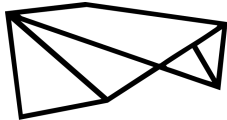
The tour reflects the growing national recognition of Studio A artists and reinforces the vital role regional institutions play in shaping an inclusive cultural landscape. More than a touring program, it signals a clear shift: artists with intellectual disability are not on the margins, but established and ambitious practitioners. Through these collaborations, communities across NSW will engage with work that is bold, rigorous and central to Australia's artistic conversation.

The 2026 regional tour is proudly funded by NSW Government and presented in conjunction with Studio A, Lismore Regional Gallery, Museum of Art and Culture yapang, Lake Macquarie and Grafton Regional Gallery.

Proudly funded by



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**LISMORE
REGIONAL
GALLERY**

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G R A F T O N
R E G I O N A L
G A L L E R Y

M△C
yapang

**MOSMAN
ART
GALLERY**



northern
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About Studio A

Studio A is a Sydney-based supported studio enabling artists with intellectual disability to develop and sustain professional creative practices. Through exhibitions, commissions and partnerships, Studio A advances inclusion and leadership within the contemporary art sector.

Media enquiries

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