

New website represents the future for touring exhibitions in Australia

The National Touring Exhibitions Support (NETS) Australia network today launches a new website - the first milestone in a four year strategic initiative funded by Australia Council for the Arts to explore the impact of technology on artistic practice and the possibilities available for touring exhibitions in the digital age.

The new website brings together the suite of touring exhibitions managed by the NETS Australia network, interactive educational resources and engaging video content. Being mobile friendly, visitors can easily browse these resources while in an exhibition space or access them remotely at any time. The website also features a National Exhibition Register, the first online directory of available touring exhibitions from across the country, offering a one-stop, user-friendly tool designed to inform and inspire artistic programming.

With the completion of the new website, the foundations have been laid for NETS Australia to embark on ground breaking advances for the touring of visual art, exploring new technologies such as distance curation, 3D virtual mapping of gallery spaces and digitally delivered touring exhibitions.

Chair of NETS Australia, Michael Rolfe, reinforces the importance of this strategic initiative.

"Touring exhibitions play a vital role in cultural programming right around Australia. This is certainly the case in regional and remote communities that rely on the work NETS agencies do.

A recent survey shows that 24% of exhibitions presented in public galleries and art centres throughout Australia are sourced from touring programs. That same survey reports that these exhibitions on average account for 47% of annual visitation.

These statistics clearly illustrate the value of the work NETS Australia does. With this website we look to the future, towards improved and new possibilities in continuing to provide audiences with access to ideas about contemporary culture and exhibitions of real substance."

About NETS Australia

The NETS Australia network is composed of seven independent arts organisations from each state and territory with a unified dedication to the presentation, promotion and support of contemporary arts, craft and design to metropolitan and regional audiences across the country.

The NETS Australia network comprises Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring, Art on the Move WA, Contemporary Art Tasmania, Country Arts SA, Museums & Galleries of NSW, Museums & Gallery Services Queensland, and NETS Victoria, and is supported by the Australia Council and state and territory funding bodies.

View the new NETS Australia website: <http://www.netsaustralia.org.au/>.

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