

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As an emerging photographic artist with a thirty-year practice, I welcome the development of Australia's new National Cultural Policy. This framework represents a critical opportunity to build upon the momentum of Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place, ensuring that emerging creators, particularly those operating outside major metropolitan hubs, are provided with the structural support necessary to turn innovative concepts into impactful creative realities.

Prioritizing Regional Talent and Strategic Growth As an artist deeply rooted in the East Gippsland region, I strongly endorse the policy's commitment to regional arts. For artists in regional Victoria, the barrier to professional entry is often dictated by geographical isolation rather than creative merit. A national policy must actively nurture and grow local talent, by facilitating stronger pathways between regional practice and national visibility. My recent work with the East Gippsland Winter Festival highlights the profound appetite for high-caliber regional art, and the new policy should incentivize long-term support for such local initiatives. By embedding regional representation into the heart of the policy, we ensure that every story, truly includes those from our rural and regional communities.

Fostering Inclusivity and Linguistic Diversity The policy's goal to embody the diversity and aspirations of our nation, is a vital pillar for emerging artists who explore complex cultural identities. My own multidisciplinary practice, which utilizes the Venetian dialect to investigate global social phenomena like urban displacement, relies on a policy environment that values linguistic diversity and rigorous research. Inclusivity should not be a checkbox; it must be a foundational requirement that respects regional history, modern and ancient, alongside the voices of our Indigenous communities. A policy that protects and promotes this diversity allows emerging artists to produce work that is not only artistically innovative but socially significant on a global stage.

Economic Resilience and Strategic Contingency

One of the most pressing challenges for emerging artists today is the rapid fluctuation of international and domestic costs. My current projects have been directly impacted by cost variations driven by global fuel and travel volatility. A forward-looking Cultural Policy must acknowledge these economic realities by encouraging strategic contingency, within funding models. Providing artists with the administrative tools and financial buffers to manage 15% cost fluctuations is not just a matter of logistics; it is a matter of project survival. Furthermore, the policy should recognize and support the administrative rigor required to manage complex grants, ensuring that artists with a proven track record of accountability can continue to lead large-scale creative investigations.

In conclusion, the next iteration of our National Cultural Policy must provide a stable, resilient framework that bridges the gap between regional Victorian artistry and global discourse. By focusing on regional nurturing, genuine inclusivity, and economic pragmatism, the government can empower emerging artists to contribute meaningfully to Australia's evolving cultural identity.