

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468772

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As a professional Australian/French visual artist based in regional NSW, my practice is grounded in place, using natural pigments and engaging with local contexts, including First Nations perspectives.

I would like to highlight key structural gaps:

1. Redefining “emerging artist”

Many artists—particularly women—follow non-linear careers due to caregiving responsibilities.

Action: Expand definitions to reflect delayed or interrupted trajectories.

2. Gender imbalance

Women remain underrepresented in institutions.

Action: Link public funding to measurable equity outcomes.

3. Language barriers

Non-native English speakers face significant disadvantages in complex application processes.

Action: Provide simplified formats and multilingual support.

4. Recognition of artist status

Requiring artists to register as job seekers misrepresents professional practice.

Action: Establish a recognised professional status for artists.

5. Disability inclusion

Artists with disabilities face compounded barriers.

Action: Increase targeted funding and accessibility support.

6. International representation

Artists exhibiting abroad contribute to Australia’s cultural presence.

Action: Support international mobility and exhibitions.

7. Regional disadvantage

Regional artists lack access to major city opportunities.

Action: Fund pathways between regional and metropolitan institutions.

A strong cultural policy must address structural inequities to ensure a more inclusive and representative sector.

Janet Besançon

Australian/French Visual Artist