

ARTIST RUN INITIATIVE

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Watchthis
SPACE^{inc}



INTRODUCTION FOR WTS BOARD MEMBERS

[Watch This Space](#) works to be a catalyst and conduit for conversations and experiments in the always-evolving languages of art. It supports contemporary art dialogue in Mparntwe/Alice Springs both inside and outside a gallery space, encouraging, nurturing and promoting Central Australian and visiting artists.

The only contemporary experimental art space in Central Australia, Watch This Space has played a critical role in the creative ecology of Mparntwe/Alice Springs over the past 24 years. It is an ARI hub where studio artists and exhibiting artists intersect, housing a diversity of creative practices. WTS employs a Coordinator and specific project officers, supported by a Board of Management and Curatorial Committee that includes long-term members holding a depth of historical knowledge about the framework underpinning an arts practice in Central Australian contexts.

WATCH THIS SPACE AIMS TO

Create opportunities for local artists' work to be discovered and made visible through hosting contemporary art exhibitions.

Provide opportunities for local, interstate and international artists to enrich the artistic and cultural life of Alice Springs through the delivery of high quality contemporary art activities.

Foster an inclusive creative community of artists who share skills and experiences with each other by accessing the onsite gallery and studio space.

Offer professional development opportunities for artists including artistic/cultural collaborations and skills development.

Nurture the full breadth of contemporary art activities including multi-disciplinary art forms, new media and installation work.

OUR ANNUAL CREATIVE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO)

- On- and off-site exhibitions for contemporary artists and curators; local, interstate and international.
- Our Travelling Artist Residency for 'out-of-town' artists: a one month residency in our on-site reserved studio space with the opportunity to exhibit work at the end of the month.
- Consistent support to our 5 Studio Artists, as well as all other artists involved with the space.
- The opportunity for artists to work alongside local community artists, both holding and participating in workshops.
- Access to our outdoor venue *JBird's Place* for community events.
- *Alice Sings*, a weekly Pop-Choir open to all community members, aimed at engaging participants with music and forming connections with all involved.
- The Lofty Annual Art Awards: awarded to a local artist acknowledging their significant contribution to the communities they work amongst. Named in honour of Pam Lofts.

OBLIGATIONS OF A WATCH THIS SPACE BOARD MEMBER

If you are interested in joining our Board of Management, these are some responsibilities we expect of you:

MEMBERSHIP

As stated in the WTS Constitution, Board Members must be Financial Members of the organisation (membership is \$35 for one year – see membership form for details).

ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of current and upcoming WTS events and projects. This is not only for your own knowledge, but so you can share with others what is happening at the space.

AMBASSADORS

WTS Board Members should see themselves as ambassadors for the space. Always advocate for and be supportive of the organisation to members of the community.

PROFESSIONALISM

It is an important requirement that Board Members are professional during their involvement with WTS. This includes, but is not limited to, reading relevant documents *prior* to meetings if required, punctuality, commitment to tasks, as well as the following expectations...

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Always let the Coordinator know if you can or can not attend a meeting.

REGULAR MEETING ATTENDANCE

The WTS Constitution states that a member can be suspended or expelled if absent from more than 3 consecutive committee meetings.

Artist-run initiatives are about people, about who is prepared to do what. We are not in a place where there's a major arts institution pouring out energetic young artists to support an initiative like this. But we've had terrific public support in the past and we're look forward to that continuing. Artist-run spaces do come and go, but I don't think this one should [go], because it contributes so significantly to the cultural life of Alice Springs.

– Pam Lofts, artist and founding member