



AGSA's Gallery Guides celebrate milestone 50th anniversary

This year, the Art Gallery of South Australia's volunteer Gallery Guides celebrate 50 years of bringing art and people together – a milestone that will be celebrated during National Volunteer Week 2022. Through the 4000 guided tours they provide each year, AGSA's Gallery Guides reveal and illuminate the depth of AGSA's collection and exhibitions to thousands of visitors annually.

As some of the most visible public faces of AGSA, their insights have engaged and educated visitors of all ages and backgrounds since 1972. Their volunteer service includes daily collection and exhibition tours, regular monthly tours for special interest groups, tours in languages other than English and for English language learners, tours for visitors with disabilities and access requirements, tailored experiences for visitors with dementia, the facilitation of a monthly Members Book Club, and a new cohort of Vanguard guides aged 20-30 with a focus on contemporary art and its intersections with social justice, diversity and the environment.

Art Gallery of South Australia Director, Rhana Devenport ONZM says, 'On behalf of AGSA, I congratulate and sincerely thank all Gallery Guides – past and present – for their remarkable passion and dedication in engaging with art, ideas and audiences over the last fifty years. Fifty years of unyielding generosity is a moment to take pause, celebrate and honour. Their tours transform visits into encounters, experiences, and memories for the thousands of visitors they engage with each year.'

The first Gallery Guides, a keen group of ten women assembled on a trial basis for the 1972 Adelaide Festival of Arts were, in the words of inaugural Gallery Guides Coordinator Barbara Fargher, 'brimful of ideas' and 'equal to any challenge'. What began as a trial event developed into a full-time service with its own 12-month training program, with 245 Guides having dedicated themselves to guiding over the last 50 years.

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Welcoming the opportunities that being a guide brings, current Gallery Guides Coordinator Heather Karmel says, 'Guiding is so stimulating. I am always learning something new in our continuing education program, whether it be about cultures, history, art techniques and how artists think. I greatly enjoy sharing this knowledge and my own personal insights with gallery visitors, and being part of a collegiate group of volunteers'.

To celebrate this milestone moment and to coincide with National Volunteer Week 2022, AGSA's Gallery Guides are inviting volunteers from other organisations to join them for a volunteers-only tour of the Gallery. Tours will focus on works of art from the Collection and temporary exhibitions; and explore some of the Guides' own favourite works. To book, visit agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/event-calendar/national-volunteer-week-guided-tours. Please note that these tours are for volunteers from other organisations only. Members of the public are welcome to attend daily [AGSA Tours](#) or book a [group tour](#).

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IMAGES https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/MEDIA/Guides_50th_anniversary_Images.zip

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