

## Animal Ark

Art Gallery of WA | 7 June to 19 October | Free entry

Animals take over the walls of the Art Gallery of WA when AGWA's latest exhibition, *Animal Ark*, opens on 7 June. Drawn from the State Art Collection, this free exhibition explores how generations of artists have incorporated the animal motif in their work and invites people to consider how animals are integral to our lives.

Jenepher Duncan, AGWA's Curator of Contemporary Art said, "*Animal Ark* considers issues raised by depictions of animals, such as the interface between animal and human identity, the use of animals as 'machines' or companions, as decorative embellishments of human activity, and as subjects in scenes of daily life, portraits and nature studies."

Created for a family audience, over 100 works explore the mythology, symbolism and representation of animals through painting, sculpture, decorative art, video and works on paper by historical, Indigenous and contemporary artists.

"Through its accessible subject matter, this exhibition aims to expand the understanding of art in young audiences as well as engage older viewers through the range and quality of the work on display," she continued.

The exhibition is supported by a dedicated drawing space where children can draw, read or write about their favourite animal. Works can be shared on the surrounding walls, or taken home. Family labels and an exhibition trail will allow families to explore the exhibition together. During the July school holidays, the Gallery will host art workshops in partnership with REmida and family-friendly tours of *Animal Ark*.

Exhibition highlights include well-known favourites such as Hans Heysen's *Droving into the Light* along with Septimus Power's poignant evocations of the working horse and paintings of mythological subjects by Sidney Nolan and Arthur Boyd, to contemporary paintings by Jenny Watson and Rosslynd Piggott, sculpture by Darren Sylvester and James Angus and video work by Sonia Leber and David Chesworth entitled *The way you move me* resulting from their recent IASKA residency in the wheat belt town of Moora.

Indigenous art features strongly in the exhibition with artists such as Rover Thomas, Jimmy Pike, Karen Casey, Sally Morgan and Clinton Nairn whose work explores the representation and importance of animals in the telling of ancestral stories.

### For families

*Family Space – open Wed-Sun (closed Tuesdays) 10am-5pm | FREE*

Inspired by artists' interpretations of nature's creatures, budding artists can draw, read or write about their favourite animal.

*Family Exhibition Sheets – will be available at the AGWA reception desk or online at [artgallery.wa.gov.au](http://artgallery.wa.gov.au)*

Pick up an exhibition sheet and make your way through *Animal Ark* exploring the works and learning a little more about the artists' intentions. Answer the questions posed by our education team or quiz your family members!

### School Holiday Activities

Join AGWA on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July for a workshop activity with AGWA and *REmida: The Creative Reuse Centre*. Inspired by Ricky Swallow's work, families will help sculpt a life-size family of chimpanzees from reused materials. Hourly sessions run from 11am-3pm on both days. See [artgallery.wa.gov.au](http://artgallery.wa.gov.au) for booking information. The community creation will be on display during the July school holidays.

### Teacher Resources

Free education resources designed for primary and secondary school students will be available to download at [artgallery.wa.gov.au](http://artgallery.wa.gov.au)

More information at [artgallery.wa.gov.au](http://artgallery.wa.gov.au)



@ArtGalleryWA | #AnimalArk



*top*  
**Ricky Swallow**  
*Untitled drawing (Monkey reading)* 1998  
watercolour on paper, 29.1 x 38.6 cm  
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Gift of John McBride AM, 2007  
© Courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney

*above*  
**Jenny Watson**  
*Horse series painting no. 9: with yellow rug* 1974  
oil, synthetic polymer paint and lead pencil on canvas  
177.4 x 243.9 cm  
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Purchased 1988

*top*  
**Darren Sylvester**  
*Children, don't be a burden to your parents* 2006  
painted ABS plastic, 52 x 29 x 15 cm  
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Purchased through the Sir Claude Hotchin Art Foundation,  
Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation, 2007  
© Darren Sylvester 2006

*above*  
**Rover Thomas**  
*Goolgool the owl with four young* 1987  
ochre and gum on canvas, 61.5 x 107.2 cm (sight)  
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Purchased 1988  
© Rover Thomas 1987

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

Tanya Sticca, Art Gallery of Western Australia T+61 8 9492 6692 E [tanya.sticca@artgallery.wa.gov.au](mailto:tanya.sticca@artgallery.wa.gov.au)