

MPRG AIR

Artist in Residence Program
2025 Expression of Interest



Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for the 2025 Artist-in-Residence program, at Monmar.

Mornington Peninsula Shire has successfully delivered an Artist-in-Residence (AiR) program at Police Point Shire Park since 2015. In 2024-25, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (MPRG) is overseeing the operational and creative development of the residency program.

The AiR program is now open to visual artists and practitioners in adjacent fields, to undertake a 2-to-6-week residency from February 10 to June 30 2025. The residency offers time to engage with the site, the natural and human history of the place, to notice things that others may have missed, explore challenging ideas, experiment and create new opportunities to look at the world around us.

Site History

Police Point Shire Park and Point Nepean National Park, are nationally significant cultural heritage sites, located on the lands of the Boonwurrung-balug, one of the six clans of the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation of Victoria. It is a culturally significant site for the Bunurong People who know the area as Monmar, named for the beautiful white trunks of the Moonah trees common to this area.

Mornington Peninsula Shire and MPRG acknowledge the Bunurong people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years; and pay respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong people's living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.

From the 1850s-1970s, Police Point Shire Park was the location of the local Police Barracks and Quarantine station. In 1970, the site was used by the Department of Defence, repurposing the police barracks for army use. In 2004, the government transferred the land and the historic cottages to the Mornington Peninsula Shire, and Police Point Shire Park was established, in response to community efforts to save the land from unsuitable development.

The AiR program now provides an opportunity for artists and practitioners to engage with the complex histories of the site and draw from the unique ecological features of the coastal and National Park environments, to reflect, research and develop creative ideas.

Aims of The Program

In 2025, themes of the residency include raising broad awareness and appreciation for our environment, creative development about coastal concepts and/or the heritage of the site and the Mornington Peninsula, and responses to the impacts of climate change on ways of being. By supporting creative people who are working with ecological themes, MPRG hopes to align the residency with our wider exhibition program and other creative projects, and enhance the creative use, access, and exploration of the unique and richly layered environments of Monmar.

MPRG AiR aims to be a catalyst for experimentation, connection, collaboration and discourse between participants and with the public. It is an opportunity to widen and strengthen Mornington Peninsula arts communities, support career development of local and emerging artists, and connect Peninsula communities to artists from further afield.

We hope to support creative ideas to activate Police Point Shire Park & enhance connections with Parks Victoria to support the creative exploration of Point Nepean National Park, as-well as connecting visiting artists to local practitioners. Taking place in three historic cottages situated within these unique sites, the residency is not simply a place to reside but offers the possibility of a communal artistic space than can lead to experimental collaboration and discourse between participopants.

We endeavour to build a sustainable offering in which creative practitioners (artists, curators, cultural practitioners and collectives) are provided with a unique and meaningful opportunity to explore, and potentially extend, their practice in a social environment that is both rich in history and nature. Through the program, MPRG and the Mornington Peninsula Shire aim to be known as a place where ambitious work is supported, made, exhibited and promoted.



Who should apply

The program is open to practitioners in visual arts and adjacent fields, including performance, dance, public art, film and/or video, new media, sound, sculpture, painting, print-making, arts writing/criticism, literature, scientific and/or social practice. The residency is especially generative for practitioners with place & context-based practices. We welcome expressions from emerging through to established artists, based locally, interstate and internationally, as-well as individuals or collectives. First Nations, LGBTIQ+, culturally and linguistically diverse and artists with disability are encouraged to apply. Please reach out to discuss your specific requirements.

Access

Located on the Southernmost point of the Mornington Peninsula, there is limited public transport access to the AiR. We will work with successful applicants who encounter challenges with transport and access. Artists are expected to cover the costs of their living expenses and any art materials and equipment costs during their stay.

There are no set expectations for artists to deliver resolved outcomes. However, we do welcome creative ideas of how your residency may connect to MPRG's public and education programming.

If artists require partners or children to spend time at the residency, these plans should be communicated with MPRG staff prior commencement of the residency, where possible. For safety reasons, all visitation during the residency must be communicated.

Residency Facilities

The residency takes place in four historic cottages at Police Point: the former Caretaker's Cottages and three Attendant's Cottages. Each cottage has a unique floorplan with similar facilities. One cottage has a small print-making press (870 x 476mm), so artists with a print-making practice are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will be offered residence in the cottage which best suits their practice and needs, as per availability. Each Cottage has:

- Two bedrooms: one with double bed, and one with single beds (2). Towels and linen are provided
- Studio: table and/or desk, chair, easel
- Kitchen: fully equipped with stove top, oven, microwave, and fridge. Dining table and chairs
- Lounge: Double and single couch seats
- Laundry: washing machine, cleaning products

Fees

In 2025 MPRG AiR is a fee-paying residency program. Fees help ensure the sustainability of the program. Per cottage, residency fees are \$300 AUD per fortnight. There are a small number of supported, non fee-paying residencies available. Applications for supported places will be accessed on a case-by-case basis. If selected for a residency, we are happy to provide a Letter of Support for artists who wish to pursue a grant or funding opportunities to support their residency.



Selection Process

Expression of Interests for residencies from February 10 to June 30 2025 close on Friday 13 December, 11:59pm. Applications will be accessed in January and all applicants will be notified of the outcome by the end of January 2025.

Applications are assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the aims of the residency and ecological themes
- Intent to meaningfully engage with the site and community
- Benefit to professional and artistic development
- Evidence of thoughtful, creative, ambitious and experimental practice
- Diversity and spread of artists from different geographical, cultural and professional backgrounds

How To Apply

Please complete the online application form answering the following:

- About your practice (up to 300 words)
- What are you hoping to gain from this residency? (up to 300 words)
- Ideas for engaging with community? (up to 150 words)
- Preferred length of time (minimum 2 weeks – maximum 6 weeks) and availability between February 10 & June 30 2025.

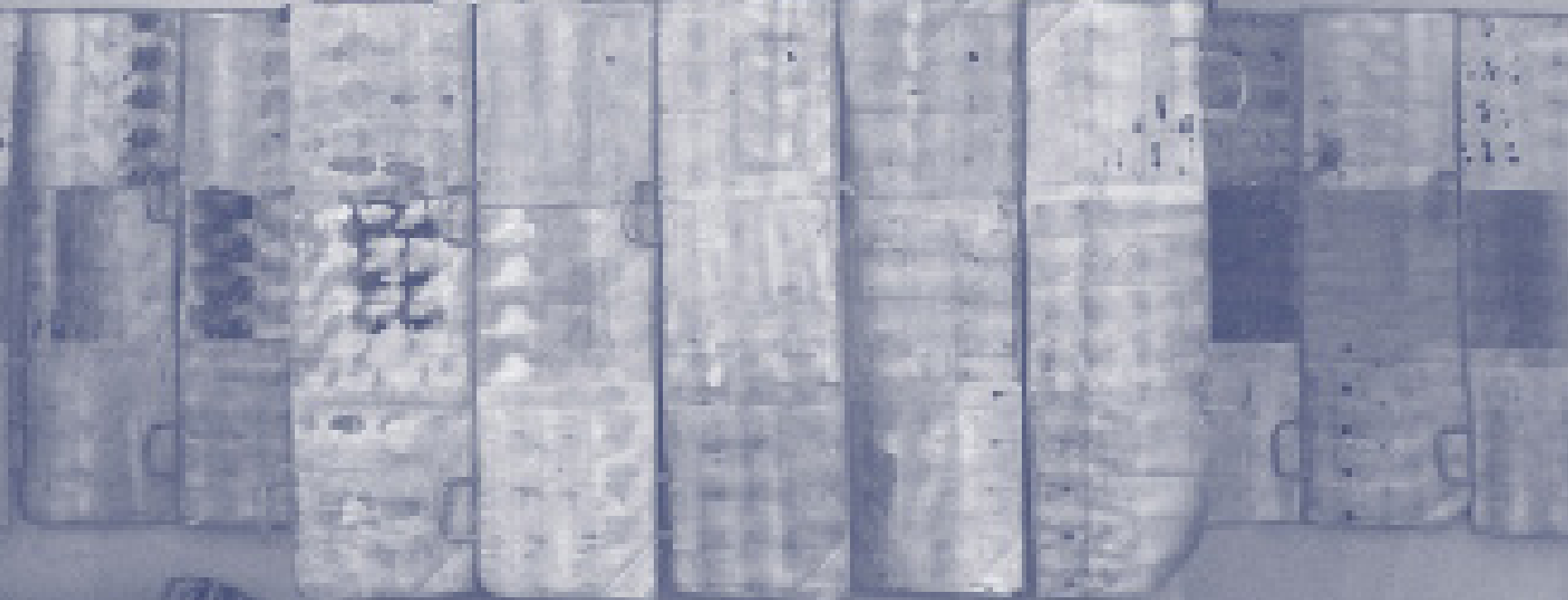
Support Material

- Current Curriculum Vitae – Up to 2 pages. (PDF or .doc)
- Examples of work – up to 5 images, videos, URLs, pages of written material
- Instagram and Website Links

Accessibility

Interstate and international artists are encouraged to apply for the residency. We encourage applications from artists of all ages and diverse backgrounds including First Nations, LGBTIQ+, culturally diverse and artists with disability. We will work with successful applicants to ensure that the residency is accessible for you.

We appreciate that the online form may not be suitable for everyone. If you would like support in submitting your application in a way that works best for you and your requirements, please contact the MPRG team at mprgair@mornpen.vic.gov.au





Apply Today

We welcome participants from many creative disciplines and backgrounds to apply. To submit your application, go to the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery website.

Contact Us

Email: mprgair@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Web: mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au

Image Credits

Lachlan Petrie, Monmar, 2024

Mike Green, MPRG AiR, 2024

Christabel Wigley, *Listening Limb*, Monmar, 2024

Eleesa Howard, *Studio View*, MPRG AiR, 2024

Matt Elliot, MPRG AiR, Untamed Productions, 2023



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