



MEDIA RELEASE

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State Library Victoria announces 2019 fellowships

The recipients of the 2019 State Library Victoria fellowships, worth over \$200,000, were announced today.

Each year, the Library's major annual fellowship program invites creative Australians to draw on the Library's extensive collection, offering research opportunities in areas spanning children's literature and social history, visual arts, theatre, regional and 19th-century Victoria, photography and digital technology.

This year, 21 fellows received grants ranging from \$5000 to \$20,000, as well as a shared office space, and special access to collections and library experts.

Over the past 17 years, the Library's fellowship program has delivered more than \$2.5 million in funding, supporting more than 220 artists, playwrights, writers, poets, historians, composers and academics.

The proposed outcomes of the 2019 fellowships include an exhibition about 'Australis Grandiflora', a graphic novel about the brownout murders, a collection of poems exploring oriental narratives in contemporary Australia, an enhanced digital image collection, a manuscript investigating the relationship between image and text, a time-based visual artwork, an investigation of the Wurundjeri women, a tailored suit exploring the significance of fashion, a monograph on Frances Burke, an exhibition on the history of Gunai/Kurnai country, and a play about the Tivoli Theatre in the 1920s and '30s.

State Library Victoria CEO, Kate Torney, said the Library is proud to support the state's creative community through one of the most substantial fellowship programs in the country.

"Each year, State Library Victoria's fellowship program gives Australians the opportunity to discover the endless potential of the Library's collection by supporting an array of diverse research projects. We are excited to see the new works that will emerge from this talented group as they bring to life the Library's collection in new and imaginative ways," Ms Torney said.

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The fellowships are funded by State Library Victoria and other program partners, and are awarded annually on the advice of independent expert panels.

2019–20 State Library Victoria fellowships

Amor Residency at Baldessin Press & Studio (\$5000)

In association with the Baldessin Press, the Amor Residency at St. Andrews is available to a visual artist wishing to explore works on paper, in particular printmaking or artists' books. The offer may include accommodation, printmaking tuition/technical support, materials or editing and is funded by Rick Amor.

Ms Judith Martinez: *Australis Grandiflora* – a speculative visual narrative of fictional botanist Eleanor Nightingale and her quest to discover a mythical bloom – the 'Australis Grandiflora'.

Children's Literature Fellowship (\$15,000)

For the exploration of children's book publishing, writing or illustrating.

Mr Matt Chun: *Safe passage* (working title) – a picture book for children aged 8–12 years that examines the history of Australian children's books as reflecting or contributing to the visual culture and semiotics of settler colonialism and the White Australia Policy, and the significance attached to boats, safe passage and our relationship with the sea.

Creative Fellowships (\$15,000)

Four funded fellowships and one honorary fellowship have been awarded to artists and scholars for developing innovative ways to express the Library's collections.

Ms Alison Croggon: *The spell that worked* (working title) – a middle-grade novel for children aged 8–12 years in the form of a magical adventure story exploring class and politics in Australia during the Great Depression, set in Melbourne's lively theatre district.

Ms Kelly Jackson, Dr Luke Jackson, Ms Maya Graham: *The brownout murders* – a graphic novel based on events during the Pacific War.

Professor Julian Meyrick: *Immigrant artists in Melbourne theatre in the interwar years: the case of Dolia and Rosa Ribush*, a research project exploring the character and activities of these culturally influential theatre artists.

Dr Grace Yee: *The Chinese question* – a poetry collection responding to historical and current narratives by and about Chinese people in Australia.

Digital Fellowship (\$15,000)

For the exploration of digitised collections, datasets, or iconic physical items using digital technologies.

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Mr Justin Kelly: *Improving image discovery and re-use via computer vision* – a project using state-of-the-art computer vision to enrich discovery and re-use of the Library's digital image collection.

Emerging Writer's Fellowship (\$5000)

To aid the development of an emerging writer.

Ms Claire Albrecht: *Research towards a manuscript 'Handshake'* – a project requiring examination of artists' books, printing techniques and media, and works combining poetry and photography in an investigation of the relationship between image and text.

Georges Mora Fellowship (\$10,000)

For a contemporary artist to study, experiment and explore fresh thinking in their art.

Ms Ruth Höflich: *Reality is only a word* – for a visual artwork that draws on the relationship between digital and analogue image culture and information processing.

Indigenous Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Research Fellowship (\$15,000)

For research that increases Aboriginal Victorians' access to cultural knowledge held in the Library's collections.

Ms Mandy Nicholson: *Baggarrook-al Biik-u (She is of Country)* – a project focusing on Victorian Aboriginal women, specifically Wurundjeri women, and using the Library's collections to investigate Wurundjeri seasons and ceremony related to the feminine stars.

La Trobe Society Fellowship (\$15,000)

For research on Victoria's colonial history immediately before and during Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe's administration.

Mrs Megan Anderson: *Extravagance, tradition and power: an exploration of Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe's uniform* – a project exploring the significance, history, tradition and symbolism encompassed in the uniform of Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe. The outcome of the research will include a tailored suit with accents of gold and silver.

Photography Fellowship (\$15,000 – inaugural fellowship)

For research that investigates the relationship between photography and truth.

Ms Hayley Millar-Baker: *Australia: B-Side* – an investigation of history, focusing on south-east Victoria from an Aboriginal perspective, that weaves new narratives on old 'truths' by reconstructing written, verbal and visual histories from the Library archives.

Redmond Barry Fellowship (\$20,000)

For the production of literary works. This fellowship allows for 3–6 months' research and is funded in association with The University of Melbourne.

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Dr Nanette Carter and Ms Robyn Oswald-Jacobs: *Frances Burke, designer and the fabric of modernist Melbourne* – a monograph and exhibition focusing on Frances Burke's importance as a textile designer and champion of modernist design from the late 1930s.

Regional Fellowship (\$15,000 – inaugural fellowship)

For regional recipients to undertake projects that also engage with regional communities.

Mr Robert Hudson and Dr Shannon Woodcock: *Shared histories of Gunai/Kurnai country: Finding Gippsland" in the State Library Victoria collections* – a project using primary sources concerning the European colonisation of Gunai/Kurnai country, leading to a community-curated exhibition at the Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place to creatively engage Aboriginal communities in Gippsland.

Regional Fellowship (Honorary)

For regional recipients to undertake projects that also engage with regional communities.

Dr Christine Vickers: *Clara Lazar Geroe, Australia's first training psychoanalyst: translating the Hungarian, French and German papers in her correspondence* – a project translating the papers of Clara Lazar Geroe, Australia's first training psychoanalyst, from Hungarian to English. The translations will be a valuable contribution from regional Victoria to local and international scholars of the psychoanalytic diaspora.

Russell Beedles Performing Arts Fellowship (\$15,000)

For research into an aspect of the performing arts in Victoria.

Mr Daniel Keene: *Playing the Tiv* – a play centring on a cast of characters who are performers at Melbourne's fabled Tivoli theatre in the interwar years (1919–39). The play will explore their relationships with each other and their audiences.

Tate Adams Memorial Residency at Baldessin Press & Studio (\$5,000 – inaugural fellowship)

To accomplish a limited edition or unique state artist's book.

Ms August Carpenter: *Terra Incognita* – a series of large-scale monoprints depicting the rapidly changing glacial landscapes of the Antarctic ice shelf, drawing on cartographic material and early exploration photographs from the Library collection.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about-us/fellowships>

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