

Mary-Lou Divilli, *Yab-yabbe-ge-ni-nim*, 2019. Courtesy the Artist.June Djiagween, *When the Marjar came (blackbirding)*, 2019. Courtesy Kevin Smith

Exhibition: *The Alternative Archive* Returns to the Regions

Exhibition *The Alternative Archive* is a survey of regional contemporary art practice in Western Australia, touring the state with ART ON THE MOVE until 2024.

The Alternative Archive survey presents the work of 28 contemporary artists selected from the broader state-wide *The Alternative Archive* project that involved over 200 artists across 13 exhibitions in 2019. The survey iteration of *The Alternative Archive* debuted at Perth-based John Curtin Gallery in 2021. Now *The Alternative Archive* returns to the regions, offering a rare insight into the diversity of regional arts practice throughout the state.

According to ART ON THE MOVE Director Dr Theo Costantino, the exhibition demonstrates the strength and versatility of regional arts.

"*The Alternative Archive* is a powerful example of what reciprocal regional creative networks can produce, as well as the diversity, depth and quality of art throughout the state," Costantino said.

Artists have responded to local archives and collections or have produced new archives that can preserve 'untold' histories. Working in a range of media – including painting, drawing, textiles, jewellery, video and sculpture - the artists of *The Alternative Archive* tell of deep, multi-generational connections to place and family. Their artworks unearth stories that have been lost, kept hidden or that need to be told in new voices, as well as new stories shared in public for the first time.

Anna Louise Richardson, co-curator of the survey exhibition alongside John Curtin Gallery Director Chris Malcolm, reflected that the exhibition underlines the significance of the role of artists in our communities.

"Artists are recorders of social history, the creators of cultural capital in any community and their creative output is central to understanding our sense of identity, place and community," Richardson said.

***The Alternative Archive* Artists**

Naomie Hatherley (Broome), June Djiagween (Broome), Alana Grant (Mandurah), Lyn Nixon (Mandurah), James Walker (Mandurah), Deidre Robb (Mandurah), Claudette Mountjoy (Northcliffe), Louise Tasker (Manjimup), Lizzie Troup (Northcliffe), Maitland Hill (Dwellingup), Michelle Slarke (Lake Grace), Jeanne Melville (Lake Grace), Tania Spencer (Lake Grace), Marianne Penberthy (Geraldton), Charmaine Green (Geraldton), Mark Smith (Geraldton), Ellen Norrish (Geraldton), Gabrielle Butler (Perenjori), Chan Dalgarno (Narrogin), Karen McClurkin (Esperance), Serena McLauchlan (Albany), Tina Carmody (Kalgoorlie), Debbie Carmody (Kalgoorlie), Kgukgi Catherine Howard Noble (Kalgoorlie), Agnes Yamboong Armstrong (Kununurra), Brenda Mingen Ningamara (Kununurra), Mary-Lou Divilli (Kununurra), Peggy Madij Griffiths (Kununurra).

The *Alternative Archive* touring exhibition is presented by ART ON THE MOVE and is free for regional venues with the support of the WA State Government's Regional Exhibition Touring Boost.

Ends

Touring Dates

2022	
Geraldton Regional Art Gallery	8 July – 4 September 2022
2023	
Goldfields Art Centre	27 January 2022 – 12 March 2023
Carnarvon Library and Gallery	28 July – 24 September 2023
2024	
Bunbury Regional Art Gallery	6 October 2023 – 24 January 2024
Albany Town Hall	2 February – 9 March 2024

About ART ON THE MOVE

ART ON THE MOVE is Western Australia's only organisation dedicated to touring contemporary visual art exhibitions throughout the regions, interstate and beyond. Our work explores the connections between art and place, bringing together and inspiring diverse communities.

About the Regional Exhibition Touring Boost

The Regional Exhibition Touring Boost (RETB) program is an \$8 million McGowan Government election commitment that will widen the sharing of Western Australian culture within the State. RETB is managed by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, supported by Royalties for Regions and delivered by ART ON THE MOVE. For more information about funding programs specifically for regional WA visit dlgsc.wa.gov.au/regional-arts

Links

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