

Arts Nation

An Overview of Australian Arts

Arts Nation is a new report which provides evidence as a catalyst for informed discussion about the arts.

March 2015

ARTISTS AND THE ARTS

ARTS EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Artists are among the most highly educated professionals in Australia.

Most artists have portfolio careers with less than one in five professional artists working full-time on their creative practice.



2 IN 3

practicing professional artists hold a tertiary qualification



109,000

students undertaking creative arts qualifications at tertiary level

In 2013 there were 109,000 tertiary creative arts students in Australia; an increase of 2 percent on 2012, but average annual growth has slowed since 2008.



17%

of professional artists work full-time on their creative practice



44,000

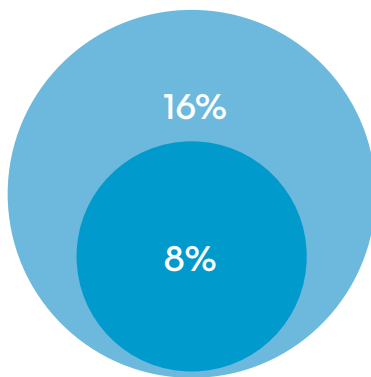
practicing professional artists

There were an estimated 44,000 practicing professional Australian artists in 2009. This population experienced strong growth in the 1980s and 1990s but has remained relatively stable since 2001.

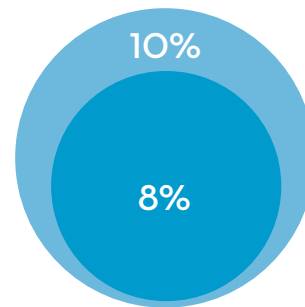
DIVERSITY IN ARTS PRACTICE

The professional artist population is less diverse than the rest of the Australian workforce.

■ Total workforce
 ■ Professional artists



Proportion of each group from a non-English speaking background



Proportion of each group with disability

Gender balance in the overall artist population is relatively even, with variations by art form. Female artists are less likely to be nominated for selected major Australian arts awards.



51%

Female practicing professional artists



30%

Female nominees in Australian arts awards

'...there are a lot more female than male readers, so it is curious when this is not reflected in the number of female authors winning awards.'

Professor Kim Scott

Writer and Professor of Writing in the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University

FACT SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EACH ARTS NATION REPORT THEME:

- Australians Experiencing the Arts
- Artists and the Arts
- Australian Arts Internationally
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts
- The Cultural Economy