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.

<table>
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<th>Total workforce</th>
<th>Professional artists</th>
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<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>8%</td>
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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

Arts Nation brings together data from both primary and secondary sources. See the Arts Nation report for references and contributors. This Fact Sheet has been produced by the Australia Council for the Arts as part of our Arts Nation research project. For more information on the research and to view other fact sheets and resources go to www.australiacouncil.gov.au/artsnation.