



Abbotsleigh Grace Cossington Smith art award

2026 Conditions of entry

National prize for two dimensional art

Entries are open to Australian residents for a national contemporary art prize sponsored by Abbotsleigh and commemorating one of its Alumni, Grace Cossington Smith, a pioneer of modernist painting in Australia.

Artists are invited to submit original two dimensional artworks that reflect the theme of *Making Connections*.

The three prizes

• Abbotsleigh Grace Cossington Smith art award	\$25,000 acquisitive
• Abbotsleigh Grace Cossington Smith early career* artist award	\$5,000 non acquisitive
• Abbotsleigh Grace Cossington Smith local* artist award	\$5,000 non acquisitive

and

A finalist will be selected for a 3:33 Art Projects* collaboration.

*defined on page 4

Key dates

• Online entry opens	Saturday 1 November 2025
• Entries close	Tuesday 14 April 2026
• Selected artists listed on website	Saturday 23 May 2026
• Delivery	Saturday 4 to Saturday 11 July 2026 10 am-4 pm (closed Sunday)
• Exhibition	Saturday 18 July to Saturday 15 August 2026
• Opening and awards presentation	To be announced
• Collection	Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 August 10 am-4 pm

How to enter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each applicant must complete the entry form online, provide an image of their work and confirm acceptance of the entry conditions, Entry is via our website. You will receive email confirmation of your online entries. Please phone or email the Gallery if support is required. Entry forms must be completed by the artist or their official representatives. Entries must be submitted by midnight Tuesday 14 April 2026
Entry information and submission fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two entries may be submitted (one entry listing filled in for each). A non-refundable \$50, including GST, entry fee or \$90 for two entries. A 1% surcharge is levied on all credit card payments to cover the bank fees incurred. There is no surcharge on debit card transactions. An entry may be a multiple work, providing the works adhere to the size and weight limits of the award. It is acceptable to submit one entry representing a partnership between artists, with the understanding that the artists' contribution is equal. All works entered in to the prize must be available for display for the entire duration of the exhibition. Each entry must consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Entry form including artist statement and information about the work: title, medium, dimensions, selling price including GST, and ABN (if applicable). b. A 300 DPI minimum JPG image, maximum 5MB where possible. Images should be saved with the following details as the file name: surname_firstname_artworktitle.jpg
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Abbotsleigh GCS art award is open to all permanent Australian residents aged 18 years and over (at 14 April 2026). Entries must be the original work of the entrant, executed during the two year period prior to the closing date: between April 2024 and April 2026, and not have won other art prizes. Entry warrants the artwork is original and does not infringe copyright, moral rights or other rights of a third party. The work entered in the award must be the unencumbered property of the entrant. Employees of Abbotsleigh, the selectors and immediate family, are not eligible to enter. All finalists will be considered for the Abbotsleigh GCS art award. Eligible finalists will be considered for the Abbotsleigh GCS early career award Eligible finalists will be considered for the Abbotsleigh GCS local award. The successful finalists will only be awarded one prize. All finalists, with interest nominated on the entry form, will be eligible for the 3:33 Art Projects Collaboration.
Subject	<p>Artists respond to the theme of <i>Making Connections</i> and the artist's statement in the entry form should explain the connection/s made. The theme is inspired by the art of Grace Cossington Smith whose work reveals her connections to family, domestic life, the local Turramurra area, the changing city of Sydney and ultimately to the modern art of Europe. Her work provides a glimpse into her world; ordinary connections that she represents in her observant line and jewels of colour.</p>
Media, size and restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Abbotsleigh GCS art award is open to original works that are two dimensional (2D) in any media, e.g. painting, drawing, printmedia, photography, textile. Two dimensional is here defined as a work that has a depth of no greater than 10 cm. The work should be no larger than 2 metres in width or height, and must not weigh more than 15 kg. Works requiring electricity will not be accepted. Works made with Artificial Intelligence (AI) will not be accepted. Works that cannot be hung from the Gallery clip rail, hook and wire hanging system (usually with D rings) will not be accepted. Works will not be taped or pinned to the Gallery wall.

Selection, notification and judging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works submitted for the Abbotsleigh GCS art award are viewed as digital files by a selection/judging panel, comprising a mix of artists, curators and academics, one of whom is the Director of the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. The panel will be announced prior to the submission date. Approximately 40 works will be selected by the judges for the Abbotsleigh GCS art award exhibition. Notification of the selected finalists is through the Abbotsleigh website abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/grace-cossington-smith-gallery, and email to selected artists, at the conclusion of the finalist selection phase. The judge's selection of finalists and winner will be final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding choice of artworks. By completing the online entry form the entrant warrants that an artwork listed as an entry is the sole and unencumbered property of the artist.
Indemnity and insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gallery will exercise all reasonable care when handling, storing and hanging artworks entered but does not take responsibility for any damage, theft or loss of the artwork during storage, handling, hanging, transport and delivery. Each participant is responsible for acquiring his/her own insurance and arranging appropriate freight to/from the Gallery.
Delivery and preparation for hanging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalists' artworks must be presented ready for exhibition, i.e. mounted and framed, if necessary, with appropriate hanging devices, such as D hooks attached between 50 to 100 mm from the top of the work, that allow the artworks to be hung on the Gallery's clip rail hanging system. Installation instructions should also be included (if applicable). The artist's name and title of work must be clearly marked on the back of each artwork.
Collection and return of entries and delivery location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of all entries selected for exhibition is between Saturday 4 to Saturday 11 July, 10 am-4 pm (closed Sunday) Finalists' artworks will only be accepted if free of freight charges and other charges. The Gallery will NOT pay for any costs incurred in the delivery of any entry. All entries must be available for continuous display at the Gallery for the entire period of the exhibition. GCS Gallery reserves the right to further assess all works delivered and make a final selection for the exhibition. Exhibitors must collect their artworks between Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 August 10 am-4 pm. Works not collected by Monday 28 September 2026 shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Director of the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery unless alternate arrangements have been made with the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. <hr/> <p>The finalists' artworks are to be delivered to:</p> <p>Grace Cossington Smith Gallery at Abbotsleigh Gate 7 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga NSW 2076</p> <p>02 9473 7878</p>
Acquisitive Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The artist declared the winner of the 2026 Abbotsleigh Grace Cossington Smith art award agrees the work shall become the property of Abbotsleigh and part of Abbotsleigh's Grace Cossington Smith Gallery art collection. Consideration of long-term conservation and management issues will be taken into account in the awarding of the Prize. The artist of the winning artwork acquired by the Abbotsleigh GSC Gallery confirms there is no restriction on title passing to Abbotsleigh and the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. The artist maintains copyright over all commercial reproduction.

Reproduction/ copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists selected for the 2026 Abbotsleigh Grace Cossington Smith art award exhibition will provide images of their work and will allow the work to be reproduced by print and electronic media during the advertising and promotion for the Exhibition, after the Exhibition and for archival uses. The Abbotsleigh GCS Gallery will acknowledge authorship of works. Artists warrant they are the copyright owner of all submitted artworks and that their artworks do not infringe moral rights or other rights of third parties.
Privacy	All personal information received will be used solely for the organisation of the Abbotsleigh GCS art award.
Sale of artwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artworks exhibited in the Abbotsleigh GCS art award exhibition may be available for sale. Prices listed on the entry form are considered final, and will not be altered after submission. Unrepresented artists will have a commission of 33.3% deducted from the selling price of work. Artists with commercial gallery representation should include on the entry form the name of the gallery with which the relevant 50/50 split commission arrangements will apply. Any other agreements should be made known to the Gallery. Artists should be aware of their GST obligations and commitments to representing commercial galleries or agents prior to determining the sale price of their artworks and completing the entry form. If you require advice on this matter, please call the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on 132 478. Payment will be made direct to the artist and not to a third party. The artist must provide their ABN before the Gallery can make payment for sales. If the artist does not have an ABN they will be required to submit a Statement by Supplier form, available from the ATO.
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We define an early career artist as someone in the early stages of their professional career as an artist, usually within the first five years of professional practice or within 10 years of graduating from an undergraduate art degree (or equivalent). Local artists must have lived in the Hornsby Shire or Ku-ring-gai areas within the two years prior to the closing date of 14 April 2026. 3:33 Art Project is an initiative of Max Germanos 333artprojects.com

Find the entry form online at gcsgallery.com.au/gcs-art-award

Call **02 9473 7878** or email gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au for more information



Gallery hours Tues to Sat 10 am-5 pm FREE ENTRY | Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga | **02 9473 7878**
gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au | www.gcsgallery.com.au | An Anglican Pre K-12 Day and Boarding School for Girls

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery acknowledges the Dharug People as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which the gallery rests. We acknowledge and pay respects to elders, past and present.