



The Art Factory

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-2026

THE ART FACTORY



Jacko Meyers in the studio. Photo by James Farley

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ART

THE ART FACTORY

Cover Image:

Jennifer West

The Queen in the Garden

2024 mixed media

Photo by Leigh Hewitt

Riverina Community College

theartfactorysupportedstudio.com

Phone number

+61 2 6933 5555

90-98 Murray St,

Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

PO Box 5065,

Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

ABN

20201193994

*We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians of the land we work on.
Sovereignty was never ceded.*

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Adrian Burtin with his cosplay glove. 2021. Photo by Leigh Hewitt

PURPOSE

To support our artists to expand their creative, self-led, artistic language.

VISION

We want social change through professional artistic practice, self-determination and community connection.

VALUES

- Outward Looking
- Advocating & Educating
- Broad Reach

Lilly Salmon, Angel, 2024, Mixed Media





Lorraine O'Hara in the studio. Photography by Linda Elliott

MISSION

We are a contemporary artist-led studio that increases the visibility and professional development of artists with neurodiversity and learning disability. We provide an inclusive, safe and empowering environment for artists and staff to be respected and valued. We foster and advocate for authentic best practice initiatives across art, community, education, disability and health.

HISTORY

The Art Factory at Riverina Community College began in 2016 with seven artists. We continue to be guided by the Supported Studio Framework that insists that learning disabled and neuro-diverse artists have access to pathways to develop and establish a professional artistic practice.

The Art Factory has grown to operate five days a week, with 12 artists attending each day. The Art Factory staff ensure the studio

members are seen as valuable and active contributors to the wider creative community by modelling a positive peer to peer relationship.

The Art Factory has developed meaningful collaborations with numerous art galleries, funding bodies, city council's and supported studios across Australia and internationally. These partnerships are ongoing and have contributed to the success of the studio's vibrant history.



Kellie Hulm, *Wetland Birds*, 2023, *Acrylic on Canvas*

ENGAGEMENT PROTOCOLS TO MEET BEST PRACTICE



Brae Tye in the studio, 2021. Photo by Leigh Hewitt

STRATEGIC PLAN

We have a duty of care to the artists who work in the studio. To keep them safe we require visitors to the studio such as support workers, carers, curators, artists and partner organisations to understand the following points. This is to ensure we can meet best practice standards:



Paul Williams, *Cat*, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas

1. People who work in the studio will be called 'Artists'.
2. Staff will call artists 'Peers' to honour their shared connection of artistic practice and that they are both working within the broader Riverina creative community.
3. Never touch or make a mark on the artists artwork.
4. Don't tell an artist what they should draw/paint etc, unless it is a project or commission based work.
5. Never title an artwork for an artist.
6. Give artists their autonomy and dignity by supporting them to make their own decisions.
7. After each project staff will debrief with partners in order to learn from each other and improve best practice standards by being held accountable for the decisions we made.

The Art Factory Crew posing in front of Maz and Shayne Moylan's artworks, July 2024. Photo by Jackie Cooper.





Paul Williams in the studio. Photo by Linda Elliott



Key Objectives:

EXCELLENCE IN ARTISTIC PRACTICE

We will deliver excellence in artistic practice through making new artworks and facilitating exhibitions, residencies, skills sharing, critique sessions, gallery visits and curatorial practices.

1. We will deliver three solo exhibitions a year in our gallery.
2. We will deliver three group exhibitions a year in our gallery.
3. We will visit six exhibitions a year in other galleries.
4. We will deliver four exhibitions a year in other galleries.
5. Our staff will deliver six skills sharing workshops a year.
6. Our artists will deliver six workshops a year.
7. We will seek out one residency opportunity a year for our artists.
8. We will have one open studio each year.
9. We will develop eight opportunities for artists to MC exhibitions or present talks.
10. Our staff will review artists artworks twice a year.
11. We will hold selected artworks by each artist in order to promote and preserve their work within the arts sector.

Key Objectives:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ARTISTS AND STAFF

We will ensure our artists and staff have an ever-expanding knowledge and engagement with the arts sector in the Riverina and beyond. We acknowledge that self-determination requires support and time.

1. Artists will have a four-week trial before joining the studio.
2. Artists and staff need to sign and then demonstrate an active understanding of our culture agreement in order to maintain our inclusive and safe studio environment.
3. Staff need to have an active exhibition history and we will support this by providing them access to our exhibition space when required.
4. We will make individual plans with each artist to ensure we are working towards their goals.
5. We will partner with one supported studio to deliver a project.



Michael Beeson, *School Bus Series*, 2023, *Ceramics*

Key Objectives:

ADVOCATING FOR OUR ARTISTS

We aim to define and deliver ethical, best practice in arts and disability to support new learnings for all stakeholders. We will ensure the dignity of our artists is at the forefront of our interactions with the public.



Tanya Crawshaw in the studio. Photograph by Linda Elliott.

1. Staff will be given yearly training in NDIS protocols.
2. Staff will be given disability awareness training in house.
3. Staff have the responsibility to advocate on behalf of the artists, as mandatory reporters.
4. Before we partner with organisations, we will share our protocols and acceptable work culture documents.
5. We will establish debrief processes with all stakeholders to ensure accountability of best practice.
6. We will advocate within the arts, community, education, disability and health sectors.

Key Objectives:

ORGANISATIONAL SUCCESS

We are committed to maintaining a functional, contemporary art studio through meaningful governance.

1. Staff will hold regular meetings.
2. We will hold annual performance reviews.
3. We will develop procedural documents to ensure best practice protocols.
4. We will establish an advisory committee that includes Art Factory artists and arts professionals.
5. We will deliver workshops across the Riverina in order to scope new creative opportunities for artists beyond Wagga Wagga.
6. The Program Co-ordinator and Studio Supervisor will maintain engagement with the arts and disability sector.
7. The Program Co-ordinator and Studio Supervisor will develop their leadership capacity through professional development.
8. We will seek organisational mentorship opportunities with established arts organisations to deepen our governance structures.



Laura Jack, Tara Fredericks, Lorraine O'Hara, Jennifer West and Danni Flory, in front of Danni and Laura's artwork. Photography by Linda Elliott.

