

## **INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTIST IAN STRANGE ANNOUNCED AS NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AT ART GALLERY WA**

Marking a bold new direction in the vision and curation of Western Australia's arts scene, Art Gallery WA (AGWA) this week announces the appointment of new guest artistic director — internationally renowned multidisciplinary Australian artist Ian Strange.

Perhaps best known for his epic series of suburban architectural interventions, Perth-born, New York-based Strange has made a steady rise to international prominence since his start as an artist in Perth in the early 2000s.

Working across a range of mediums including architecture, visual art and film, Strange has produced works that sit in private and public collections around the world, and has collaborated with high-profile names including US designer Virgil Abloh, who commissioned Strange to create a sculptural installation for OFF-WHITE's first Australian store in Melbourne.

Joining AGWA this month for a 12-month-long tenure, Strange promises to bring an inspired global perspective to the gallery's programming and experience.

"I'm delighted and genuinely excited for the opportunity to come back to Western Australia and contribute to the future direction of Art Gallery WA," says Strange. "WA's thriving cultural sector is a divergent mix of creative and cultural expression and AGWA provides some of the state's most engaging artistic content. I look forward to continuing and expanding on this curatorial lineage."

Of the appointment, AGWA Director Colin Walker commented: "I'm delighted to welcome Ian Strange to Art Gallery WA in this new role as guest Artistic Director. This appointment will see Ian apply his broad creative viewpoint to the gallery's approach to offer a truly inspired new experience for our visitors."

The guest AD role forms part of a broader curatorial restructure as the gallery looks toward its 125th anniversary and renews its focus on forging relationships with the Western Australian community.

"It is our job to reflect the many voices within our community," states Walker. "To achieve this, we must provide an inclusive, open-ended experience that opens up conversations and gives people different ways to interact with AGWA, with the art of this place, and with each other. We're focused on prompting a generational shift in how people engage with art – by welcoming Ian as our guest AD and offering an artist's perspective, I'm confident we'll see a start to that process."

Indeed, Strange is focused on providing audiences with new and innovative ways to experience the gallery: "An interaction with AGWA should be a considered, immersive experience – a place outside the ordinary that allows our audience to experience art in a range of different formats and contexts." Strange continues: "I look forward to working with the team at AGWA to help facilitate the gallery's next evolution by welcoming a diverse and engaging range of exhibitions, programs and digital content that encourage important cultural and social dialogue."

"My hope is that AGWA will be viewed as a dynamic and ever-evolving institution that adapts to new forms of audience engagement and curation while maintaining its connections to a rich local and global art history."

A full biography for Ian Strange is available [here](#).

