

KOORI MAIL INDIGENOUS ART AWARD 2026

The Koori Mail Indigenous Art Award 2026 is an art prize for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, first launched at Lismore Regional Gallery in 2021. Established, mid-career, and emerging Indigenous artists working in any medium are encouraged to enter the prize.

This is a non-acquisitive award, and entries are free. Shortlisted artworks will be included in the exhibition at Lismore Regional Gallery from 7 November 2026 until 14 February 2027.

KEY DATES

Submissions

Entries close midnight	6 September 2026
Selection panel shortlisting	21 – 25 September 2026
Finalists notified of selection	25 September 2026

Shortlisted artworks

Public announcement of finalists	5 October 2026
Delivery of artworks to Gallery	26 October 2026
Judging	6 November 2026
Opening and awards ceremony	7 November 2026
Exhibition	7 November 2026 – 14 February 2027
Collect artworks from the Gallery	21 February 2027

Please contact the Lismore Regional Gallery if you need assistance with your submission by phone (02) 6627 4600 or email art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au.

ELIGIBILITY AND CONDITION OF ENTRY

- Koori Mail Indigenous Art Award is a visual art prize for Australian and Torres Strait Island First Nations artists.
- Artists may enter one work only.
- All artists must be acknowledged if the artwork is a collaborative or community group piece.
- The Award is free to enter.
- Completed works should not exceed 2 metres in any given dimension (including frame).
- Multi-panel pieces are accepted and are regarded as one work. A work may consist of multiple parts but must not exceed the overall size limit of 2 metres.
- The Artwork/s must be available for public display for the duration of the Exhibition.
- The Artwork/s, including limited-edition prints, must not have been previously publicly displayed or entered into an exhibition, award, competition or festival prior to entering
- Finalist Artists selected for exhibition will be paid \$200 on receipt of an invoice.
- Gallery staff are not eligible to enter the prize.
- Artworks submitted must be the artist's original work.
- The Artwork/s must have been completed within 12 months of the close of entry date.
- The Award is open to any media and 2- and 3-dimensional works.
- The Youth/Emerging category is for artists aged between 18 and 25 at the time of entry.

SELECTION PROCESS

- A panel of judges will carefully select the finalist artworks from a high-resolution digital image (jpeg) or a moving image file provided by the artist.
- The panel of judges will consist of art professionals and representatives from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander art communities.
- Entries for pre-selection are to be entered online or via a paper entry form consisting of:
 - A completed entry form.
 - An artist statement in 150 words or less that includes an explanation of the artwork.
 - A bio in 150 words or less, providing a summary of the artist's experience.
 - A quality, high-resolution digital image of the work.
 - For multimedia artworks that include moving images or videos, entries must be submitted with a shared URL (web link) using Dropbox or Google Drive or provide links to viewable files from the artist's website or by Vimeo or YouTube.
 - The Gallery must receive entries by **midnight on Sunday, 6 September 2026**.
 - Late entries will not be accepted. If you have difficulties submitting your entry form, please contact the Gallery.

FINALIST EXHIBITION

- Finalist artworks selected for exhibition must be available for continuous display at the Gallery for the entire exhibition period.
- The sale price must be clearly noted on the entry form if the artwork is for sale. The sale price includes a 25% commission to the Gallery. If you are registered for GST, please factor that into your sale price.
- Works must be ready for display at the time of delivery. If works require materials or equipment not currently at the gallery, exceptional display requirements will be at the cost of the artist.
- The application must include instructions for any special requirements needed for installing or hanging the entered artwork.
- Works must be clearly labelled with the artist's name, address, artwork title, and direction.
- The Gallery has the right to refuse to display any entry.
- The freight of the work to and from the gallery is the responsibility of the artist.
- For multimedia artworks that include moving images or video, finalist works should be downloadable files submitted with a shared URL (web link) using Dropbox or Google Drive.
- Storage at the Gallery is limited. If an artist fails to collect the work from the Gallery, the Gallery may sell, destroy, or otherwise dispose of the work in such a manner as is deemed fit by the Gallery. The Gallery **must** make reasonable efforts to contact the artist.
- Artists will give permission to the Gallery to reproduce their artwork for promotion relating to the Award. The Gallery may also reproduce extracts from the artist's statement and biographical material provided.