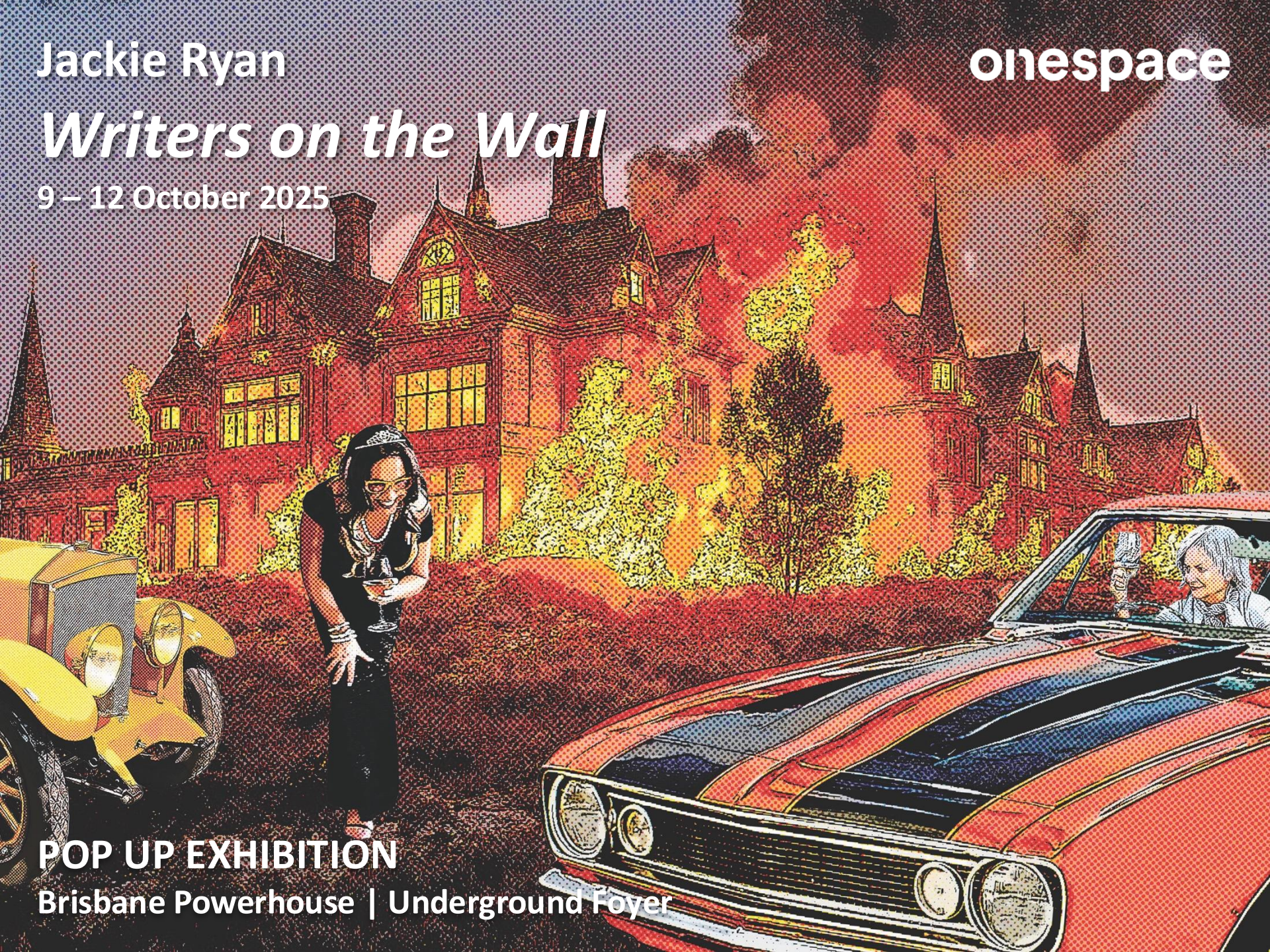


Jackie Ryan

onespace

Writers on the Wall

9 – 12 October 2025



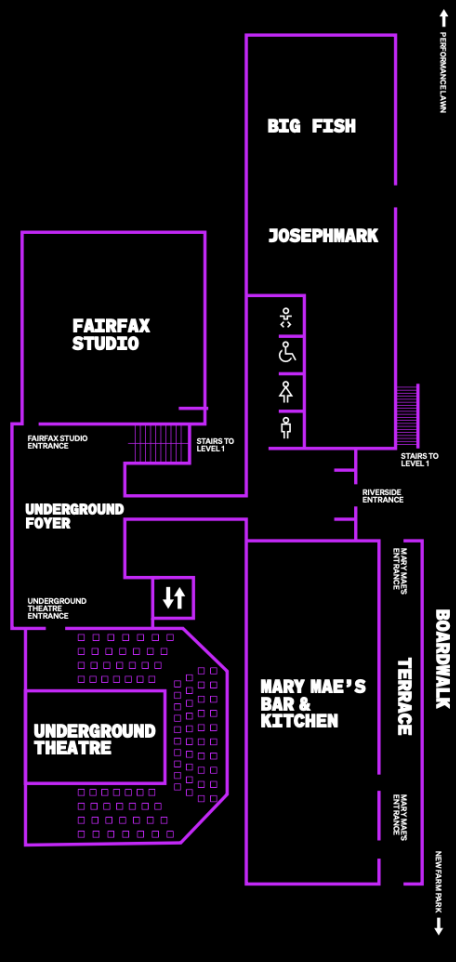
POP UP EXHIBITION

Brisbane Powerhouse | Underground Foyer

Writers on the Wall

9 – 12 October 2025

RIVER LEVEL



**BRISBANE
POWERHOUSE**



WHEN & WHERE TO SEE THE SHOW

Exhibition Dates: Thursday 9 – Sunday 12 October 2025

Venue: Brisbane Powerhouse | Underground Theatre Foyer
119 Lamington Street, New Farm QLD 4005

Opening Hours: 8am – Late



Photo: courtesy of the artist and Onespace

Jackie Ryan is the artistic director of the Brisbane Writers Festival. She has an abiding interest in culture that connects her work across forms and genres, from writing and research to performance, arts management, indie music videos and visual design. She holds a PhD in history and political science from The University of Queensland.

Jackie's book, *We'll Show the World: Expo 88* (UQP 2018), won two Queensland Literary Awards (Best History Book and Best Non-Fiction Book) and was shortlisted for *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award.

Her graphic novel series, *Burger Force*, has won an Aurealis Award and a Bronze Ledger and been shortlisted for the Russell Prize for Humour Writing. Her comedy writing collective, the Fanciful Fiction Auxiliary (FFA), has sold out a show or two here and there, including at Brisbane Powerhouse. The websites for *Burger Force* and the FFA have been preserved by the National Archives of Australia as sites of cultural significance.

Jackie's visual art has been the subject of several solo and group exhibitions and is held in public and private collections. She's represented by Onespace Gallery.

As you enter the industrial chic of Brisbane Powerhouse for this year's Brisbane Writers Festival, your eye is drawn – powerfully, irresistibly – to a series of images that adorn the walls. *Is this for the Portrait Prize?* you wonder. *World Press Photo?* But no – as you step closer, as your vision adjusts in the cool dark of your surrounds, you begin to realise that these artworks may lie beyond your frame of reference.

The scenes are uncanny, fantastical, arresting. A lugubrious clown awaits a phone call. An influencer powers up her ring light as the apocalypse rages outside her window. An intrepid explorer makes a mesmerising yet mysterious discovery in a public toilet. A glamorous socialite heads to her getaway car after a fiery night out. Two striking figures face off in a hotel room, each considering their next move. You're taking it all in, experiencing a rush of feelings: confusion, elation, curiosity. But there's something else, something you can't quite put your finger–

Wait. Hold up a second. That clown – he looks familiar. He looks – no, that can't be right. But he really *does* look a lot like bestselling author and beloved former ABC radio presenter Richard Glover. And actually, having clocked this resemblance – too uncanny to ignore – you're starting to recognise that the other figures in these surreal tableaux also look suspiciously like beloved Australian writers, many of whom feature in this year's festival program and all of whom are alumni of festivals past.

Yes, yes: now that you've made the connection, it's like when one of those magic-eye images slides into comprehension. My god, you think – that's *Anita Heiss* who's running, laughing, towards *Susan Johnson* in the epic getaway car. It's *Ceridwen Dovey* – surely the very antithesis of an influencer – in the halo of the ring light. *Kris Kneen* eyeing themselves off in luxury accommodation. *Winnie Dunn* exploring the bathroom with the binoculars. And there's more, good lord, so much more: *Debra Oswald* squaring off against her inner critic, *Michelle*

Law unfazed by an arsenal of weapons, *Kristina Olsson* gazumped by ever-escalating technological obsolescence, *Pascalie Burton* majestically poised on landfill, *Carody Culver* as a nurse you may not recover from.

And it's only now that you understand who must be behind this. Because there could be only one person responsible.

Who else but Jackie Ryan – award-winning writer and visual artist, Brisbane Writers Festival artistic director, long-term collector of strange wigs – could coax such esteemed wordsmiths into sharp bobs, fake wounds and safari suits? Who else could transpose them into a visual landscape that blends a pop aesthetic with top notes of Armageddon?

There's a lot going on here, you decide. *The Writers on the Wall* doesn't just demonstrate what exceptional posers these authors are (although you should have known, of course, that each of them would inhabit their artistic alter egos with the same aplomb, poise and wit they bring to the page). The series also celebrates its subjects' magnificence through a new lens, playfully embodying BWF's mandate to put the *festive* in *festival* and reminding you of art's boundless capacity to entertain and enchant. Looking at these pictures, you realise, puts you in a better mood.

As you take a step back to reappraise Ryan's audacious collection, you conclude that your satisfaction is twofold. First, you can congratulate yourself on having successfully solved this literary version of *Where's Wally*. Second, you can revel in its unapologetic display of authorial star power, its dauntless imperative to put writers where they should perhaps be asked to spend more time: in the spotlight.

- Carody Culver

Jackie Ryan

Writers on the Wall

9 – 12 October 2025



Jackie Ryan

Discharged (featuring Carody Culver), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 59 x 42 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Elevated (featuring Pascale Burton), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 59 x 42 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Stood Down Clown (featuring Richard Glover), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 59 x 42 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Double Trouble (featuring Krissy Kneen and Kris Kneen), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 59 x 42 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

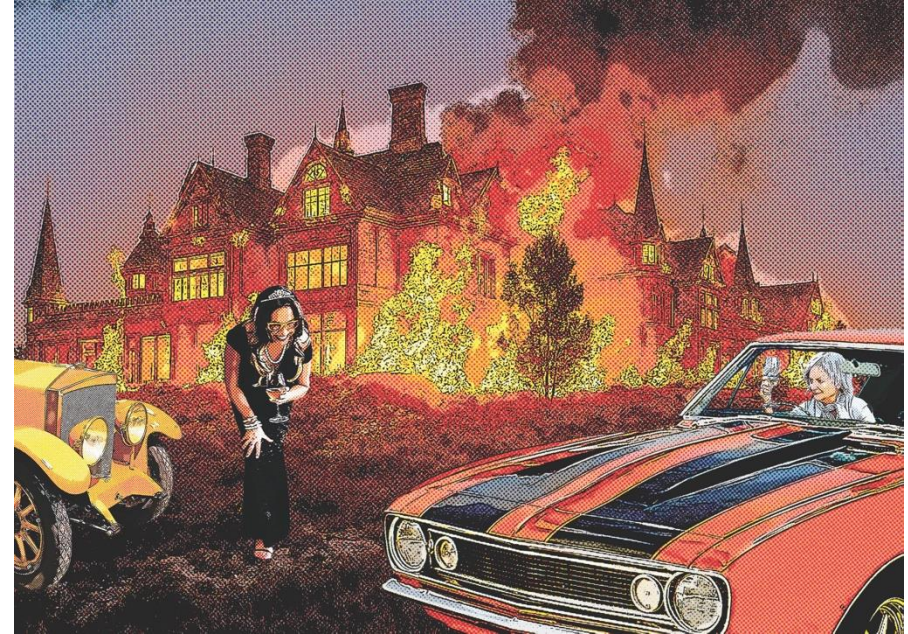
Hold the Line (featuring Kristina Olsson), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 42 x 59 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Had a Blast (featuring Anita Heiss and Susan Johnson), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 42 x 59 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

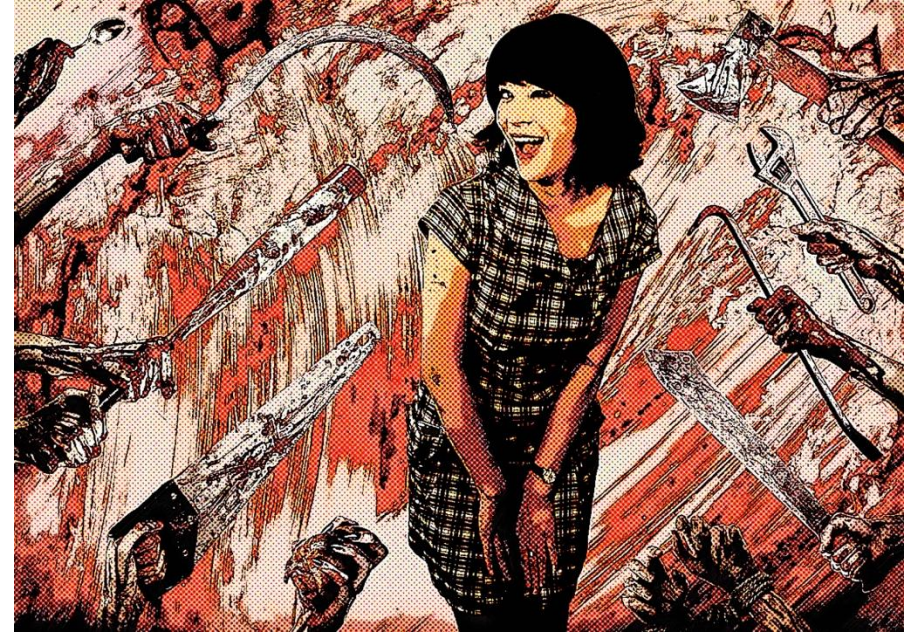
The Final Frontier (featuring Winnie Dunn), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 42 x 59 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Social Media (featuring Michelle Law) – Second State, 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 42 x 59 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Bad Influence (featuring Ceridwen Dovey), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 42 x 59 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Reviews Are In (featuring Debra Oswald), 2025

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 42 x 59 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$1,400

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Jackie Ryan

Writers on the Wall

9 – 12 October 2025





Jackie Ryan

Mystery Shopper (featuring Carody Culver), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 59 x 84 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.



Jackie Ryan

Out of Office (featuring Carody Culver and Myles McGuire), 2024

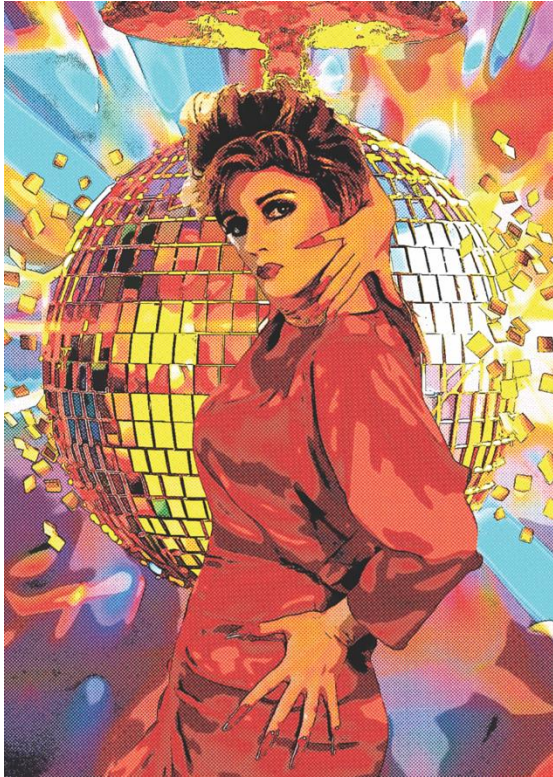
Dye sublimation on aluminum, 59 x 84 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Jackie Ryan



Jackie Ryan

Atomic Disco (featuring Jackie Ryan), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 84 x 59 x 2cm

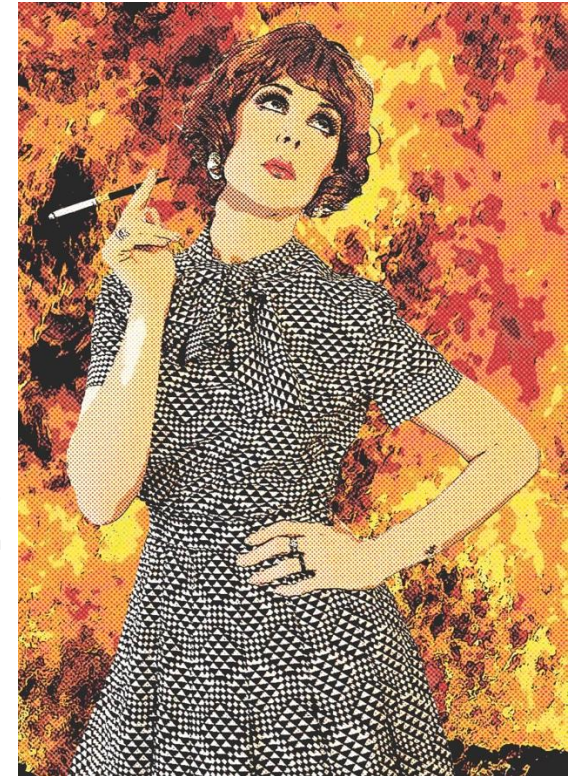
2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

Writers on the Wall

9 – 12 October 2025



Jackie Ryan

Smokin' (featuring Carody Culver), 2024

Dye sublimation on aluminum, 84 x 59 x 2cm

2AP + Edition of 10

\$2,300

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Onespace.

ABOUT ONESPACE

Onespace is a Brisbane-based gallery that presents and sells contemporary art, including work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

We curate an exhibition program exploring diverse themes and media, showcasing emerging, mid-career and established artists whose works inform, stimulate and challenge. Onespace welcomes you to engage with the artists and artworks we exhibit.

Onespace is uniquely located adjacent to Maiwar (Brisbane river) beneath the Spice Apartments near the Go Between Bridge in South Brisbane. We are proudly surrounded by the dynamic buzz of the Queensland cultural precinct that is significant to this area of Brisbane.

Director, John Stafford: john@onespace.com.au

Director, Jodie Cox: jodie@onespace.com.au

Gallery Manager, Demi Conrad: demi@onespace.com.au

Gallery Assistant, Poppy Saines: poppy@onespace.com.au

Gallery Assistant, Mae Stanton: mae@onespace.com.au

Writers on the Wall Exhibition Coordinator, Tamika Grant-Iramu

onespace.com.au

[@onespace.au](https://www.instagram.com/onespace.au)

Onespace Gallery Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday 12pm – 5pm

25A Bouquet Street, South Brisbane Q 4101 Australia



Onespace acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters, culture and community. We pay our respects to elders past and present.