

Aidan Hartshorn.

b. 1995, Wagga Wagga, NSW
Walgalu (Wolgal, Wolgalu) and Wiradjuri peoples
Lives and works in Kamberri/Canberra, ACT

'We can have traditional practice but what does that look like in a changed world where we don't have access to many of our spaces?'

Aidan Hartshorn's (Walgalu/Wiradjuri) practice examines the environmental and cultural impacts of industrialisation in Australia's high country. Raised in Tumut, where the Murrumbidgee and Tumut Rivers meet, Hartshorn's connection to his ancestral land is shaped by the disruptions of the Snowy Hydro-Electric Scheme, which submerged much of Walgalu Country, erasing sacred sites. The ongoing flooding and diversion of the Snowy River continue to affect Hartshorn's community, limiting access to cultural practices and ancestral lands.

Through his work, Hartshorn addresses the intersection of colonisation, environmental degradation, and cultural loss, often using industrial glass to create objects that reflect his heritage and the ecological damage. His creations, like his Murrin (bark canoe), embody reflections on loss, resilience, and the struggle to reconnect with the land.

Hartshorn's practice highlights the environmental consequences of Australia's water management systems, challenging the narratives promoted by institutions and government. His work underscores the devastating impact on Walgalu Country, with patterns and forms echoing the fracturing of land and water systems, revealing both the beauty and violence of altered landscapes. His visual inquiries explore the complex relationship between industry, culture, and land.



AIDAN HARTSHORN

b. 1995, Wagga Wagga, NSW
Walgalu (Wolgal, Wolgalu) and Wiradjuri peoples
Lives and works in Kamberri/Canberra, ACT

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Visual Arts, ANU School of Art and Design

AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES

- 2024 First Nations Cultural Arts Program, ACT Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Program
2021 Art Monthly Australasia Indigenous Voices mentorship

COMMISSIONS

Country Road + National Gallery of Victoria First Nations Commissions

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Victoria
Museum of Contemporary Art Australia
Powerhouse Museum

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Altered Currents*, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Fulcrum, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra
In the Air, The Substation, Canberra

2022 *Nganygulia Murunwiginya*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *My Country, Country Road + NGV First Nations Commissions*, Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Primavera 2024: Young Australian Artists, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney
Canberra Art Biennial, The Mixing Room Gallery, Canberra
Aidan Hartshorn & Erica Muriata & Keemon Williams: The Preview, Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney

2023 NAIDOC Exhibition, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Australian Capital Territory

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ArtsHub, 'Exhibition review: Primavera 2024: Young Australian Artists, MCA', Gina Fairley, 14 October 2024.
ABC Arts, 'Meet the five up-and-coming artists featured in Primavera 2024: Young Australian Artists at the MCA', Nicola Heath, 6 September 2024.
MCA, 'Aidan Hartshorn: From submerged Country, shield forms float', Jonathan Jones, 2024.
About Regional, 'Aidan's major installation brings visibility to a forgotten part of the high country', Edwina Mason, 9 July 2024.
Country Road, 'Aidan Hartshorn on Bringing Visibility to Forgotten Storytelling', Yatu Widders Hunt, 14 June 2024.
ACT Government, 'First Nations Cultural Arts Program recipients announced', 6 June 2024.
ArtsHub, 'Connecting communities with My Country', Stephen A Russell, 22 March 2024.
ArchitectureAU, 'My Country', 22 March 2024.
The Australian, 'On the road to cultural appreciation', 16 July 2023.

