

BACKBONE ²⁰²⁴ ON DISPLAY APPLICATION GUIDE



Image by Morgan Roberts

ABOUT BACKBONE

Founded in Brisbane 36 years ago, Backbone Youth Arts is a dynamic community organisation dedicated to empowering **CURIOUS**, **UNTAMED**, and **EXPERIMENTAL** thinkers. At Backbone, our mission is clear: to cultivate the next generation of artists, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural leaders. We engage with young artists as self-determined and equal partners, providing unique development strategies tailored to each artist and work. Backbone is here for the Young Artist Community, and because of the Young Artist Community.



Image by Morgan Roberts

Image by Jade Ellis



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Backbone's On Display is a new program for visual artists. On Display invites 4 Young Visual Artists (aged 18-30) or small collectives, to develop, create and publicly exhibit new works that explore the realms of the **CURIOUS**, **UNTAMED** and **EXPERIMENTAL**.

In collaboration with Meanjin artist [Micah Rustchelli](#), Backbone presents an exclusive opportunity for visual artists to craft captivating installations within a public glass display cabinet located at Seven Hills Hub. Each artist will receive an artist's fee of \$3000 (to supplement wages and/or production expenses) and access to their own display cabinet for 4 months, enabling them to exhibit their work, spark conversations, and engage the public with their artistic narratives.

On Display welcomes artists across varied multi-disciplinary visual arts based practices to apply. We welcome creators who revel in the experimental, daring to go beyond the traditional confines of visual art. This is an invitation to not only exhibit but to immerse the audience in interactive works, collaborative endeavours, and innovative processes.

Join us in rewriting the rules of artistic exhibition.

WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE?

As a part of the On Display Program, you will receive:

- A cash investment from Backbone of \$3000 to support production costs and/or artist fees.
- Up to 4 months public exhibition of your works at Seven Hills Hub
- Ongoing mentorship and artistic support from project manager Micah Rustichelli
- Access to Backbone's available venue spaces, technical resources and equipment.
- Opportunity to exhibit and sell works across the duration of the residency
- In-kind support and advice from Backbone producers and leaders.
- Access to a display cabinet ongoing for 4 months

KEY DATES

Application Open: Thursday 1st February

Application Due: Monday 4th March **(by 9:00am)**

Participants Selected: Week of Monday 18th March

Participants Onboarding: Week of Monday 1st April

On Display Round 1 (2 x Participants): 8th April - 5th August *

On Display Round 2 (2 x Participants): 2nd September - 31st December *

**The On Display Rounds are the dates when the display cabinets are available for artists use, additional time will be available for de/installation.*

Image by Jade Ellis

BACKBONE



DISPLAY CABINETS

The display cabinets that artists will have access to via Backbone's On Display Program are located at the Seven Hills Hub. There are two identical cabinets that measure **2.18m high, 1.54m wide and 0.72m deep**. Each cabinet has **5 glass shelves** that can be adjusted in height or completely removed. They can be accessed via lockable sliding glass doors that have an **opening of 0.72m wide**. The cabinets **do not have access to power**, but have one downlight each.



DISPLAY CABINET #1



DISPLAY CABINET #2

Artists will have access to 1 cabinet for 4 months plus additional de/installation time if required. We encourage participants to consider how their display could grow, evolve or change over the 4 month period. However, static displays will also be considered.

Please note that due to the location of the cabinets, the presented artworks will need to be appropriate for display in a public setting that is frequented by a diverse community of young people, children and families. In addition, no perishable or organic matter can be used in the artworks.



ABOUT MICAH

Micah Rustichelli

Program Manager 'On Display'

Micah Rustichelli is a Meanjin-based multidisciplinary artist working across forms of painting, drawing, installation, and performance art. Since 2016 Rustichelli has been developing a practice which largely explores the role of the body and self in relation to artmaking, as well as the role of the viewer as audience, witness, spectator, participant. After obtaining their Graduate Certificate in Visual Arts from Griffith University in 2022, the artist has continued to explore the principles of installation, interaction, performance, and spatial experience as they relate to the artmaking process.



FAQS

What stage does my project or idea need to be in?

Backbone's On Display program is open to project proposals for new works.

Can I apply as a group?

YES. Our On Display residencies are open to individuals and small groups (up to 4 artists per group). Applications will need to have one main contact, who can act as the main point of communication.

Does everyone involved have to be under 30 years of age?

NO. While Backbone's focus is on artists 30 years and under our On Display Program is open to:

- Individual artists 30 years and under.
- Collectives where the lead creative and majority of the team is 30 years and under.

What can I expect from the On Display Program?

- An artist's fee of \$3000 (to supplement wages and/or production expenses)
- In-kind support and advice from Backbone producers and leaders.
- Access to Backbone's available venue spaces, technical resources and equipment.
- Up to 4 months public exhibition of your works at Seven Hills Hub
- Access to a display cabinet ongoing for 4 months
- Ongoing mentorship and artistic support from project manager Micah Rustichelli
- Opportunity to exhibit and sell works across the duration of the residency





FAQS

What art forms do Backbone support?

Backbone is a multi-arts organisation, but our On Display program is curated for visual artists specifically. We highly encourage applicants experimenting with form and process to apply. On Display is open (but not limited) to practitioners in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, installation, ceramics, photography, design, crafts, and architecture.

We support **curious, untamed, and experimental** thinkers from all artistic backgrounds. If you are unsure if your art form is right for this opportunity, reach out to us at info@backbone.org.au

Do I get a studio or space to work?

Unfortunately Backbone does not have space for artists to set up a permanent studio or store large items (other than in the display case, of course!). However, we do have three studio spaces which can be made available to you providing your work can be packed down.

You can view our available spaces [HERE](#). Please note that this venue is also open to the public for hire. If access to space is integral to your process, please let us know which space would be your preference and how you would use it in the application form.

What does Backbone expect from the applicants?

- Open and ongoing communication.
- Work in collaboration with the Backbone team to ensure all parties are supported.
- Provide feedback to Backbone at the end of the On Display Program to help assist and develop our future programs.
- During your On Display residency, artists are expected to act as ambassadors of Backbone, through promoting your On Display Residency and any public outcomes (i.e. artists-talks, workshops etc.).
- Some form of community engagement (e.g. artists talk, open studio, opening night event etc.)

Are there any limitations to what I can display?

YES. As the cabinets are in public view at a venue that is frequented by a diverse community of young people, children and families, the artworks displayed will need to be appropriate for such audiences. Additionally, artworks with organic matter or perishable materials will also be ineligible.



FAQS

What is the selection criteria for the On Display Program?

Applications will be assessed by Backbone staff using the following criteria:

- The project is led by a majority of artist/s aged 30 and under
- Clear articulation of the project proposal
- Strength, originality and viability of the proposal.
- Potential impact of the residency on the career or practice of the artist/s.
- How your idea aligns with the Backbone ethos: curious, untamed, experimental.

Do I have to present a public outcome?

YES. Projects created as a part of this program are required to have a public outcome to be considered for an On Display Residency. It is expected that artists have something on display for the majority of their 4 month residency. However, the display can change and evolve over time.

On Display Residents will also be encouraged to undertake some form of community engagement whether through open studio sessions, artists talks or opening night events.

What do I need to apply?

To apply, you will need to clearly explain the WHO, WHAT, WHEN and WHY of your project. You will also need to include a CV/resume of the lead creative.

You can submit this via our application form which is available on our website, [HERE](#) **OR** by submitting a short 5-10 minute video that responds to all the questions in the EOI form to:

info@backbone.org.au

How do I apply?

Using the application form on our website: <https://backbone.org.au/on-display-1>

If you require further assistance, or would like to submit your application in a different way, please contact us

info@backbone.org.au

BACKBONE *2024* ON DISPLAY

OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS



Australian Government



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, it's arts funding and advisory body.



Queensland
Government

Backbone is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Backbone Youth Arts is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council.

DISPLAY CASE #1

DISPLAY CASE #2

Backbone is a youth arts organisation based in Meanjin on the lands of the Yuggera and Turrbal people. Backbone acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land where we belong, play and create and pays respects to Elders – past, present and emerging.