

## **DR KRISTEN SHARP APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL ART SCHOOL**



**Sydney, Australia:** The **National Art School** has today announced respected Australian academic, writer and curator **Dr Kristen Sharp** as the next Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Kristen joins the National Art School with extensive experience in the fields of contemporary art and tertiary education having spent six years as Associate Dean Discipline, Art in the School of Art at RMIT University, and previously 9 years as Academic Lead Art History and Theory at RMIT. She will commence her new role at the National Art School on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

“After an extensive local and international recruitment search, we are delighted to announce Kristen Sharp’s appointment as the new CEO and Director of the National Art School. Kristen has met with the Board and Heads of Departments, and we are all looking forward to working with her in our common goal of taking our wonderful art school to greater heights of excellence” said Susan Rothwell AM **NAS Board Chair**.

**Dr Kristen Sharp** said “I am thrilled to be joining the National Art School, a renowned institution with a unique place in both Sydney and the broader Australian art scene. NAS revitalises a historically significant site, the Darlinghurst Gaol on Gadigal land, and plays an active role in contemporary culture and society. The School attracts a passionate and resilient community, and I am excited to contribute to its vibrant future.

With over 20 years of experience in tertiary education, my leadership in the School of Art at RMIT University has given me substantial skills in art education, as well as global and industry partnerships. I am looking forward to bringing these skills to my role as Director and CEO, and to collaborate with the outstanding and dedicated community at NAS.

Art and creativity are vital to our lives, providing ways to connect, navigate, and offer unique perspectives to our world. The National Art School plays a crucial role in nurturing this culture and I cannot wait to get started in my new role.”

Dr Sharp's special areas of research include contemporary Asian art, urban space, public art, and sound art. Sharp co-curated *Mutable Ecologies*, an online exhibition and public program featuring creative practitioners and researchers from Australia and Japan and the 14th Liquid Architecture National Sound Art Festival in Melbourne. She is also the co-author of *Screen Ecologies: Art, Media and the Environment in the Asia-Pacific Region* (2016), co-editor of *Re-imagining the City* (2013) and author of *Sounds of Weather* (2013). Most recently she has worked with leading Australian artist Mikala Dwyer on the 'Phantasms for Future Ecologies' public art project in Hong Kong.

Located at the former Darlinghurst Gaol, **the National Art School** is Australia's leading independent fine art school and has nurtured many of the country's most renowned artists. At the forefront of contemporary practice, NAS has a unique studio-based teaching model committed to training the next generation of Australian artists. Alongside the school, NAS offers a broad range of short courses and education outreach programs. NAS Gallery has an ambitious program featuring exhibitions by leading and emerging Australian artists.

*Ends*

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#### **ABOUT DR KRISTEN SHARP**

Prior to being appointed as CEO and Director at the National Art School, Sydney, Dr Kristen Sharp was an Associate Professor and Associate Dean Discipline, Art in the School of Art, RMIT University. Kristen's research focuses on contemporary Asian art, urban space, public art and sound art. She has led several international research projects including *Phantasms for Future Ecologies* (with M. Dwyer/T. Hulbert) and *Mutable Ecologies* (with P. Samartzis) and is the co-author of *Screen Ecologies* (MIT Press 2016). Kristen is an invited speaker, writer and peer-reviewer. She has also convened several innovative and interdisciplinary research symposia, reframing the relationship between contemporary art practice and global urban space, and drawing together Australian and international researchers. Kristen continues to develop art projects in the Asia-Pacific region responding to the environmental, material and social spaces of the city.

**NATIONAL ART SCHOOL, 156 FORBES STREET, DARLINGHURST, NAS.EDU.AU**

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