National Cultural Policy Submission Template

Scott Probst

Submitted: as an artist

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you? Feel free to respond to any or all pillars:

First Nations
Opportunities to work with First Nations artists

A Place for Every Story
Support for artists of all ages and life stages.

The Centrality of the Artist
Although artists are often sole traders and business people, there seems to be little specific support for this part of their work.
One possible way to encourage the engagement of art at the individual level is to offer tax rebates for original work purchased from independent artists.

Strong Institutions
The role of art in secondary and tertiary education has been significantly eroded in the last decade, with many universities decreasing their commitment to art or cutting it completely. This trend needs to be reversed.

Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why. Feel free to respond to any or all that are applicable to you:

Strong Institutions
The university Fine Arts course that I completed only 4 years ago has now ceased to exist. There are no avenues in my city (Newcastle) for artists to receive formal, recognised training in their area of practice in higher education, except in very restricted areas at very high cost. This will impoverish the art practice of the city for years to come.

Although there has been significant investment in larger regional galleries, the capacity of the local community to contribute to those galleries is being eroded.

Strong institutions are extremely important for communities to be able to contribute to culture and tell their own stories. Current policies seem to ignore the fact that more people attend galleries and museums than go to various football games across the country.

Reaching the Audience

As an individual artist, it is prohibitively expensive to find and rent a physical location for my art practice and to get exposure to the wider population.