

Mixed-use space  
—  
The gallery also presents films and live music



2 Art Gallery of NSW, CBD  
*Prize artwork*

The Art Gallery of New South Wales was established in 1871 opposite the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney in a classical building designed by Walter Liberty Vernon. It's home to a masterful collection of international and homegrown works: the Grand Courts showcase old masters, while there are galleries dedicated to Aboriginal art and contemporary Australian pieces. With an exceptional in-house restaurant (see page 29) offering fine food and sweeping views of Sydney Harbour, the gallery is worth taking time to peruse – even on a sunny day.  
*Art Gallery Road, 2000*  
+61 (0)2 9225 1744  
[artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

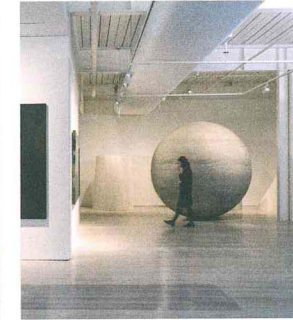


In the picture  
—  
For more than 40 years the not-for-profit Australian Centre for Photography has been introducing the public to dynamic and often-challenging photography by national and international artists. In 2016 the group relocated from Paddington to Darlinghurst.  
[acp.org.au](http://acp.org.au)

3 Brett Whiteley Studio, Surry Hills  
*Artist workspace*

You could walk past artist Brett Whiteley's former studio in Surry Hills and not know you'd done so. The only giveaway is a miniature wall-mounted version of his piece "Almost Once": two matchsticks, one charred, the other intact. There is an 8-metre version behind the Art Gallery of NSW (see left).

Whiteley is known for works that challenge notions of life and death; sadly he died of a drug overdose in 1992. His studio is now this gallery, which opens between 10.00 and 16.00 from Friday to Sunday.  
*2 Raper Street, 2010*  
+61 (0)2 9225 1881  
[artgallery.nsw.gov.au/brett-whiteley-studio](http://artgallery.nsw.gov.au/brett-whiteley-studio)



6 Ambush Gallery, Chippendale  
*Street art for all*

Bill Dimas and John Wiltshire have been pushing the cultural envelope since 2007 (their Outpost Project at Cockatoo Island in 2011 was one of the biggest street-art festivals in the southern hemisphere). After the success of the original Ambush Gallery in Waterloo's industrial district the duo opened this second 1,000-capacity venue in 2015 in Chippendale's landmark Central Park Sydney building. The space houses urban art from emerging talents across three galleries as well as on-site event and project spaces.

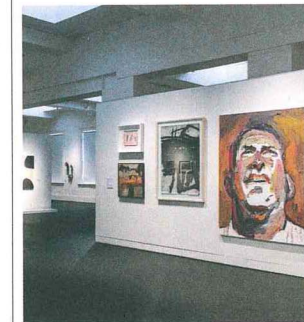
*Level 3, Central Park, 28 Broadway, 2008*  
+61 (0)2 8008 8516  
[ambushgallery.com](http://ambushgallery.com)



7 SH Ervin Gallery, The Rocks  
*National treasures*

Housed in the National Trust Centre perched atop Observatory Hill, the SH Ervin Gallery overlooks Sydney's historic The Rocks precinct. But don't let the somewhat laborious schlep up the hill discourage you. This gallery is dedicated to flaunting the best of Australian art, from historical to contemporary. Exhibitions, public talks from curators and artist presentations fill the busy programme. The adjoining Trust Café provides a fittingly refined pit-stop after a morning's wander through the exhibitions.

*2 Watson Road, 2001*  
+61 (0)2 9258 0173  
[shervingallery.com.au](http://shervingallery.com.au)



4 White Rabbit Gallery, Chippendale  
*Chinese cognisance*

In 2009 the White Rabbit Gallery was opened to display Judith Neilson's vast collection of 21st-century Chinese art: almost 2,000 works by more than 500 artists, from Ai Weiwei to Yang Fudong. "Judith realised there was so much to say that wasn't being said," says gallery manager David Williams. "She felt the Chinese were misunderstood: like everyone, they have hopes, fears and a sense of humour. She wanted to show this on the world stage."

This unmissable spot is housed in a former Rolls-Royce depot and has a charming on-site tea house.  
*30 Balfour Street, 2008*  
+61 (0)2 8399 2867  
[whiterabbitcollection.org](http://whiterabbitcollection.org)

5 Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, The Rocks  
*Make it modern*

Since 1999 this public gallery has been under the leadership of director Elizabeth Ann Macgregor, who piloted a major AU\$53m refurbishment of the five-storey building by architect Sam Marshall (see pages 112) in 2012. This saw the exhibition space double, widening the scope for large-scale touring exhibitions by the likes of Anish Kapoor and Grayson Perry.

The MCA also holds more than 4,000 works by Australian artists in its permanent collection, including an important catalogue of pieces by contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Be sure to head to the balcony on the fourth floor to soak in the views of the harbour. The shop is also a worthy stop-in for artist-made goodies, limited-edition prints and a stellar selection of art books.  
*140 George Street, 2000*  
+61 (0)2 9245 2400  
[mca.com.au](http://mca.com.au)

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waterside  
views

**Residential**  
Design for living



**1**  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
Australia, The Rocks  
*Harbourside marvel*

Perched prettily next to a park on Circular Quay, the former Marine Services Bureau building is today better known as the MCA. The five-storey structure, clad in sandstone quarried from Maroubra, was designed by architects WH Withers and WDH Baxter in the 1940s but was delayed its opening until 1952.

When the University of Sydney acquired the building in 1989, two floors were opened as galleries to form the cultural powerhouse it is today. In the years since the site has undergone extensive renovations by Sydney-based architect Sam Marshall, including the addition of a new wing and striking public spaces. Grand hospitality rooms, such as Foundation Hall with its marble columns and art deco finishes, are dotted throughout.  
140 George Street, 2000  
+61 (0)2 9245 2400  
mca.com.au



**2**  
Australian Design Centre,  
Darlinghurst  
*Homegrown designers*

Object, Australia's leading proponent of contemporary design, holds exhibitions of works by the country's brightest talents at this Darlinghurst space. You'll see everything from crafts by Aboriginal artists working in remote regions to ceramics, textiles, jewellery and furniture. If you'd like to delve deeper, we recommend accessing a free copy of *Object Magazine* through the website; the interactive title presents a monthly selection of stories about the Australasian design scene and interviews with makers.

101-115 William Street, 2010  
+61 (0)2 8599 7999  
object.com.au

**Horse power**  
—  
Macquarie Street in the CBD is considered Sydney's most architecturally important thoroughfare. It's home to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, designed – complete with gothic façade – by Francis Greenway as stables for the horses used by Australia's first governor.



**1**  
The Astor, CBD  
*The high life*

Sydney's first block of mansion flats opened in 1923 after architects Donald Esplin and Stuart Mill Mould were inspired by the buildings of Chicago and New York. Considered a skyscraper in its day, the Astor was the city's tallest residential build until 1960.

In its early years the block boasted a basement restaurant that supplied dishes to residents using dumbwaiters; there was also a florist, barber's salon and staff including a coterie of maids. The property still holds pride of place on Macquarie Street and flats here are tightly held, with few residents willing to move despite considerable demand.  
123 Macquarie Street, 2000

