

# [MARS]



[MARS] is a commercial contemporary art gallery specialising in exhibiting, promoting and building the careers of mid-career and emerging contemporary Australian artists. MARS was established in 2004 by gallerist Andy Dinan with the idea that art should be non-elitist, and has since its opening staged more than 220 exhibitions featuring more than 330 artists.

MARS offers a diversity of art programs and services including:

- Gallery/Exhibitions
- An active Rent Art scheme
- Art consultancy and major public art project commissions
- Art pop-ups
- Australian and International art fair attendance
- Curating special events

After a decade in an iconic dairy in Port Melbourne, MARS moved to a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art gallery in Windsor in 2014 on the occasion of the gallery 10-year anniversary. The architecture and fit-out of the new MARS was designed by JAM Architects in collaboration with MARS founder Andy Dinan, and sets a benchmark for innovation in Australian gallery design.

The new MARS in Windsor represents the gallery's commitment to the next generation of art and artists. The three-level space incorporates amenities for showing new media such as sound sculpture, video and light. A striking glass façade at street level provides unimpeded views into the main gallery. This element cleverly communicates MARS' commitment to best practice and transparency in the gallery process, as well as the gallery's founding philosophy that art is for everyone.

The exciting visitor experience at MARS spans all three levels and encompasses:

- A main gallery for exhibiting paintings and sculpture
- A black box room dedicated to showing video-installation works by leading local and international video artists (curated by Brie Trennery)
- A light room focused on light and neon art
- A drawing room devoted to works on paper
- A basement stock room for storing and viewing available works

MARS' architecture also expresses environmental sustainable design, with a number of green features including thermal mass; double glazing; sustainable materials that improve air quality; smart meters that monitor energy and water use; photovoltaics for electricity generation; rainwater harvesting; energy efficient water fittings and fixtures and recycled timber floors.

MARS is an accredited member of ACGA, the leading national body and collective voice representing commercial art galleries in Australia.