

Discover illuminating stories, arts and culture at the Jewish Museum of Australia: New Children's Space and exhibitions coming in 2024

The Jewish Museum of Australia: Gandel Centre of Judaica (JMA) reopens to the public on Thursday 29 February with two exciting new exhibitions, a refreshed permanent exhibition, and the unveiling of the newly installed Children's Space at the JMA in St Kilda.



*IMAGES L-R: 1. Nina Sanadze, Hana and Child, Daine Singer Gallery, 2023. Photography by Christian Capurro.
2. Harry Nankin, Instructions for Mending the World, 2007-2023.*

Representing the intersection of Jewish art and culture, the JMA and its exhibitions in 2024 explore what it means to be Jewish in Australia today, reflecting on tradition and heritage, as well as community, creativity and the modern Jewish experience.

It is a vital time for sharing diverse Jewish stories. Art and culture offer a powerful lens through which to honour the multicultural identities within the Australian Jewish community. Featuring singular and emotive work from artists Nina Sanadze, Harry Nankin and more, the JMA's 2024 program hopes to build bridges and inspire new depths of connection – pushing back against hate and antisemitism, instead focusing on our shared humanity.

On Sunday 17 March, the JMA will host a free public open day featuring guided and self-guided tours, storytime sessions in different languages (Hebrew, Russian, Yiddish, French, English and Hungarian), a breathwork session, coin collection, pop-up choir featuring Hebrew, Yiddish and English songs, and jewellery making for all ages.

Exhibitions by Nina Sanadze and Harry Nankin will be on display from 29 February until 9 and 2 June, respectively.

Often using replicas and original artefacts in her installations, Nina Sanadze draws on the political, the familial – including her own family history in Georgia (former USSR) – and the poetic to examine peace, conflict and humanity.

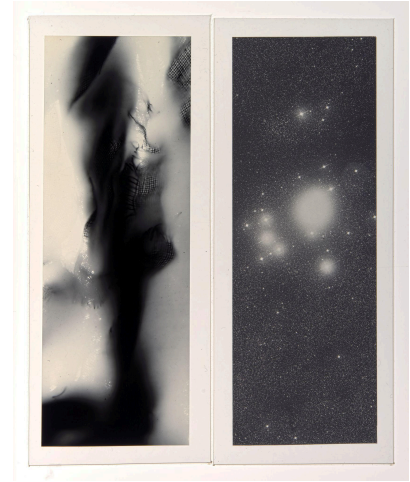
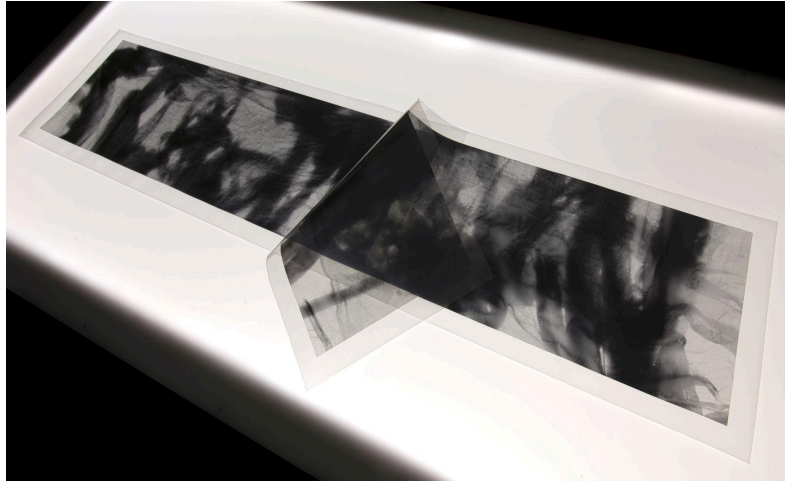
In her installation *Hana and Child*, Sanadze creates an emotive interpretation of a single black-and-white photograph, while also referencing and subverting iconography of the Madonna and child. Her previous works include the anti-war statement *Call to Peace* and the subversive symbolism of *Bollard City*.



IMAGES: Nina Sanadze, *Hana and Child*, Daine Singer Gallery, 2023. Photography by Christian Capurro.

Harry Nankin's *Instructions for Mending the World* deals with metamorphosis, repair and redemption, as depicted in a series of photographic films created using images of deep space.

Nankin is a photographer, environmental artist and educator, who has spent more than forty years exploring the contested ethical, emotional and aesthetic meanings of the non-human world. His artistic style and the photographic techniques used in his work are reminiscent of the global ecological crisis, history and memory.



IMAGES: Harry Nankin, *Instructions for Mending the World*, 2007-2023.

The new Children's Space will be activated with works that change throughout the year prompted by the various exhibitions. For example, *Head to Toes*, will explore a range of garments and headwear from the JMA's collection. It will also host programs like Museum Minis and other children focused activities, educating and inspiring a new generation of culture lovers.

From its leadership to curation to programming, an inspiring team from varied and intersecting cultures – Hungarian, Maori, Japanese and Jewish – are helping to usher in this new era for JMA. Together with Noè Harsel, Museum Director and CEO, Shelley Krape, Naomi Ryan, Esther Gyorki, and Maia McDonald are illuminating the multitudes within the Jewish experience.

"The Jewish Museum of Australia is a place for all people to share in the Australian Jewish experience, and a place where stories from the Jewish community can be retold, preserved and cherished for years to come," says Noè.

"We are proud to embrace the broad spectrum of cultural identities within the Jewish community as well as within our own team here at JMA."

"The new Children's Space and expanded public programming gives new and returning visitors more opportunities to engage with Jewish artists and the vast stories of Jewish people in the diaspora. We hope to share it with more people in 2024 than ever before."

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For media enquiries and interview requests, please contact Dina Kluska: dina@pitchprojects.com or 0409 011 092 or Bec Bridges: bec@pitchprojects.com or 0405 655 245.

ABOUT THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

At the Jewish Museum of Australia, we illuminate Jewish life. At the intersection of art and Jewish culture, our Museum is a place for all people to share in the Australian Jewish experience. For more information, visit the website: jewishmuseum.com.au

NOÈ HARSEL, MUSEUM DIRECTOR & CEO

Noè Harsel works in the arts, culture, literature and music spaces, as a communications professional, collaborative leader and creative producer. She is the Museum Director & CEO at the Jewish Museum of Australia, outgoing Chair of Writers Victoria, creator and host of Live Write, an online writers' group, and Why Write, a short podcast that asks writers why they write. Noè also co-created and hosts the SBS podcast Like Us, a discussion about race, identity and culture in Australia.



IMAGE: Marie Luise