



KANGAROO ISLAND ART AND CULTURE

It has been estimated that one in ten of Kangaroo Island's adult residents produces art. The phenomenal natural environment attracts artists to the island and inspires wonderful interpretations of the place and its people.

Kangaroo Island is fortunate to have more than its fair share of photographers, writers, film-makers, designers, architects, musicians and various other creatives who make a living from their craft. Many who live here immerse themselves in the environment, whether it be amongst the bush or looking to the ocean, to find tranquility and space facilitating the exploration of expression, from early childhood well into the rich and productive years of the 'third age' of creative life.

The isolation of the island gives artists the impetus to peer more deeply into what is truly here. Imagine the wealth of subjects in this environment for an artist – gazing out on the vast ocean from a clifftop; a solitary walk on a quiet empty beach with only the sounds of gentle waves and birds calling to each other; a stroll on a bush track, wildlife at every turn, with nary a sound of civilization to be heard.

While some artists hone in on nature, others theme their work on the island's heritage, but all seem to revel in their personal connection with the environment.

Kangaroo Island art is, above all, about relevance – to the community, to the natural world, to living on an island and its remoteness from the mainland. Inspired by nature and expressed freely in a community that welcomes interaction, where artistic pursuit brings people together.

Local art installations and studios are commonplace across the island. The Artist Collective and Art Society Group are hubs for meeting, sharing resources and regular exhibitions. Several commercial and community galleries provide a stimulating creative environment for visual arts, where you can learn, collaborate and contribute. Kangaroo Islanders understand that art doesn't have to be perfect, but it must be authentic; it must come from the heart.

Paintings, prints, jewelry, sculptures, glasswork, ceramics and multi-dimensional pieces are produced here and often find their way to the far corners of the globe.

The Island's Calendar of Art Events is full and active. Art Feast is held in October each year and gives visitors and locals the chance to experience art in all its forms. There is also an annual Easter Art Exhibition. Regular gallery exhibitions and enthusiastic involvement in South Australia's SALA Festival – including an annual exhibition at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide – keep our connection with the broader art world alive and thriving.

The local theatre group, KI Players, stages a production in the Kingscote Town Hall annually and often a Junior Players' production for children. And if you don't picture yourself at the theatre, you might want to grab a ukulele to join the KI Ukes. Kangaroo Island has its fair share of musicians with local soloists and bands performing across a myriad of local venues. Acoustic sessions at cafes and cellar doors to ticketed events in halls and clubrooms provide an eclectic soundtrack to island life.

A community of talented writers produces and publishes material regularly. You can meet a local author or ponder prose and poetry with the Dudley Writers' Group. Whether fact or fiction, Island storytellers will engage your imagination.

Also emerging among island creatives is a fledgling film industry with local filmmakers and school students producing beautifully crafted short films. Local film festivals provide opportunities to showcase their work.

While you are here, be inspired by your surroundings and get in touch with your inner creative. Become your own 'artist in residence' and book a place where you can write, paint, or sketch, even knit quietly and watch the wildlife out the window. We have a number of arts and crafts, knitting and quilting supply shops if you want to get started while you are here. Try your hand at photography, throughout the year the island provides an ever changing photographic palette.

Connect with the Kangaroo Island - Community & Visitor Information Facebook group to find out about upcoming events and exhibitions and check out local notice boards as well for local activities.

Art is so important to the Island community. Like sport, it brings people together, but art communicates through the senses and permeates this small but impressive society – it is its conscience and its vitality.

Discover More...

Artworks Gallery

<https://kangarooislandartworks.com/>

Kingscote Gallery

<https://www.facebook.com/kangarooislandgallery/>

Dudley Writers group

<https://dudleywriters.wordpress.com/>

Kangaroo Island Musicians Union

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/403654779786099/>

KI Players

<https://authentickangarooisland.com.au/member/ki-players-inc/>

Authentic Kangaroo Island

https://authentickangarooisland.com.au/member_type/arts-and-culture/