

Festival program



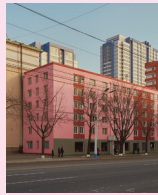
The Guard 2022

1 Vietnamese Australian artist **Spencer Nguyen** creates integral connections with local inhabitants to poignantly capture their daily routines and links to their environment. Selected from Nguyen’s most recent artist books, these portraits of community ambassadors explore narratives of self-identity and fragmented memories. With a Bachelor of Arts in Photography, Nguyen’s work has been exhibited at Centre for Contemporary Photography in 2022 and 2020.



Huddle 2007
Courtesy of
Sutton Gallery
and the artist

2 London-based, internationally acclaimed artist **Simon Terrill** works across photography, sculpture, video, installation and large-scale public works, exploring the idea of the crowd as a tool to examine community and self-performance. Capturing the patterns, blurs and configurations of mass movement, Terrill looks to the crowd as a model of collectivity and transformation. Since graduating from the Slade School in London, his work has featured in museums and public galleries both nationally and internationally.



Apartments 01
2009

3 Photographing both the familiar and the extraordinary, **Nicole Reed’s** work has led her from remote communities in Australia to Pyongyang, North Korea. In *Scenes from the People’s Paradise*, these intriguing images ask you to take a closer look at a place that is virtually impossible to accurately capture due to restrictions. Reed’s photographic practice spans editorial, documentary, architecture and portraiture, collaborating with well-know publications, sporting teams, comedians, and innovative artists and designers.



Sea of Hope
2025

4 Born in Ethiopia and now living in Melbourne’s West, **Daniel Temesgen** creates portraits that are intimate, luminous, and grounded in community. His subjects appear in transitional spaces such as cars and shorelines: ordinary yet cinematic, capturing moments of movement, change and self-possession. Focusing on friends and peers, his work explores layered identities and cultural richness through a personal lens. Temesgen has collaborated with leading brands including Celine, Rimowa, YSL and Nike, creating imagery and videos that resonate with audiences globally.



Pink Face 2021
Courtesy of MARS
Gallery and the artist

5 Acclaimed Ethiopian born, South Sudanese artist and writer **Atong Atem’s** layered portraits explore the role photographers take as story tellers; interrogating the relationship between public and private spaces and investigating themes of home and identity. Atem’s work has featured in international and national exhibitions including at the Tate Modern, London, Wereldmuseum, Rotterdam, and in *Africa Fashion* at the National Gallery of Victoria in partnership with Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



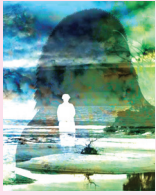
Yuk 2025

6 Offering thought-provoking perspectives through photography, **Wenmiao Xin** explores themes of gender, identity and sexuality, challenging societal norms and celebrating diversity. Influenced by her upbringing in China and experiences in Western cultures, Xin creates images inspired by her background and identity as a lesbian, feminist, and woman of colour.



Shoes in Footscray
Bedroom 2026

7 With a love for art and drawing, Year 10 Maribyrnong College student, **Henry Watson**, is inspired by Melbourne’s street art and local urban scenes. With his camera in hand, he captures subtleties of light and reflections, whether that be on his favourite sneakers or in the streets of Footscray. Watson was the winner of the 2026 Phoenix Youth Emerging Young Photographer competition.



Against the Wind
2023/2025

8 Contemporary photo-media artist **Jody Haines** (palawa) works at the intersection of memory, body, and Country. Rooted in Indigenous feminist K/new/Known materialism, her work explores themes of identity, representation and the female gaze. Installed in the glass windows entrance of the Civic Precinct and Community Hub are seven digital prints lifted from a multi-channel projection and sound installation work, *Against the Wind*. Filmed on tommeginne Country (lutruwita) and Kulin Country, Haines collaborated with two contemporary Indigenous dancers, Zoë Brown-Holten and Amelia O’Leary, and her own body, to explore connection to dance, Country, memory, light and sound.



Ammar Yonis,
Salon Gâr 2023

9 While some photographers use the camera to record their environments, others adopt it as a tool for creation. Examining the parallels, differences and connections between constructed and documentary photography and exploring artists’ intentions and processes, Maribyrnong City Council’s current exhibition, **The Art of Observation**, considers not just what we see but how we see. The exhibition features work by Suzie Blake, Wilfred Disney Chapman, Jody Haines, Grant Hobson, Karenne Ann, Anna Kiparis, Viv Méhes, Kip Scott, Gayle Slater, Simon Terrill, Pierre Vairo, James Voller, Sarah Watt and Ammar Yonis alongside documentary images by unidentified early twentieth century photographers.



Geothermal Valley,
Krafla Iceland 2025

10 **Marcelle Bradbeer** captures man-altered landscapes in rural environments, creating surreal and otherworldly scenes showing the impact of human destruction and challenges facing the natural environment. Bradbeer is a Naarm/Melbourne-based photographer whose work explores landscape, culture and contemporary life.



11 Metro Auto Photo, Sun Theatre and Maribyrnong City Council have installed an **original 1950s vintage photo booth** in Ballarat Street, Yarraville. The machine continues a ritual that hasn’t changed in decades, keeping tangible memories alive through analogue black and white photos.

Public program

6pm Monday 27 April 2026
Civic Precinct and Community Hub

International artist, Simon Terrill, will join us online from London to discuss his career and the art of staging images.

5.30pm Thursday 30 April 2026
Sun Theatre, Yarraville

Get dressed in your finest 1950s costume to launch the vintage photo booth installed at the Sun Theatre, and if you want to stay for more fun, join the screening of *Back to the Future*.

Book tickets for the film: www.suntheatre.com.au

2pm Saturday 9 May 2026
Civic Precinct and Community Hub

The Last Supper: a yarn with Jody Haines

Join us for a yarn and afternoon tea as Haines offers alternative perspectives on the landscape and prompts to consider one’s place at the table.

Curated twilight tours

Footscray Train Station, forecourt

6pm Thursday 7 May 2026

Grab some friends after work and dive deeper into ideas behind the festival with the curator.

5pm Saturday 30 May 2026

Celebrate Closing Night with a final Twilight Tour of the artworks with the curator.

For young people

11am Tuesday 7 April 2026 (Maribyrnong Library)

11am Thursday 9 April 2026 (Braybrook Library)

2pm Tuesday 14 April 2026 (Footscray Library)

Explore photography collaging in a time capsule workshop at your local library.

4.30pm Thursday 23 April 2026
Phoenix Youth Hub

Join the exhibition launch of young photographers’ work at the Phoenix Youth Hub.

4pm Wednesday 13 May 2026 (Families Week)
Footscray Train Station, forecourt

Families are invited to discover the festival in a walking art tour designed for the young and the young at heart.

All events are free

(except for the film screening)

Bookings are essential

Book here: www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/InFocus

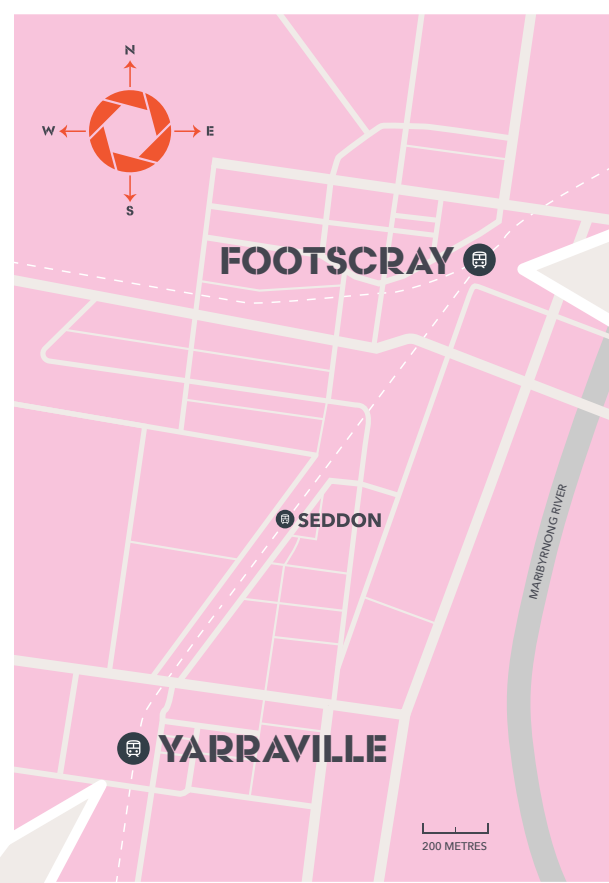


How to get here

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Train
Via Metro Tunnel to Footscray or the Werribee or Williamstown lines to Yarraville
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Car
Parking available at the Footscray Library and Paisley Street Carparks, Footscray, or find street parking in Footscray or Yarraville Village



- 10** Yarraville Village
between Canterbury and Murray Streets, Yarraville
- 11** The Sun Theatre
Ballarat Street, Yarraville



- 1** Footscray Train Station forecourt
Irving Street, Footscray

2 Billboard next to Savers
33a Albert St, Footscray

3 Footscray Library carpark
corner Paisley and French Streets, Footscray

4 Former Forges building billboard
French Street, Footscray
- 5** Nicholson Street Mall
Nicholson Street, Footscray

6 Trocadero Projects wall
Chambers Lane, Footscray

7 Phoenix Youth Hub
72 Buckley Street, Footscray

8 9 Civic Precinct and Community Hub
Napier Street, Footscray



On behalf of Maribyrnong City Council,
I'm delighted to welcome you to **In Focus Festival** – six weeks of exceptional photography lighting up Footscray and Yarraville.

This festival celebrates the creative diversity that defines Maribyrnong, bringing together internationally recognised and emerging photographers whose work spans portraiture, documentary storytelling, landscapes and diaspora narratives. It also reflects Council's commitment to creative place-making – activating our centres, and creating opportunities for residents and visitors to connect through shared experiences in the public realm.

I encourage you to follow the trail at your own pace, join a curator tour or artist talk, and bring family and friends along to enjoy the accompanying public program. While you're here, please support our local cafés, restaurants and shops – your visit helps keep our neighbourhood centres vibrant.

Thank you to the artists and partners who have made In Focus Festival possible.

I hope the works you encounter across Footscray and Yarraville spark curiosity, conversation and a renewed sense of belonging.

Cr Mohamed Semra
Mayor, City of Maribyrnong

About the festival

In Focus Festival showcases striking photography across the streets, laneways and public spaces of Maribyrnong.

Over six weeks, the medium of photography is celebrated with ten sites in the Footscray CBD and Yarraville activated by 42 artworks in lightboxes, billboards, and blade installations, and a photography exhibition, *The Art of Observation*, featuring fifteen photographers at the Civic Precinct and Community Hub.

There is something for everyone, from workshops for young people to inspirational talks by artists. Wander the streets, discover local restaurants and shops along the way, or take part in a curated walking tour.

Visit Yarraville to see works there and take home a memory in time at the 1950s vintage photo booth.

The festival is free, outdoors and open to everyone, encouraging spontaneous discovery and the power of the image to enchant us.



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL



SUN THEATRE



METRO AUTO PHOTO

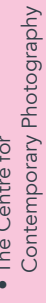
TROCADERO PROJECTS



PHOTO AUSTRALIA



Spectrum Outdoor Services



The Centre for Contemporary Photography



Banco Group



Look Commercial Properties

Presented by:



Mars Gallery



Southern Impact



Garnet Electrical



Metro Trains

Our partners:



Sutton Gallery



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