



Art Expedition with Ashley Frost in the Remote Arid Zone of North Western New South Wales

Join artist Ashley Frost for a 7 day painting & ceramics trip at Fowlers Gap Research Station (July 15 – 21, 2025)

*July 14 night at Broken Hill (optional extra)

And Group Exhibition



Remote Arid Zone of Northern NSW, Fowlers Gap Research Station

Fowlers Gap Research Station is a significant arid zone reference area in Australia and the only research station in the arid zone of New South Wales. Located 112 kilometres north of Broken Hill, the 39,000-hectare property was established in 1966 and has been extensively used by many significant Australian artists. It is an important site for teaching, with regular field excursions by students from both UNSW Science and UNSW Art and Design. The remote Station, with its impressive landscape, eco-trails and wildlife-viewing platforms, attracts artists as well as local and international visitors.

About the Artists

Ashley Frost

Painting, Printmaking and Drawing

Ashley Frost is a contemporary landscape artist and a graduate of the National Art School. His career as a professional artist and educator spans twenty-five years, during which time he has had exhibitions in Australia and abroad including New York, Tokyo, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. He has had art residencies in Texas, Antarctica, Norway and Long Island New York. He won the Kings Art Prize in 2004, the Hills Art Prize 2018, the Mosman Art Prize Viewer's Choice in 2017 and Highly Commended in the 2021 Flow Contemporary Watercolour Prize. He has been a finalist in the Archibald 2017, Wynne 2021 and Sulman 2021 prizes and a number of other art prizes, including the Paddington Art Prize, Adelaide Perry, the NSW Plein Air Prize, the Gallipoli Prize and the Kedumba Drawing Award in 2020. His works are in collections around Australia including Mosman Art Gallery, Wollongong City Gallery and the University of Wollongong. He is represented by Stella Downer Fine Art.



Lyndy Marshall

Ceramics, Sculpture and Stained Glass

My journey into raku ceramic sculpture began in the late 1990's with a professional sculptress and artist in Terry Hills Sydney. My journey has continued with my practice being heavily influenced by my other life as a field biologist/ecologist. Nature, diversity and experimentation are my driving force. The wild, imperfect, but naturally balanced forms of nature are a feature of my work. Currently my experimental focus has been in incorporating local rocks and minerals into my works and glazes and using local creek clay, creek sand and natural found feldspars to make my own coarse terracotta style clay. Being based in Broken Hill, provides me with the opportunity to experiment with alternative firings such as Raku and a variety of pit style firings including wood, dung, sawdust and salt.



About the Food and Beverage

The food will be a delicious selection of healthy meals with a meat eater and vegetarian diet. With the low temperatures expect a nourishing menu of hearty pastas, soups, stews and BBQs. The food will be paired with a fabulous range of complimentary red and white wine as well as some mixed drinks. When you make your booking you will be sent the full food and drinks menu where we will ask for any food allergies etc,

Landscape Painting & Drawing, Mixed Media and Monotypes

The 7 day workshop focuses on painting, drawing and painting ceramics directly from nature. Participants will improve their skills under the guidance of Ashley Frost who is an artist and experienced art educator. During the workshop Ashley will expose students to a variety of ideas and approaches with a mix of teaching demonstrations as well as informal discussions over meals in the evenings. Topics discussed include composition, colour, content, influences and the illusion of space. Learn and develop new skills in a beautiful and relaxed environment. Students will be able to set up their one studio space within the Quarters main hall with access from 6am-9pm each day.

Raku Ceramics, Design and Open Pit Firing

The ceramics component will be available over two days and will be a perfect addition to the landscape painting. Students will be able to transpose images, designs and their own colour palette to ready made vessels for a live raku firing in the evening on Thursday. Students will also have the option to hand build their own objects for firing on the Thursday. A wonderful way to expand your practice and also spend an evening together with fellow artists around a fire.

Group Expedition Exhibition

On return from the Fowlers Gap Expedition students will be invited to exhibit a selection of their work in a group exhibition being organised at the Clifton School of Arts in September 2025. All gallery hire and opening costs are included in the program price.

Climate

The climate of Fowers Gap is typical of the arid region of southern Australia, with mild winters and hot summers. During July, when we'll be visiting, it is a cold month, with average temperature fluctuating between 5C and 15°C . We will plan for painting outdoors mid morning and early afternoon, retreating to the studio early in the day and late afternoon and sipping wine in front of an open fire some nights.

Accommodation

There are two forms of accommodation available during our trip, Cottage 1 and the Quarters.

Cottage 1 is a self contained 5 bedroom cottage full kitchen, tea and coffee facilities, air conditioning, a gas heater and a wrap around balcony that can double as a painting studio. Each room has two single beds and one room will be allocated per person.

Cottage 1 Per Person \$3900 incl GST



The Quarters has seven twin rooms each off a long balcony that can double as a painting studio. Each room has air con, two single beds and one room will be allocated per person with access to a shared kitchenette and tea and coffee making facilities. The Quarters has a large common room and dining area that can be used as a studio during the day.

The Quarters Price per person \$3700 incl GST



The Quarters is where we'll meet up at the end of every day for meals and drinks.

7 Day Landscape Painting and Ceramics Retreat at Fowlers Gap July 15- 21

Day 1 (Optional Extra): Monday 14 July - Arrive Broken Hill

From 6pm we will meet at the heritage Palace hotel, Broken Hill, the backdrop for the movie Priscilla, Queen of the Desert where we will have dinner from 8pm.

**Accommodation at the Palace books out extremely fast. Once your booking is confirmed with us we highly recommend you book a stay at the Palace where we will be staying the night. You can also choose to stay at a wide range of hotels and Airbnbs around Broken Hill. Please note you will be responsible for your expenses in Broken Hill; dinner at the Palace the evening of the 14th and breakfast and lunch the next day in Broken Hill before we depart for Fowlers Gap, this is not included in our costing.

*** If you would like to opt out of a night in Broken Hill this is no problem, you can arrange to meet at Broken Hill Regional Gallery before 1pm departure to Fowlers Gap.

Official Day 1: Tuesday 15 July

At 10am we meet at Broken Hill Regional Gallery for a Gallery tour and an early lunch at a local cafe (not included in costing). We will then board the bus at 1pm and travel to Fowlers Gap Research Station. After settling in and a talk from Fowlers Gap administrator Vicki Dowling, we will have an afternoon of drawing and painting under the shade of the Rivergum's lining the property. These old trees provide a variety of wonderful forms to paint. Ashley will walk you through the bush to find suitable painting locations and assist workshop members individually throughout the afternoon. Dinner and drinks back at the Quarters from 6pm.

Day 2: Wednesday 16 July

After a hearty breakfast we travel about 3km by bus or your own car by dirt road to the main flood plain of Fowlers Gap. There are various interesting walks and popular painting locations throughout the property to be explored. We will visit the leopard trees found on the property, a species of tree endemic to inland areas of eastern Australia where Ashley will give a painting demonstration. Here you will have the opportunity to paint and draw this incredible and diverse landscape with the guidance and assistance of Ashley. We will return for lunch where we will meet Mark, a local aboriginal elder who will talk about the indigenous history of Fowlers Gap and the greater area around Broken Hill. In the afternoon you will have the option to work in the studio or find a plain air location close to the studio. Dinner and drinks back at the Quarters from 6pm.

Day 3: Thursday 17 July

After breakfast we will meet in the studio before heading out to the dry creek for a painting and drawing workshop using mixed media. After lunch we will meet our resident ceramicist Lyndal Marshall who will offer hand building with Raku clay as well as glaze painting and decorating precast 'blank' vessels. As the sun sets, enjoy a drink and a cheese platter with informal discussion about the days painting, drawing and ceramics. This is a perfect time to ask questions and get feedback on your work. Discussions with Ashley and Lyndal on their differing approaches to their art practice.

Day 4 Friday 18 July

For the early rises there will be an optional morning walk to the lake at first light for some early morning sketching. After breakfast we will work from the studio from our plein air drawings and sketches. This will be the final day for the ceramics, with painting and decorating various vessels culminating in a special Raku firing from a pit firing.

Day 5 Saturday 19 July

Today Ashley will give a demonstration on making a monoprint en plein air and in the studio. You will then have a full studio day ahead to develop your own mono prints or to further develop works in the studio. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided outside the Quarters. Relax in the evenings in front of the fire over a drink and discussions with Ashley on the work of other contemporary artists who have worked out at Fowlers Gap.

Day 6 Sunday 20 July

Today after breakfast (weather permitting) we travel by 4WD to Ochre House Artist Retreat, situated in a remote gorge on the station where you can immerse yourself in a varied and multi-coloured landscape that has inspired many artists and is a perfect painting location. We will return for lunch and in the afternoon for a critique of the weeks work.

Day 7 Monday 21 July

After a relaxing breakfast, we will head back to Broken Hill where our guests will be transferred to the airport to meet their departing flights.

Image Gallery



Broken Hill Regional Gallery Day 1



Plein air painting in the dry creek



The lake, Fowlers Gap is a unique refuge for local birds



Fowlers Gap is in an arid zone and operates as a research centre for the University of NSW



The rolling hills and unique colours makes Fowlers Gap a must visit for artists of all backgrounds



Group exhibition at Clifton School of Arts in September 2025



Elizabeth Cummings
From Grindall's Hut IV, 2016
Gauche on paper
28x38cm

Terms & Conditions

NOTE: If for some reason you change your mind or feel unsatisfied with the tour you cancel within the first 72 hours of booking you will receive a full refund less bank fees of 3.5%

Fees are non-refundable, unless negotiated for an extended illness. A small administration fee may be charged to cover credit card merchant fees.

If you choose to cancel a class or tour, we do offer you the opportunity to receive a credit or to transfer your booking. Conditions apply, see below for more details.

Cancellation of enrolment or withdrawal from Art Tour

If you choose to cancel your enrolment or withdraw from an Art Tour, what you will receive back depends on the time you notify us. See our cancellation timeframes and options below:

- **Cancellations up to 3 months: up to 6 July 2025**

If you choose to withdraw from a tour up to 3 months before its commencement, you will be charged a \$400 administration fee. You may transfer the remaining value to another tour to be used within 12 months or you will receive \$2400 refund.

- **Cancellations up to 1 month: up to 6 September**

If you choose to withdraw from a tour up to 1 month before its commencement, you will be charged a \$1400 administration fee. You may transfer the remaining value to another tour to be used within 12 months or you will receive \$1400 refund.

- **Cancellations between 7 September and 6 October**

If you cancel between 7 September and 6 October, you will not receive a refund, transfer, or credit.

- **Cancellations once a tour has commenced**

You will not receive a refund, transfer, or credit.