

## Penny Coss (b Sydney/Gadigal) Australia

### about

Penny Coss employs stratigraphic thinking to examine the entanglements of situatedness, where memory moves between fieldwork, the archive, and the studio. Working across painting, video, sculpture/textiles, and performance, her installations express geological phenomena through layered material drawn from field sites, studio processes, and archival documents. Her practice privileges the residual repurposing of material remains and embraces the notion of an incomplete, continually re-stratified archive that is open to new ways of understanding the world.

Coss has exhibited nationally and internationally since 1994. She completed a Master of Fine Arts (Research) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney (2024), following earlier studies at St Martins School of Art, London. In Australia, she has exhibited at Carriageworks (2021), Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (2015), Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery (2020), and the Art Gallery of Western Australia (2004). International exhibitions include Itami Arts Museum, Japan (2014); Singapore ArtStage (2014); and Pakuranga Arts Centre, Auckland. She was commissioned by Perth International Airport to produce large-scale glass works (2016) and is currently developing a new collaboration with Shear Zone artists, extending fieldwork undertaken in the Pilbara (2022), Iceland (2024), and Wandani (2025). Her work is held in public and corporate collections across Australia and internationally in Japan, Singapore, Ireland, and New Zealand.

### education

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|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024      | Master of Fine Arts (Research) University of New South Wales, Australia, |
| 1990      | Post Graduate Diploma of Visual Art, University of New South Wales       |
| 1987-1989 | Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales                     |
| 1986      | St Martin's College of Art, London, United Kingdom.                      |

## teaching

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025- current | Casual Academic, University of NSW.                                                                                                                                             |
| 2004- 2008    | Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, UWA<br>External Assessor Master of (Vis) Arts, Lecturer, Edith Cowan University & University of Western Australia |
| 1995-2004     | Teaching Central School of Art & Design, Environmental Art and Design, Technical and Further Education, Western Australia                                                       |
| 2000- 2004    | Atelierista ( Art teacher ) Bold Park Community School, Perth Western Australia.                                                                                                |

## solo exhibitions

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025 | <i>Accretions</i> , Art CollectiveWA                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2024 | <i>Sediment Pours</i> , Solo Exhibition Madeline Gordon Gallery, Tasmania<br><i>Stratigraphic Thinking</i> , Master's examination Exhibition, AD Space, Paddington campus, University of New South Wales, Australia |
| 2022 | <i>So Into you</i> , Art CollectiveWA, Western Australia                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2020 | <i>Waterline</i> , Factory49 Paris, France ( Postponed )<br><i>Land Stains</i> , The Mark, Como Treasury State Buildings WA                                                                                         |
| 2019 | <i>Piecemeal Ecologies : Possibilities for Patterning</i> , Airspace Projects, Sydney                                                                                                                               |
| 2018 | <i>Black and Blue - Tender Landscapes</i> , The Lobby Gallery, Perth, WA<br><i>From Someplace Else</i> , ArtCollectiveWA, Perth                                                                                     |
| 2017 | <i>Ships that Pass</i> PS Art Space, Fremantle, WA. (with Jo Darbyshire)                                                                                                                                            |
| 2014 | <i>Landscape Stains</i> ArtStage Singapore curator Felicity Johnson<br><i>Tectonic Effect and the Winds of Change</i> Spot81 Gallery, Sydney<br><i>Hortus</i> Art CollectiveWA, Perth, Western Australia            |
| 2012 | <i>Out There</i> Mossenson Galleries, Melbourne<br>Island Perth Galleries, Perth Western Australia                                                                                                                  |
| 2010 | Light Works Harrison Galleries, Sydney                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010 | Force of Nature, Perth Galleries, Perth Western Australia               |
| 2009 | Wetlands, Harrison Galleries Sydney                                     |
| 2009 | Inversion of a Flat Lake, Perth Galleries Western Australia             |
| 2007 | Illegal Landscapes, Perth Galleries, Western Australia                  |
| 2004 | Straight Talk, Mossenson Galleries, Melbourne                           |
| 2003 | Green Series, Perth Galleries, Western Australia                        |
| 1997 | Batavia Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts Western Australia          |
| 1994 | Batavia, Drawing Installation, Tin Sheds Gallery, University of Sydney, |

### selected group shows

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026 | Sydney Artists, Madeline Gordon Gallery, Lutruwita/Tasmania                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2025 | Environmental Art & Design Prize, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, NSW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2024 | MASS, Creative Space, Northern Beaches Council, NSW<br>Matter, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf , Sydney.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2023 | Spells for Weather, performance Dirt Witches, Janet Laurence Bundanon , New South Wales, Australia<br>Materiality, group exhibition The Draw Space, Sydney, NSW<br>Tidalling, Installation 4th Wall Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia                                                                                        |
| 2022 | Cut n Polish Carriageworks, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2021 | Aura: Memory and the Language of Cloth, Indian Oceanic Craft Triennial, WA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2020 | Anxious Spaces installation , Perth International Arts Festival. The Long Kiss Goodbye, Lawrence Wilson Gallery, University of Western Australia. curator Gemma Weston<br>Even Keel, Wanneroo City Art Gallery, WA<br>Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize, PLC, Sydney                                                                        |
| 2019 | Twist of the Sea , video installation , Undercurrents19, Fremantle Biennale, WA Artistic Director Tom Müller<br>Natura , Flux Gallery, Perth, curator Sandra Murray<br>Dobell Drawing Prize NAS, National Art School, Sydney<br>Continuity and Change, Future, Midland Arts Centre, WA<br>Visitants, Port Hedland Gallery, Pilbara, WA |

- Bunbury Biennale, Bunbury Regional Galleries, WA
- North Sydney Art Prize, Coal Loader Facility, Sydney
- 2018 Cruthers' Collection of Women's Art, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, University of WA.
- 2017 WaterLine, Outdoor Installation, Newspaper House, Fremantle Biennale, Western Australia  
*'all matter had a past'* Verge Gallery, University of Sydney, curator Consuelo Cavaniglia
- 2016 Holmes a Court Gallery , Margaret River Curator Sharon Tassicker
- 2015 *Epic Narratives* Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, WA curator Leigh Robb
- 2014 *Vanishing Point, Art and the Australian Landscape* Ewan McLeod, Elizabeth Cummings, Idris  
 Murphy Level One Gallery Adelaide SA curator Sophie Hann
- 2013 Sydney Contemporary13, Carriageworks, Sydney, New South Wales  
 Pure Contemplation Without Knowledge, Nyisztor Gallery, Perth WA  
 Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Exhibition, Perth Western Australia
- 2012 Rex-Livingston Gallery, Mt Eyre Vineyards Art Prize, Sydney  
 Melbourne Art Fair, Perth Galleries, Royal Exhibition Hall, VICTORIA  
 Rex-Livingston Gallery, Mt Eyre Vineyards Art Prize, Sydney, NSW  
 Selections From the Studio: An Artist's Choice Perth Galleries, WA Trevor Richards, Trevor  
 Vickers, Angela Stewart, Eveline Kotai, Jeremy Kirwan Ward, Joanna Lamb, Helen Smith , Penny  
 Bovell, Perth Galleries , WA curated by Penny Coss
- 2011 The Window and the Door, Curator, Carol Wells , Perth Galleries, WA  
 BankWest Contemporary Art Prize, WA  
 Whyalla Art Prize, Whyalla Regional Art Gallery, SA
- 2010 The Yellow Vest Syndrome, Walyalup/Fremantle Arts Centre, Western Australia, curator Jasmin  
 Stephens  
 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Hall, VIC  
 SCAP Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery, QLD
- 2009 Finalist Paddington Art Prize, NSW  
 BankWest Contemporary Art Prize, WA
- 2008 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Hall, VIC
- 2007 BankWest Contemporary Art Prize, WA  
 The Smaller Picture, Eveline Kotai, Perth Galleries

- 2006 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Hall, VICTORIA  
The Alice Contemporary Art Prize, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2004 Te tuhi - the mark, Pakuranga Arts Centre, Manukau, Aotearoa NEW ZEALAND
- 2003 Miniature Works, Gallery Gallery, Kyoto, JAPAN
- 1999 Itami Museum of Art and Craft, Osaka, JAPAN, curator Virginia Rigney  
Mine Own Executioner, Portrait Show. Mundaring Arts Centre, WA, curated by Stuart Elliot  
Folding Exhibition, Gallery Gallery, Kyoto, JAPAN.  
Folding, Works in Fibre, Textile Exchange Project Canberra, ACT
- 1998 Sculpture by the Sea, National Olympic Arts Festival, Albany, WA, selected by John Stringer

## performances/video/installation

- 2026 Hello. This Experience is Not Available, Walyalup/Fremantle Arts Residency
- 2024 Mechanisms of Failure, single channel video with sound, dur 6.32 mins , Black box projection  
University of NSW . <https://vimeo.com/933943693>
- 2023 The Tides are Always with Me, Solo performance, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf , Sydney.  
Spells for Weather, performance Dirt Witches, Janet Laurence Bundanon , New South Wales, Australia
- 2022 Position Uncertain, Performance, Art CollectiveWA, Western Australia  
Tidal Sweep , Performance, The Draw Space, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
<https://vimeo.com/890704519>
- 2020 Pendulum Acts , Performance Perth International Arts Festival The Long Kiss Goodbye, Lawrence  
Wilson Gallery, <https://vimeo.com/448010815>  
(excerpt 55 secs) University of Western Australia. curator Gemma Weston Perth  
How to Dress Like a Lady, Sound Installation Bunbury Biennale, Western Australia.
- 2019 Nightworks, Twist of the Sea single channel video installation, Centre for Photography, Murray St  
Projection Space, Perth, Western Australia
- 2019 Twist of the Sea single channel video projection, 5.22min Fremantle Biennale, Western Australia  
<https://vimeo.com/530107420>  
Doldrums, 3 channel video Installation, 3.5 min Fremantle Biennale, Western Australia  
<https://vimeo.com/515172819>

## awards/grants/commissions/residencies/associations

|           |                                                                                                                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026      | Commission, Beechworth Biennale, Beechworth, Victoria                                                                          |
| 2025-2026 | Residency, 'Shear Zone Collective' Sarah Tomasetti (Vic), Perdita Phillips (WA). Fremantle Arts Centre, WA.                    |
| 2023      | UNSW Award ADA HDR Research Funding                                                                                            |
| 2022      | Mural Commission, Michele Blakely Architects.                                                                                  |
| 2021      | Scholarship , Commonwealth Higher Degree Research, UNSW.                                                                       |
| 2020      | Project grant WA Department of Culture and the Arts awarded for video and sound project work with mentor Tina Havelock Stevens |
| 2020      | Residency Factory49, PARIS, (March-April), FRANCE.                                                                             |
| 2019      | Commission Ritz Carlton, Elizabeth Quay, WA,                                                                                   |
| 2018      | Winner Perth Royal Art Prize.                                                                                                  |
| 2018      | ICELAND Residency, NES Skagastrond.                                                                                            |
| 2017      | John Stringer Art Award, Finalist                                                                                              |
| 2016      | Commission, Crown Towers Perth, Western Australia                                                                              |
| 2015      | Commission , Perth International Airport, Western Australia                                                                    |
| 2016      | Residency, FORM Pilbara WA                                                                                                     |
| 2016      | Finalist Ravenswood Women's Art Prize, NSW.                                                                                    |
| 2015      | Residency , Pilbara, FORM WA.                                                                                                  |
| 2015      | Highly Commended Mid-West Art Prize Geraldton Regional Art Gallery WA.<br>Finalist Paddington Art Prize.                       |
| 2013-14   | Founding Board Member ArtCollectiveWA, Perth, WA.                                                                              |
| 2012-2014 | Chair and Board Member, Artsource, Perth, WA                                                                                   |
| 2009      | Winner Mt Eyre Art Award, Sydney, NSW.                                                                                         |
| 2008      | Leeuwin Estate Art Series, Wine label                                                                                          |
| 2001      | Residency, Ballidu Contemporary Art Space                                                                                      |
| 1997      | Grant , New York School of Art Drawing Marathon, Adelaide, SA,                                                                 |
| 1997      | Winner Kimberly Drawing Prize, Western Australia,                                                                              |
| 1996      | Winner Albany Art Award,                                                                                                       |
| 2004      | Reggio Emilia Residency, Reggio Romana, Italy                                                                                  |

## collections

Artbank  
BankWest  
Central Institute of Technology  
Chevron  
Crown Towers  
Cruthers Collection of Women's Art  
Derwent Collection, Tasmania  
Edith Cowan University Collection  
Fremantle City Art Collection  
Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, Western Australia  
Holmes a' Court Collection  
Itami Arts and Craft Museum, Kyoto, Japan  
Kerry Stokes Collection  
King Edward Memorial Hospital Art Collection  
Leeuwin Estate Art Series Collection  
Macquarie Bank Art Collection  
MLC Collection, Western Australia  
New South Wales College of TAFE  
Ritz Carlton Elizabeth Quay, WA,  
Royal Perth Hospital Art Collection  
St John of God Hospital  
Swan Shire Art Collection WA  
City of Fremantle Art Collection  
University of NSW  
University of Western Australia  
Wesfarmers  
WA School of Art and Design  
Woodside

## bibliography / reviews

Paul Boye <https://semaphoreart.net/The-ring-is-an-object-of-ritual> Long Kiss Goodbye, PIAF, Perth  
International Arts Festival Miranda Johnson, SeeSaw Magazine  
Jenny Scott Reflections on Penny Coss, Perth Festival <https://www.perthfestival.com.au/news/reflections-on-penny-coss-pendulum-acts/> <https://www.seesawmag.com.au/2020/03/emotional-terrain> 2020  
Jenny Scott, SeeSaw Magazine <https://www.seesawmag.com.au/news/a-dreamy-exploration-of-emotion-andthe-ocean/> 2020  
Rushil D'Cruz Pelican Magazine, 2019 <http://pelicanmagazine.com.au/2019/08/30/natura-review/B>. Belinda Hermawan Review: Visitants: Close encounters of the Remote Kind. SeeSaw Magazine, 2017 <https://www.seesawmag.com.au/news/close-encounters-of-the-remote-kind/>

Jane Llewellyn, Vanishing Point, Adelaide Review 2014 <https://www.adelaidereview.com.au/arts/2014/07/23/vanishing-point/>

Ric Spencer, The West Australian Newspaper, Sat 29 April 2007

Rex Butler, Australian Art Collector Magazine, Art of Its Times, 2004, p118

Ric Spencer, The West Australian Newspaper, Breaking The Laws Of Abstraction Simon Blond West Australian Newspaper, Signs of Life, 12/07/03

Nyanda Smith Painter and Juggler, Today Arts, Thurs 10/07/03

Nikki Miller Art Today, The West Australian Newspaper, Aug 16, 1995.

Peter Duggan Real Experience or mere information, Art Monthly, Aug, 1994. Fran Thompson SBS TV, News, May, 1994

## catalogues

Gemma Weston, Long Kiss Goodbye, PIAF, Perth International Arts Festival, 2020 [http://www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/3445271/LKG-gatefold-eversion.pdf](http://www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/3445271/LKG-gatefold-eversion.pdf)

Jess Boyce & Greg Sikich, Continuity and Change, Future, 2019 Midland Arts Centre, WA [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52ca5eaae4b05c5f2d7b76de/t/5ced04e1905f42f4b7f8bd9/1559093330197/CT\\_Continuity+and+Chnage\\_2019+WEB.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52ca5eaae4b05c5f2d7b76de/t/5ced04e1905f42f4b7f8bd9/1559093330197/CT_Continuity+and+Chnage_2019+WEB.pdf)

Andrew Nicholls , Visitants, 2019 FORM, <http://www.andrewnicholls.com.au/visitants> Michelle Elliot , 2017 Scylla, bodies, water : Ships that Pass Jo Darbyshire and Penny Coss ISBN No: 978-0-9807735-2-1

Leigh Robb Epic Narratives, Salon, PICA, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, WA, <http://pica.org.au/show/pica-salon-2015/>

Felicity Johnston Landscape Stains Artstage Singapore, Art CollectiveWA, 2014

Jasmin Stephens Yellow Manoeuvres, the Yellow Vest Syndrome: Recent West Australian Art, Fremantle Arts Centre. 2009

Stuart Elliott, Mine Own Executioner, 1998.

Virginia Rigney Folding: An Exhibition of works in Fibre, 1998

Rosie Kerr, Recent Acquisitions Midland Centennial, WA, 1995

## essays

Perth Festival 2020 <https://www.perthfestival.com.au/news/reflections-on-penny-coss-pendulum-acts/>

Gemma Weston, [http://www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/3445271/LKG-gatefold-eversion.pdf](http://www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/3445271/LKG-gatefold-eversion.pdf)

Louise Morrison Penny Coss & Penny Bovell Artist Profile Magazine Issue 26, Feb 2014,: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/8exyk51ju2qlgu/2013\\_AP26\\_Penny\\_Coss\\_and\\_Penny\\_Bovell.pdf?raw](https://www.dropbox.com/s/8exyk51ju2qlgu/2013_AP26_Penny_Coss_and_Penny_Bovell.pdf?raw)

Karen Brown, Artifacts Magazine Art Gallery of Western Australia July 2014

Dr Phil McNamara: Artists Prompting Creativity

## books

Dr David Bromfield Waves: The Edith Cowan University Art Collection", 2009 pp154-7, ISBN 978-0-7298-0673-2.2020

Chevron Australia Art Collection

## Current Projects

*Shear Zone collaboration est 2024*, with Perdita Phillips (WA) and Sarah Tomasetti (VIC) extending fieldwork undertaken in the Pilbara (2022), Iceland (2024) and Wandani, Western Australia (2025).

*Living Water Fluidity* , collaboration with Kath Fries (NSW) and Kate Dorrough (NSW) a site-responsive project for Manly Art Gallery & Museum under the CEAD program. Scheduled for 2028.