



Jason Smith appointed Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia



Jason Smith, Director & CEO of Geelong Gallery
Photographer: Lochie Fuller

After nine years as Director & CEO of Geelong Gallery, **Jason Smith** has announced he will be stepping into the role of Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Geelong Gallery Board President, **Eliza Holt** states:

Under Jason's leadership, Geelong Gallery has grown as a highly respected Gallery. Jason has been integral in the Gallery's reputation for curating academic and scholarly exhibitions, and success in hosting major touring exhibitions. The Gallery has also been recognised for the significant role it plays in the city and region. Under Jason's leadership, Geelong Gallery has won awards in Business Excellence for Corporate Social Responsibility in 2019 and Inclusive and Accessible Business in 2020 and 2021. Geelong Gallery's cultural tourism and contribution to the visitor economy have also been recognised, with gold awards in Cultural Tourism at the State and National level in 2021, 2022 and 2023; a remarkable achievement.

Jason's legacy at the Gallery is and will be immense and will be borne out for years to come. Jason's tireless work in supporting and advocating for the Gallery's redevelopment, his leadership role within Geelong and the region, and his contribution to the Gallery will be remembered and celebrated.

I am grateful to Jason's long service to the Gallery, his excellent relationship with the Board, and the outstanding impact that he has had on this institution. I am extremely positive about the future of the Gallery, and I wish Jason the very best in his new role at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

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Jason will conclude his role as Geelong Gallery's CEO on 21 February 2025.

The Board will commence a rigorous search for the Gallery's next Director & CEO, and is grateful to Jason for ensuring a continuation of exemplary leadership and a smooth transition during this period of change. The Board is grateful to the continued leadership and support provided by Andrew Deane, COO, and Lisa Sullivan, Senior Curator, during this period.

In sharing this news, **Jason** states: *'It has been an enormous privilege to lead Geelong Gallery since 2016, and I pay immediate tribute to the Board for its dedication to this great cultural institution, and to my colleagues for their consistently outstanding work and service to our community. We have been a highly productive, happy team. I also wish to acknowledge the exceptional support of the Gallery's programs and ambitions by so many deeply valued private, corporate, and government partners.'*

I am honoured to have been entrusted with the role of Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia. The principle that has guided my leadership is to ensure an accessible and inclusive experience of art that enriches peoples' lives. I am excited to work alongside the Board and with my new AGSA colleagues to realise the Gallery's vision to be a destination that transforms visitor experience, and that continually asserts the cultural riches of the collection and the State.'

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