

UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program

Level 2 Commission

2026 Expressions of Interest



UNSW
SYDNEY

Introduction to UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program

The UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program is a curated initiative designed to transform the Library's internal environment through site-specific contemporary art. This commission offers UNSW Alumni the opportunity to create a high-impact, temporary mural that reflects the Library's role as a centre for innovation, community, and lifelong learning.



Louise Zhang, *Waves of Chrysanthemums*, UNSW Main Library, Level 2 lift foyer, December 2019 to December 2023. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program. Installation view of north wall 1 (detail).

Artist Brief

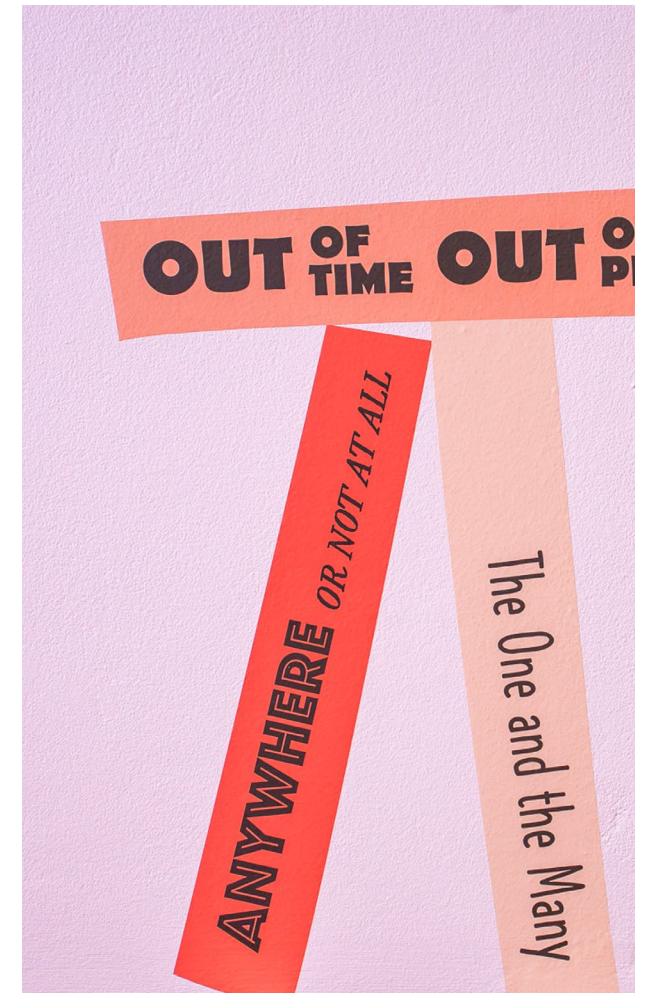
The Project

The successful applicant will deliver a temporary mural for a prominent internal wall located in the entry area of **Level 2** of the Main Library, UNSW Sydney. This one-off commission is part of a broader strategy to enhance the student experience and celebrate the diversity and excellence of the UNSW graduate community.

The Site

The site is an internal gyprock wall measuring approximately **2 metres high by 8 metres long**. As a key thoroughfare within the Library, the mural will be highly visible to a portion of the two million annual visitors. The artwork will remain on display for a period of up to three (3) years.

Download a PDF of the site [here](#).



Make or Break, Cover Crush (detail), UNSW Main Library, Level 6 lift foyer, December 2023 to December 2026. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program.

Artist Brief



Theme

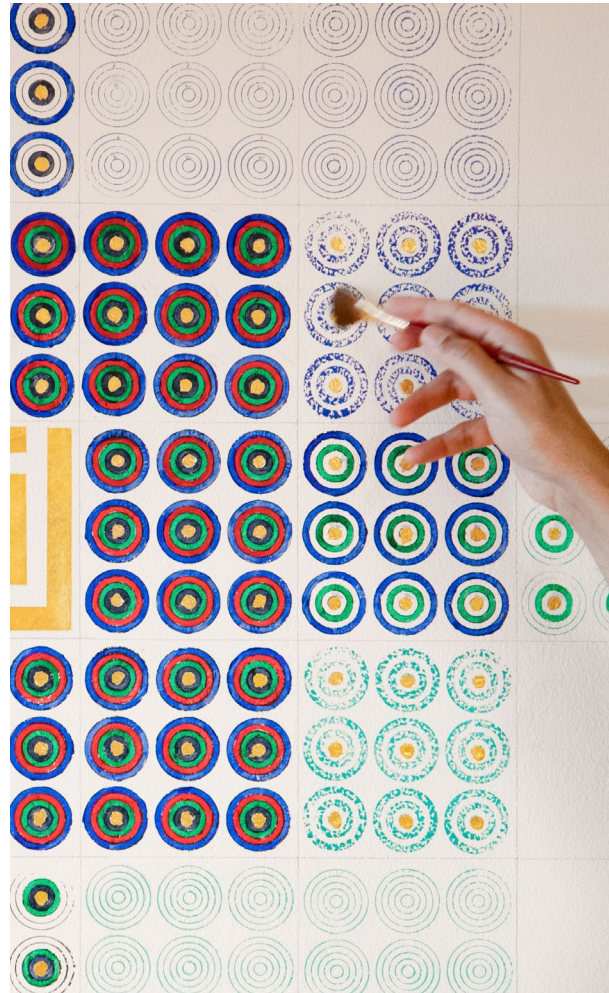
The Library is a welcoming space—a site of both rigorous academic learning and social connection. The mural should respond to the Library’s physical or symbolic environment, the University, or the artists’ time as a student at UNSW. We encourage concepts that:

- Reflect on the Library as a “gateway” to discovery, curiosity, and collaboration.
- Respond to the site’s unique position in the Library entrance as a place of welcome, belonging, and connection.
- Explore the Library as a place where history and tradition coexist with diverse knowledge, emerging ideas, and critical perspectives.
- Engage with the Library’s collection, including but not limited to the rare and valuable books.
- Connect with the University’s research priorities and outcomes.

Materials & Fabrication

- **Medium:** Self-contained, two-dimensional designs (e.g., paint, adhesive vinyl, or mixed media). No floor-mounted elements or fixtures are permitted.
- **Durability:** While the display term is three years, materials must be consistent with a 10-year lifespan to ensure aesthetic integrity (cleaning/UV resistance).
- **Maintenance:** The artist must provide a brief maintenance schedule. The artwork must be easily removable/paintable at the end of the term without damaging the substrate.

Budget & Artist Fees



Abdullah M.I. Syed installing *Chahār Bāgh: Garden of Knowledge* (detail), UNSW Main Library, Level 7 lift foyer, September 2023 to September 2026. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program.

In alignment with **NAVA best practice**, the total project budget is **\$15,000** (excluding GST). This is a comprehensive fee intended to cover:

- Artist fee (concept and design)
- Materials, fabrication, and equipment hire
- Labour and installation costs
- Insurance and contingencies

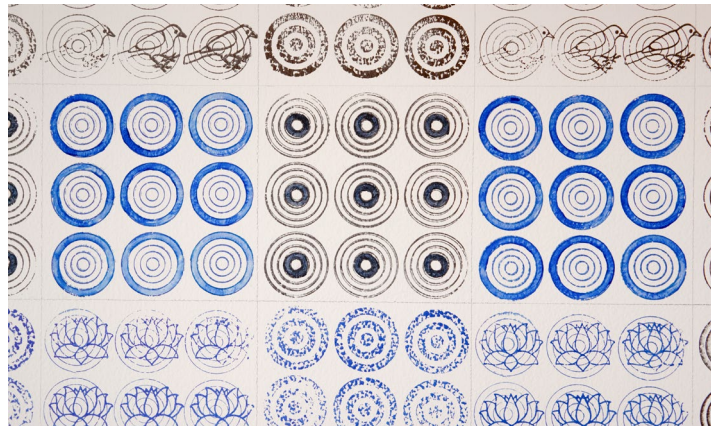
Payment Schedule:

- **Stage 1:** 50% upon signing of contract and approval of final design.
- **Stage 2:** 50% upon completion and acquittal.

Eligibility & Responsibilities



Louise Zhang, *Waves of Chrysanthemums* (detail), UNSW Main Library, Level 2 lift foyer, December 2019 to December 2023. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program.



Abdullah M.I. Syed, *Chahār Bāgh: Garden of Knowledge* (detail), UNSW Main Library, Level 7 lift foyer, September 2023 to September 2026. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program.

Eligibility:

Open to all UNSW Alumni (graduates of any degree program). We strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Artist Responsibilities:

- Liaise with the Special Collections & Exhibitions team.
- Deliver preliminary and final designs by agreed deadlines.
- Maintain Public Liability (\$20M) and Professional Indemnity insurance.
- Manage all logistics related to fabrication and installation.
- Adhere to UNSW Work Health & Safety (WHS) protocols and the UNSW Code of Conduct.

Intellectual Property & Copyright

- **Ownership:** The Artist will retain full Intellectual Property and Copyright of their artwork.
- **Licensing:** The Artist will grant UNSW Library a non-exclusive license to reproduce images of the artwork for non-commercial promotional, archival, and educational purposes.
- **Moral Rights:** UNSW Library will acknowledge the Artist in all signage and promotional material.



Make or Break, Cover Crush, UNSW Main Library, Level 6 lift foyer, December 2023 to December 2026. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program. Installation view of north wall 1 (detail).

Selection Process

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel that will be composed of representatives from UNSW Library.

Selection Criteria:

1. **Artistic Merit:** Quality and creativity of previous work and proposed concept.
2. **Responsiveness:** How well the proposal addresses the themes and the Library context.
3. **Feasibility:** Ability to deliver the project within budget and according to site specifications.
4. **Student Impact:** Potential to enhance the student experience and sense of community.



Lisa Sammut installing *Waiting room* (detail), UNSW Main Library, Level 3 lift foyer, December 2019 to December 2023. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program.

Proposed Timeline

1. **EOI Opens:** Monday 13 July 2026, 9am.
2. **EOI Closes:** Friday 14 August 2026, 5pm.
3. **Artist Selected & Notified:** Tuesday 6 October 2026.
4. **Design Finalisation:** Monday 7 December 2026.
5. **Installation:** 13 – 27 January 2027, Monday – Friday, 10am to 4pm.

Note: Timeline is subject to adjustment based on University scheduling and site access.



Abdullah M.I. Syed, *Chahār Bāgh: Garden of Knowledge*, UNSW Main Library, Level 7 lift foyer, September 2023 to September 2026. Commissioned as part of UNSW Library Alumni Mural Program. Installation view of south wall 1 (detail).

How to Apply

Please submit the following as a single PDF (max 10MB) to **LIB.Exhibitions@unsw.edu.au** by **Friday, 14 August 2026 at 5pm:**

1. **Artist CV:** Max 2 pages. Must include education details and date of UNSW graduation.
2. **Artist Bio:** Max 200 words. Needs to be a narrative biography and not a list of key exhibitions and achievements.
3. **Concept Statement:** Max 300 words detailing how the work responds to the themes and the site.
4. **Visual Support:** A concept sketch or mood board for the proposed mural, plus up to 10 selected images of previous work relevant to the current proposal. No links will be accepted, the images must be included in the PDF with full artwork captions included (title, year, medium).
5. **Budget Outline:** High-level breakdown of anticipated costs.

Please note: Applications must be submitted as a single PDF and include all required components listed above. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Assistance: For technical queries or general questions, please contact the Special Collections & Exhibitions team at LIB.Exhibitions@unsw.edu.au. Queries will be answered by email up until Thursday, 13 August 2026 at 5pm.