

AGNES

Agnes Contemporary curated by Sarah Darling and Skye Jamieson

7 August – 2 September

Opening 6 August 6-8pm

At August, 19 Dornoch Terrace, West End

www.instagram.com/agnescontemporary

Full artist list: Amalia Keefer, Alm Hemmeszy, Bella Deary, Broni Sargeson, Bronte Leighton-Dore, Brennan O'Brien, Byron Coathup, Col Mac, Cosima Scales, Daniella Murphy, Elle-Louise Burguez, Emily Ebbs, Gareth Owens, Grace Dewar, Jacob Boylan, Jacquie Meng, Jordan Azcune, Jordan Malane, Kathryn Dolby, Kim Stokes, Laurie Oxenford, Leif Prenzlau, Lex Williams, Liv Enquist, Lorelee Jade, Louis Grant, Mahala Magins, Mathew Brooks, Michael Cusack, Miles Myjavec, Miri Badger, Nell Pearson, Nicholas Tossmann, Paige Northwood, Sammy Hawker, Sarah Darling, Shannon O'Hara, Skye Jamieson, Tamsin Ainslie, Tim Wallace, Wendy Ma.

Exhibition Statement by Emma-Kate Wilson

Straddling the space between the online and physical realms, Agnes Contemporary has leapt from the minds of two artists to the art-adorned Brisbane restaurant August in August 2025. Northern Rivers, NSW artists Sarah Darling and Skye Jamieson propose a new space. One of an original concept that transcends a commercial art gallery or an artist-run initiative. The art remains in the artist's control.

Darling and Jamieson share the idea initially came together as they wanted a space for art to be experienced and seen outside of a normal gallery structure. They wanted to create a gallery that could morph into different variations of itself, adapting with the art market and the economy in which the artists are working. But one that places the artist first.

Curiosity of what or how this may look remains. The results centre on the promotion and exhibition of beautiful art from various mediums and artists across Australia. And yet, beyond this, there is connection and community. Connection of the artists; to each other, and their clients. A democratic methodology that exists outside of the current systems. *Agnes Contemporary* minimises gallery overheads to ensure the sale of the work goes directly to the artist. Through this, and without binding agreements, the artists have the freedom to create, experiment, and focus on studio practice and evolution. Meanwhile, the name conjures a mysterious art world pseudonym – that of a watchful great-grandmother or the artist great, Agnes Martin. In doing so, it places an emphasis on the artists at the centre of the business structure.

The debut exhibition, *Agnes*, taking place in August, features 41 artists against the backdrop of the heritage church under the artist-centred curation of Darling and Jamieson, and restaurant owner Matilda Reik's artful gaze. *Agnes* sets the stage for the 'location-less' framework. For art to transcend the digital gallery, a website, to ethereal spaces — conjuring ideas of exhibitions in the forest (BYO chair) or beside the creek. Outside of the white cube; operating outside the veil both literally and ideologically.

Alongside larger works, the artists are taking this opportunity to present smaller pieces, connecting with new collectors through a mix of abstract and landscape paintings, as well as an exciting exploration into mixed modalities — works on paper, photography, and art objects. The artists span from emerging to established, revealing that without a career-level bias, it frees the gallery to be whatever it might be.

At its heart, Agnes Contemporary is a safe space for artists to ensure that the artist is financially supported in the exhibition space. Rethinking the classic gallery structure, it empowers artists to take control, giving them the freedom to create and experiment. And by popping up in unique spaces, it allows for connections with diverse artists, different worlds, and experiencing art in novel ways.