

Media Release



FABRIK

12 September 2024

Fabrik Arts + Heritage is spinning a new story

Paying tribute to its roots as a woollen mill, Fabrik Arts + Heritage in Lobethal will welcome its first visitors on Friday 20 September followed by an opening weekend of exhibitions, events and activities.

The newly redeveloped Adelaide Hills Council arts hub features an A-class gallery, retail store and event space alongside workshop spaces, artist studios and accommodation for artists in residence.

“The Lobethal Woollen Mill has a rich history and significance for our community. As a major place of employment for the region for over sixty years, the Mill was the home of the iconic checked Onkaparinga woollen blankets,” said Adelaide Hills Council Acting Mayor, Melanie Selwood.

“This an example of the success of community-led development. Fabrik was born from the advocacy of the local community and has culminated in an arts precinct that will bring vibrancy and stimulate economic activity for the whole region.”

Greg Georgopoulos, Adelaide Hills Council CEO is proud to welcome visitors from near and far to the new state of the art hub.

“This is a huge achievement, not only for the Adelaide Hills, but the whole state. It will put Lobethal on the map as a premier arts and cultural destination,” he said.

“It’s very exciting to see the vision of bringing together the arts and community come to fruition” said Fabrik Arts + Heritage Director, Melinda Rankin.

“We’re looking forward to welcoming the community this weekend to celebrate this remarkable facility.”

Fabrik Arts + Heritage was jointly funded by Federal, State and Local Governments with \$3 million provided through the Local Economic Recovery support, under the National Bushfire Recovery Fund.

Media contact

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Opening weekend program details:

Friday 20 September – 3.30pm - Official opening ceremony and media opportunity

Photo and video opportunities:

- Welcome to Country by Michael Kumatpi Marrutya O'Brien
- A cutting of the ribbon made from vintage Onkaparinga blankets
- Signing the commemorative signature cloth: All guests are invited to add their name to our commemorative signature cloth. Volunteers will stitch over every signature to create a memento for our collection.
- 130 hand stitched self-portraits from all over the world will be installed [in the gallery](#), in the newly redeveloped [Fabrik space](#), bringing the faces of a world-wide textile community together in Lobethal.

[Fabrik](#) will remain open to the public until 9pm on Friday 20 September.

Opening Exhibitions

All things are connected

20 September – 27 October 2024

Cheryl Hutchens, Kay Lawrence, Sara Lindsay, Deborah Prior, Sonya Rankine, Ellen Trevorrow, Ema Shin, Linda Marie Walker, and Sera Waters.

present

A project by India Flint for Fabrik Arts + Heritage

20 September – 27 October 2024

A project conceived by artist India Flint. To celebrate Fabrik's new beginning. 130 hand stitched self-portraits from all over the world will be installed in the newly redeveloped Fabrik space, bringing the faces of a world-wide textile community together in Lobethal.

Opening Weekend Events

Commemorative signature cloth signing

11am – 4pm, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September

Add your signature to our commemorative signature cloth. Our talented volunteers will stitch over every signature, along with the date of Fabrik's reopening, to create a special stitched memento for our collection.

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Threads of connection - Embroider the history of FABRIK 1pm – 3:30pm, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September

Drop in and join us for a family workshop for all ages hosted by Eleanor Ford of local Adelaide Hills creative business, [Mini Mad Things](#).

Embroider colourful stitches onto historic photos of the former Onkaparinga Woollen Mill and share your connection to the Lobethal community. The stitched photographs can be displayed in the new FABRIK building as a collaborative community artwork, or you can take your stitching home with you.

Stitching Together Facilitated by Sera Waters 2.00 – 4.00pm, Sunday 22 September

We invite you to take part in a gentle, communal stitching session. Bring your own materials and in-progress stitching projects, and be prepared to stitch, share and connect with fellow textile-makers. Including an introduction about stitching together by Adelaide based textile artist, arts writer and academic Sera Waters. This session celebrates the slow togetherness that stitching of all kinds has carried along for generations.

This is a free workshop, but bookings are required as numbers are limited to 20 participants. To book, visit: fabrik.org.au