



Dear Decophiles,

As I have mentioned earlier, this year brings together two milestones that I hold very close to my heart: the centenary of Art Deco (1925 to 2025) and my own entry into my tenth decade, marked by my 91st birthday. It feels only fitting that such a confluence of milestones should also herald another: my retirement as President of the Society.

I am deeply honoured that in 2023 the Society agreed to my appointment as President Emerita upon my retirement at this year's AGM, which is being held on the afternoon of the 8th of November. This gesture is one of immense generosity, and I am privileged to accept it.

To mark both this occasion and the centenary of Art Deco, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Gala Dinner at the University Club of Western Australia in the evening on Saturday, the 8th of November.

When I founded the Art Deco and Modernist Society in 1987, it was one of the first organisations of its kind outside the United States, and the very first in Australia. By the end of that year, we were already at the forefront of urgent preservation campaigns, as so many of Perth's Art Deco buildings faced the threat of demolition. Public engagement and media advocacy became our central strategies, and among our earliest successes were the protection of the Cygnet Cinema and the Astor Theatre. The restoration of the Astor, in particular, drew upon the professional expertise within our Society and showed what was possible when knowledge and passion worked hand in hand.

In the early 1990s, our collaboration with the National Trust produced a comprehensive survey of Art Deco structures in Western Australia. This work not only classified many buildings of significance but also led to their inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places, affording them the statutory protection they deserved.

Beyond our local efforts, the Society made its mark internationally. Perth's hosting of the Second World Congress on Art Deco in 1993 gave us the chance to showcase our heritage to a global audience and to take our place within the international movement.

Our advocacy did not stop there. We fought passionately for the survival of some of our grand 1930s hotels — the Raffles, the Cottesloe, the Coronado and the Swanbourne. At times we were successful; at other times, despite our best efforts, losses were suffered — the Emu Brewery, the Majestic Hotel, and the Karrakatta Crematorium Chapel among them. These were difficult battles, but they reinforced the importance of vigilance and the urgency of our cause.

Looking back, I am filled with pride for all that we, as a Society, have achieved together over nearly four decades. But I am even more filled with hope — hope that future generations will carry this work forward, with the same dedication and determination that has brought us this far.

As I step down, I do so with deep gratitude — for your friendship, your commitment, and your shared love of Art Deco and Modernist heritage. The work of this Society has always been larger than one person; it is a collective effort, a shared vision, and I know it will continue to flourish.

Decoratively yours,

Blue Waters, Como



Photograph by Brian Jenkins - 2012

The City of South Perth has recently completed a review of its Heritage Survey (formerly the Municipal Inventory) and Heritage List. Of these two instruments, it is the Heritage List that provides statutory protection at the local level.

The assessment for the Survey and the List was carried out by City of South Perth staff, rather than by external heritage professionals as is more commonly the case. This change in approach has raised concerns in the community.

A number of issues have arisen from the review, with particular concern centred on the reclassification of *Blue Waters*. Previously assessed as Category 2 — a level that normally leads to automatic inclusion on the Heritage List — the property was downgraded to Category 3, a classification that generally carries no statutory protection.

Despite this “demotion”, City staff have recommended that *Blue Waters* remain on the Heritage List. However, the Art Deco & Modernist Society of Western Australia has written to the City expressing its concern. The Society noted:

“... we are concerned that the current Category 3 classification does not adequately reflect the heritage significance of the place. This lower classification may inadvertently weaken the application of statutory protections intended by its listing.

The Statement of Significance in the City of South Perth Local Heritage Survey 2025 appropriately identifies the key heritage values of *Blue Waters*, including its landmark qualities, historical associations, and rarity as a late example of Art Deco residential architecture. These attributes clearly warrant a Category 2 classification, at minimum.

We note that *Blue Waters* was previously listed as Category 2 (Category B). Any significant change in classification—particularly a demotion—should be accompanied by a clear and transparent rationale. This principle should apply to all revisions within both the Heritage Survey and the Heritage List.”

The Society will keep a ‘watching brief’ on Blue Waters and update members once the Heritage List has been approved by the city.

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership, please do so now by paying your membership fee directly into the Society's bank account.

Account Name: Art Deco and Modernist Society

BSB: 036034, **Account:** 140540

Membership fees are Individual \$70, Family \$100, Individual Concession \$50, Family Concession \$80 and Corporate \$250.

Please consider adding a donation to your membership.

Please ensure you add your name to the description field of the deposit.

Elise Blumann: Music in motion



The Art Deco and Modernist Society, in conjunction with the Art Gallery of Western Australia, is pleased to invite members and supporters to a special guided tour of *Elise Blumann: Music in Motion*.

This art-focused exhibition brings together works from the State Art Collection by Elise Blumann with rarely displayed pieces from her later career, offering fresh insight into her artistic journey.

Sunday 19th October 2.00-3.00pm

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA 6000

This is a free event, but you must book to get a place!

Elise Blumann was a key figure in Western Australian Modernism, bringing European avant-garde influences to Perth after arriving from Germany in 1938. Her bold application of Modernist techniques to Australian landscapes and bodies—especially in her Surfer and Conductor series—introduced radical new visual language to a conservative art scene. Blumann's work evolved from gestural oil paintings to geometric abstraction using watercolour, pastel, and gouache. *Music in Motion* highlights this stylistic shift and her enduring focus on dynamic human subjects, reaffirming her legacy as a transformative Modernist who redefined local iconography through movement, energy, and formal innovation.

Bookings essential

Please book online or call Kevin no later than the **10th of October 2025**

Mob: 040 890 8791

Online: <https://events.humanitix.com/elise-blumann-music-in-motion-admswa-exhibition-tour>

email: artdecowa@gmail.com

What is going on at the Windsor?

Post Newspaper, September 20, pages 3 & 69

Windsor stays in family hands

By BEN DICKINSON

The Windsor Cinema will remain in the hands of its original owners after Chrissie Hunt bought out the rest of her family.

Concerns that a property developer had bought the art deco Nedlands landmark were quashed this week.

The 1930s property will remain with late owner Roger Hunt's widow who intends to retain it as a cinema. A lease to Luna Cinemas still has 10 years to run.

The cinema was spruiked as a high-rise development site when it was put up for sale last year.

But Ms Hunt paid \$6million to buy out relatives' shares in the cinema they inherited after Mr Hunt died in 2021.



The Windsor on Stirling Highway, Nedlands, will remain as a cinema.

The ownership move comes after 423 people signed a petition to add the Stirling Highway building to the State Heritage Register, something Mr Hunt vigorously opposed for 28 years.

The petition, organised by the Art Deco & Modernist Society, said: "Only through statutory protection can the

heritage values of the Windsor Cinema be assured and its long-term conservation guaranteed."

Secretary Karl Haynes said the society would also approach Nedlands council's commissioners to lobby them to add the Windsor to the council's local heritage list, which currently only includes buildings on the State Heritage Register.

"The Windsor is an important part of a collection [of cinemas] from an era in WA in the 1930s when there was a small economic boom fueled by the gold boom in WA that followed the Great Depression," he said.

Greens MP Brad Pettitt, who presented the petition to Parliament, told ABC Radio last week that he was on the

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Windsor stays in family hands

• From page 3

Heritage Council in 2020 when it voted narrowly to reject granting heritage protections to the building.

Fifteen professionals co-signed a letter by the Australian Institute of Architects at the time, expressing concern about the "flawed" heritage assessment.

The letter said there was "a serious omission" in the council's assessment of the building's historical significance.

"In the case of the Windsor Theatre heritage assessment, the failure to document social significance represents a flaw and serves to seriously downplay the social values associated with the place," the letter read.

The Art Deco and Modernist Society (ADMSWA) is calling on the Minister for Local Government to explain why the City of Nedlands has failed to meet its basic heritage responsibilities and will be challenging the City to act.

Currently, the City of Nedlands' Heritage List only includes places already on the State Heritage Register. This is fundamentally at odds with the responsibility of local governments to identify and protect places of *local* significance.

While the Society continues to argue that the Windsor Cinema is of *State* significance, there is no doubt that it is at least of *local* significance and should therefore be listed by the city without delay.

The Society is also concerned that this failure may not be confined to Nedlands. To clarify the extent of the problem, the Society will be asking the Minister for Local Government to advise:

- Which local governments in Western Australia maintain Heritage Lists that only include State-registered places?
- How many local governments currently have no locally significant places on their Heritage Lists?

It is highly improbable that any local government area contains *no* places of local heritage significance, and the Society believes this situation raises serious questions about how well the heritage system in WA is functioning.

Annual General Meeting

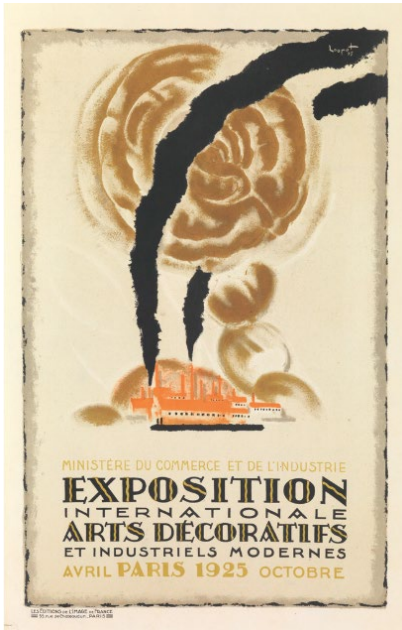
Saturday 8th November 2025

3:30pm-4:45pm

Annex, Old Observatory, Havelock Street, West Perth

For those also attending the Gala Dinner, please join us for drinks at the University Club Lounge Bar 5:30-6:00pm.

Art Deco at 100: Paris 1925



Charles Loupot



Robert Bonfils



Émile-Antoine Bourdelle



André Girard

On 29 April 1925, Paris opened the *Exposition des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes*, a landmark showcase of modern design. Over six months, 16 million visitors explored architecture, interiors, fashion, jewellery, and the decorative arts, establishing Paris as the heart of the new style that would become known as Art Deco.

To promote the event, four official posters were commissioned, each printed in limited colours for economy. Ironically, they were not unified in vision and only one fully captured the Art Deco aesthetic later associated with the movement.

Robert Bonfils produced a lyrical woodcut-style allegory featuring a girl, gazelle, and rose motif, now emblematic of the exhibition. Charles Loupot, later a leading Art Deco graphic artist, fused art and industry with smokestacks transforming into a rose. André Girard offered the rarest and most dynamic design, depicting men scrambling up a pyramid of chimneys toward a symbolic chalice. Sculptor Émile-Antoine Bourdelle, already an established master, contributed a more academic design reflecting his links to the 19th-century French art world.

Together, the posters reveal both the diversity and transitional nature of design in 1925—standing at the threshold of what became the Art Deco era.

The term *Art Deco* was not widely adopted until after 1966. Yet the design sensibility it describes is now instantly recognisable and remains highly popular and sought after. These four posters, announcing the 1925 event from which the movement takes its name, may not represent the pinnacle of its graphic art. But they mark a distinct crossroads in the evolution of modern design.



In recognition of Vyonne's extraordinary contribution to the appreciation and conservation of Art Deco and Modernist art, architecture and artefacts, the Society has conferred its highest honour and appointed her President Emerita upon her retirement at this year's Annual General Meeting.

The Art Deco & Modernist Society warmly invites you to a special Gala Dinner in honour of two remarkable milestones: the centenary of Art Deco and the lifelong dedication to Art Deco of our founding President, Vyonne Geneve OAM.

Private Dining Room

The University Club, University of Western Australia

Saturday, 8 November 2025

Commencing at 6:00 PM

Tickets: \$100 per person

Includes a three-course meal and beverages.

Places are limited—early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Reserve your place online.

<https://events.humanitix.com/100-years-of-art-deco>

For alternative booking arrangements, please contact the Society at:

artdecowa@gmail.com

Mob: 043 888 5275

Join with us at the Art Deco and Modernist Society's
Annual Christmas Picnic

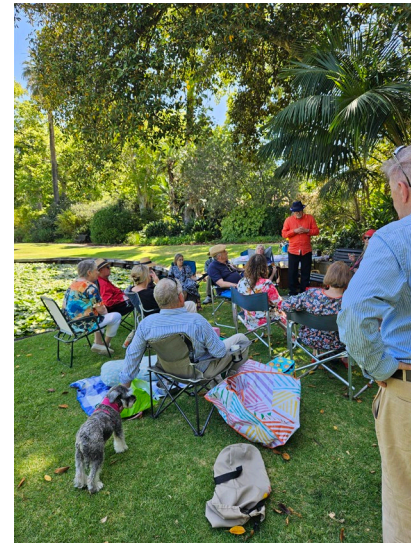


Queens Garden, East Perth

**Sunday 7th
December 2025**

12.00 to 3.00pm

*An opportunity to catch up
with old friends, celebrate
past triumphs, and look
forward to future
achievements*



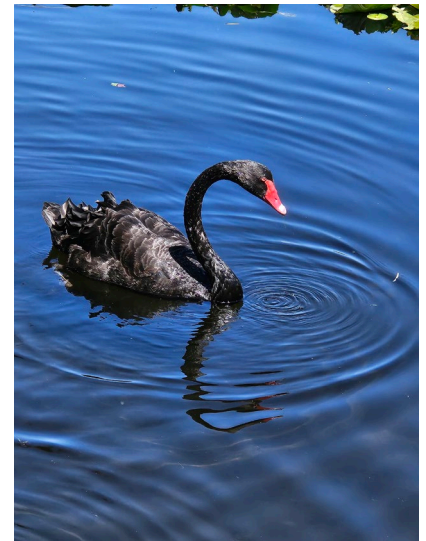
West end entrance corner
Plain St. / Nelson Crescent
East Perth

Bring your own picnic hamper
to share and dress to impress!

RSVPS

artdecowa@gmail.com

or ring Kevin on 040 890 8791



RSVP: artdeco@gmail.com or ring Kevin on 040890791



Art Deco 101: The Origins

Enjoy this video lecture that features the first instalment of Art Deco Society of New York's series of online illustrated talks, *Art Deco 101*, in which educator and Art Deco expert, Kathleen Murphy Skolnik, gives an in-depth look at Art Deco architecture and design.

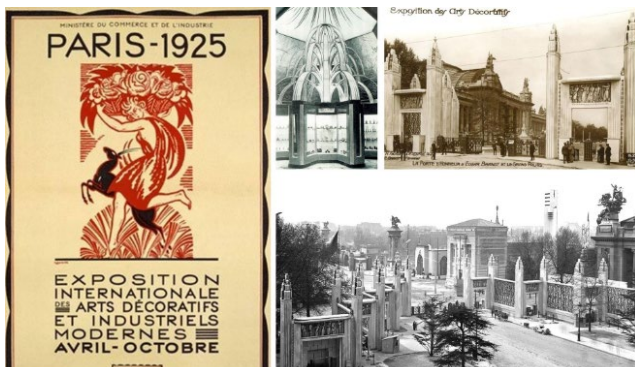
Art Deco 101 – online video lecture: <https://artdecosocietyofnewyork.wildapricot.org/event-3951843>

Volunteer Needed!

Scanning Waltzing Moderne

The Art Deco and Modernist Society of Western Australia urgently need someone willing to volunteer at least half a day a fortnight to assist with scanning all the back copies of the Society's magazine, *Waltzing Moderne*.

This magazine was produced to a high standard and provides a vast wealth of information on heritage and Art Deco in particular. The aim of the project is to make all the copies of *Waltzing Moderne* available online.



1925 Paris Expo: The World Made Modern

This Art Deco Society of New York's video lecture looks at the 1925 International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial arts, that brought to the world a new approach to design that we now call Art Deco.

1925 Paris Expo – online video lecture: <https://artdecosocietyofnewyork.wildapricot.org/event-6024130>

Art Deco 101 – online video lecture: <https://artdecosocietyofnewyork.wildapricot.org/event-3951843>

1925 Paris Expo – online video lecture: <https://artdecosocietyofnewyork.wildapricot.org/event-6024130>